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## ***Ochthebius hivae* (Coleoptera: Hydraenidae) from western Iran, a new species of the *O. metallescens* group with remarkable aedeagal variability**

MANFRED JÄCH<sup>1</sup>, ELHAM IRANI<sup>2</sup> & JUAN A. DELGADO<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Burgring 7, A-1010 Wien, Austria.

E-mail: [manfred.jaech@nhm-wien.ac.at](mailto:manfred.jaech@nhm-wien.ac.at)

<sup>2</sup>Islamic Azad University, Arak Branch, Faculty of Agriculture & Natural Resources, Nahaei Street, 6361747469 Tehran, Iran

E-mail: [Elham\\_irani17@yahoo.com](mailto:Elham_irani17@yahoo.com)

<sup>3</sup>Departamento de Zoología, Facultad de Biología, Universidad de Murcia, 30100 Murcia, Spain. E-mail: [jdelgado@um.es](mailto:jdelgado@um.es)

### **Abstract**

*Ochthebius hivae* is described from western Iran (Ilam and Khuzestan Provinces). It belongs to the *O. metallescens* Rosenhauer, 1847 species group. The aedeagal distal lobe of this species is remarkably variable.

**Key words:** Coleoptera, Hydraenidae, *Ochthebius*, taxonomy, new species, Iran

### **Introduction**

More than twenty species of Ochthebiinae are known from Iran so far (see e.g., Jäch 2004, Skale & Jäch 2009). Five of these, *O. khuzestanicus* Ferro, 1982, *O. kurdistanicus* Jäch, 1989, *O. puberulus* Reitter, 1885, *O. schoedli* Jäch 1999 and *O. scitulus* Ferro, 1982 belong to the *O. metallescens* group. The new species described herein is also a member of the *O. metallescens* group. It is characterized by a remarkable aedeagal variability. It was firstly collected by Hiva Naserzadeh in 2007 and later by the second author between 2009 and 2011.

### ***Ochthebius hivae* sp. nov.**

**Type locality:** Morvarid spring, 288 m a.s.l., 50°7'38.68"E 30°40'18.68"N, NE of Behbahan, southeastern Khuzestan Province, western Iran (Fig. 4).

**Material examined:** Holotype male (Vienna Natural History Museum, Austria): "IRAN: Prov. Khuzestan Behbahan, Morvarid spring 4.9.2010, 229 m a.s.l. 50°11'37.94"E/30°39'02.83"N leg. E. Irani". Paratypes (Vienna Natural History Museum, Austria; Insect Taxonomy Research Department, Iranian Research Institute of Plant Protection, Teheran, Iran): 24 exs. from the type locality. 3 exs.: "IRAN: Prov. Khuzestan Behbahan Atashkadeh 30.12.2009 leg. E. Irani & M. Keshtkar", "Khairabad River 50°17'39.67"E 30°20'02.80"N 197 m a.s.l.". 3 exs.: "IRAN: Prov. Khuzestan Behbahan, Garmabeh River 05.05.2011, 366 m a.s.l. 50°22'08.53"E/30°29'39.18"N leg. E. Irani". 1 ♂, 1 ♀: "ILAM, Abdanan to Dehloran Rd., Sarab e Baqh, 527m. N32 46 10.6 E47 37 57.7 19.VI.2007 leg. Naserzadeh".

Five additional specimens from the type locality are deposited in the laboratory of I. Ribera (IBE – Institut de Biología Evolutiva, Barcelona, Spain). The soft tissue from a single specimen was digested and the DNA isolated and stored in the DNA collection with voucher number IBE-RA744. The extracted specimen is kept in the IBE with the same reference number.

**Differential diagnosis.** 1.8–2.0 mm long. Habitus and coloration as in Fig. 1. Externally, the new species resembles *O. khuzestanicus* (Iran) and *O. wurayah* Jäch & Delgado (UAE). It differs from these species in the less coarsely granulate elytra, and from *O. khuzestanicus* also in the less densely punctate pronotum. Head and pronotum of *O. hivae* are usually more distinctly cupreous than in the two other species.