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Acerentulus shrubovychae sp. nov. from Italy (Protura: Acerentomidae)

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Abstract

A new species, *Acerentulus shrubovychae* sp. nov., from Ligurian Alps, northwestern Italy, is described and illustrated. All specimens are deposited in the Genoa Natural History Civic Museum (MSNG).

Key words: Protura, Acerentomidae, *Acerentulus*, new species, Italy

Introduction

In his world catalogue, Szeptycki (2007) listed 45 species (including the *nomen nudum* species *A. minutus* Loksa, 1966) belonging to the cosmopolitan genus *Acerentulus* Berlese, 1908. Since then only *A. sinensis* Wu & Yin 2007 from China and *A. charrieri* Shrubovych *et al.* 2012 from France have been described. Recently, 10 species of this genus were reported in Italy (Galli *et al.* 2011), four of which were collected in Liguria, a northwestern Italian region (see also Capurro *et al.* 2009). During a survey of the soil fauna of Ligurian Alps, near the French border, in summer and autumn 2008 and 2009, nearly 200 Protura specimens were collected, 30 of which were identified as the new species described herein.

Taxonomy

Acerentulus shrubovychae sp. nov.

Figures 1–20, Tables 1, 2

Type material. Holotype male from a mixed forest of Testa d'Alpe, Valle della Serra (1165 m elev.), 43°55'N 7°34'E, Rocchetta Nervina, Ligurian Alps, northwestern Italy, August 2009, coll. Matteo Capurro; 4 male, 17 female, 5 pre-imago, 3 maturus junior paratypes from the same locality as the holotype, August and October 2009. Type specimens are deposited in the Genoa Natural History Civic Museum (MSNG).

Diagnosis. Foretarsal sensillum *a* reaching the base of *d*, *b* and *c* subequal in length, *e* short slightly surpassing the base of *g*, *f* slightly nearer to *e* than to *g*, apices of both *f* and *g* surpassing base of tarsus, *f* longer than *g*, *c'* long and thin, its apex surpassing base of tarsus. Tergites II–V with 8 anterior setae (*A1*, *A2*, *A4* and *A5*) and missing setae *P1a*, *P3* and *P3a*; *A1* and *P1a* absent on tergite VII. Connecting line on sternites IV–VI only barely visible in few specimens or generally absent. Pores absent on meso- and metasternum and sternite I; asymmetrically situated pore on sternites II and III; groups of pores on sternite VI. Female squama genitalis with long pointed acrostylus.

Description. Body length of males 1211 ± 77 µm (range: 1120–1310; n = 5), female length 1326 ± 39 µm (range: 1260–1390; n = 8).

Head of male 119 µm long in dorsal view (113–125; n = 2), that of female 124 µm long in dorsal view (range: 121–129; n = 3); setae *sd4* and *sd5* present, seta *d6* (Rusek *et al.* 2012) absent (Figs. 1.A–1.B). Single median pore anterior to the level of the pseudoculi (Fig. 1.A–1.B). Rostrum protruded. Pseudoculus almost circular, diameter