

The Curculionoidea of the Maltese Islands (Central Mediterranean) (Coleoptera)

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ABSTRACT. The Curculionoidea of the families Anthribidae, Rhynchitidae, Apionidae, Nanophyidae, Brachyceridae, Curculionidae, Eirrhinidae, Raymondionymidae, Dryophthoridae and Scolytidae from the Maltese islands are reviewed. A total of 182 species are included, of which the following 51 species represent new records for this archipelago: *Araecerus fasciculatus* and *Noxius curtirostris* in Anthribidae; *Protapion interjectum* and *Taeniapion rufulum* in Apionidae; *Corimalia centromaculata* and *C. tamarisci* in Nanophyidae; *Amaurorhinus bewickianus*, *A. sp. nr. paganettii*, *Brachypera fallax*, *B. lunata*, *B. zoilus*, *Ceutorhynchus leprieuri*, *Charagmus gressorius*, *Coniatus tamarisci*, *Coniocleonus pseudobliquus*, *Conorhynchus brevirostris*, *Cosmobaris alboseriata*, *C. scolopacea*, *Derelomus chamaeropsis*, *Echinodera sp. nr. variegata*, *Hypera sp. nr. tenuirostris*, *Hypurus bertrandi*, *Larinus scolymi*, *Leptolepurus meridionalis*, *Limobius mixtus*, *Lixus brevirostris*, *L. punctiventris*, *L. vilis*, *Naupactus cervinus*, *Otiorhynchus armatus*, *O. liguricus*, *Rhamphus oxyacanthae*, *Rhinusa antirrhini*, *R. herbarum*, *R. moroderi*, *Sharpia rubida*, *Sibinia femoralis*, *Smicronyx albosquamosus*, *S. brevicornis*, *S. rufipennis*, *Stenocarus ruficornis*, *Styphloderes exsculptus*, *Trichosirocalus centrimacula*, *Tychius argentatus*, *T. bicolor*, *T. pauperculus* and *T. pusillus* in Curculionidae; *Sitophilus zeamais* and *Sphenophorus parumpunctatus* in Dryophthoridae; *Dactylotrypes longicollis* and *Scolytus ensifer* in Scolytidae. Of the above mentioned new records, *Araecerus fasciculatus* and *Naupactus cervinus* represent established alien species in Malta whereas the records of *Otiorhynchus armatus* and *O. liguricus* are based on material intercepted with plant material arriving from Italy and their local establishment is not confirmed. *Limobius mixtus*, *Brachypera fallax*, *B. parvithorax*, *Smicronyx rufipennis* and *Tychius pauperculus* are not present in Italy, and for the last three species, Malta represents their only European location. Due to the availability of historical material, a number of published records were found to be based on misidentifications or other errors, as follows: *Acalles ptinoides* should refer to *Echinodera sp. nr. variegata*; *Ceratapion penetrans* to *C. onopordi*; *Limobius borealis* to *L. mixtus*; *Rhamphus pulicarius* to *R. oxyacanthae*; *Sibinia attalica* to *S. femoralis*; *Sitona striatellus* (= *S. tibialis*) to *S. lineatus*; both *Sphenophorus abbreviatus* and *S. piceus* to *S. parumpunctatus*; *Trichosirocalus troglodytes* to *T. centrimacula*. The record of *Barypeithes mollicomus* is definitely incorrect and must have been due to a mistaken locality datum. The record of *Hypera pastinacae* is also incorrect and in part, material of this species was actually collected from Corfu and not Malta. The record of *Phyllobius crassior* refers to a Siberian species. Revised synonymies include: *Asproparthenis maculicollis* (Chevrolat, 1873), **stat. rev.** [= *Bothynoderes andreae* Colonnelli, 1991, **syn. rev.**], *Eremobaris*

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picturata (Ménétries, 1849) [= *E. opiparis* (Jacquelin du Val, 1852), **syn. rev.**]; *Microplontus rugulosus* (Herbst, 1795) [= *M. melanostigma* (Marsham, 1802), **syn. rev.**], *Protapion interjectum* (Desbrochers, 1895) [= *Protapion interjectum boreum* Gønet, 1997, **syn. rev.**].

KEY WORDS. Anthribidae, Rhynchitidae, Apionidae, Nanophyidae, Brachyceridae, Curculionidae, Eirihinidae, Raymondionymidae, Dryophthoridae, Scolytidae.

INTRODUCTION

In terms of species diversity, the Curculionoidea represent the largest group of beetles worldwide. Around 62,000 species have been so far described (MAGNANO *et al.*, 2009). The number of families of Curculionoidea vary from 23 (ALONSO-ZARAZAGA & LYAL, 1999) to 7 (OBERPRIELER *et al.*, 2007). Between the various specialists, there is still no agreement on the higher classification of this group, and a thorough study of their true relationships is still completely lacking.

The strategic position of the Maltese islands, at the centre of the Mediterranean basin (about 96 km from Sicily, 320 km from Tunisia and 330 km from Libya) has always attracted local and foreign naturalists to study the faunistic and floristic composition of this archipelago. The low lying archipelago is composed of two main inhabited islands, Malta and Gozo (surface area of 245.7 km² and 67.1 km² respectively) together with some minor islands. The resident population numbers about 400,000 representing one of the highest population densities in the world, with over 1,200 persons per square kilometre. In these last 20 years there were drastic changes to the natural landscape and a number of habitats were either completely lost or still exist in a very fragmentary form. Coastal sand dunes, saltmarshes and coastal habitats in general are not only under local intense human impact but have to withstand high touristic pressure (with over a million tourists coming during summer time to enjoy the Maltese coasts). Intense agricultural practice, the impact of continuous construction works (very often unsustainable), and the introduction and establishment of alien species, have reduced the natural habitats to literally small relict pockets where most of the native flora and fauna still thrive. Notwithstanding all the above, faunistic work on the Curculionoidea of this archipelago has a relatively rich history which is summarised here under.

Published information on Curculionoidea from Malta is scattered in several journals some of which are difficult to access. Probably, GULIA (1858) was the first to mention the presence of weevils in Malta in a general work related to Maltese entomology. This work was the basis of an elementary course in entomology presented by Gulia in 1857 at San Anton Palace and formally published a year later. Unfortunately, most of the insects mentioned therein leave much to be desired in terms of authoritative species identifications. In this work *Calandra granaria*, *C. oryzae*, *Atelabus frumentarius*, *Lixus paraplecticus*, *Brachycerus undatus* and *B. barbarus* were mentioned. CARUANA GATTO (1893) published a general work dealing with common beetles found in Malta and where some weevils are also included. This work was published again the next year as a separatum by G. Muscat press. The first general list of coleoptera of the Maltese islands was published a few years later by CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907) in which a total of 109 species of Curculionoidea were included, namely: 103 Curculionidae, 2 Anthribidae and 4 Scolytidae. These records were repeated by LUIGIONI (1929) in his work on Italian coleoptera. ANDRES (1916) published a list of Lepidoptera, Hemiptera and Coleoptera which he collected from these islands during a period of almost two years spent in Malta as a prisoner of war. In this list, he included 25 species under Curculionidae and one species under Scolytidae: of the 25 Curculionidae, one species, *Brachypera parvithorax*

(= *Phytonomus tripolitanus*) represented a new record for the Maltese islands, whereas the record of *Sibina primita* seems to be the first one, since CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO's (1907) record was found to be incorrect. TONNA-BARTHET (1931), basing himself on published data, gave a list of rare beetles peculiar to the Maltese islands in which four weevils are mentioned. MAGNANO & OSELLA (1973) provided zoogeographical considerations on the weevil fauna of the lesser Sicilian islands, including the Maltese ones. Most of the data for Malta was based on the records by CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907), from which list they removed five species (not specifying which) which they thought as having been misidentified or no longer recognisable. They also added two species which were described after the publication of the earlier list of Maltese coleoptera. Some species of weevils were also included in works of agricultural importance such as that of BORG (1922) and SALIBA (1963), however both works lack authoritative species determination. FARRUGIA (1997) included three previously recorded species of Curculionidae which he collected from cauliflower cultivations in Gozo. CILIA (1989), basing himself on published information, included eight taxa of Curculionidae in the Red Data Book for the Maltese islands. SPRICK (2001) recorded 25 species of weevils from Malta following a one week trip (31.iii-7.iv.1993) to the islands. Of these, three represented new records for the archipelago, which include *Perapion hydrolapathi*, *Corimalia pallida* and *Melicus gracilis*. MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK (2009) reviewed the Scolytidae of the Maltese islands, providing detailed information on earlier records, and increasing the number of bark beetles of Malta to 23 species of which two were included as being introduced but not confirmed as established. Data on Maltese Curculionoidea is to be found also on revisionary works in which records for Malta are included, irrespective of they having been previously recorded (e.g. WANAT, 1995) or not (e.g. THOMPSON, 2006) from these islands. Whenever these records were available to us, we have included them in the annotated faunistic species list which follows. In addition, there are some species which have been described from Malta, chronologically listed as follows. DESBROCHERS DES LOGES (1872) described *Thylacites belonis* from Malta, and one year later CHEVROLAT (1873) described also from Malta *Bothynoderes maculicollis*, species later incorrectly synonymised by FAUST (1904) with *Asproparthenis albicans*. REITTER (1894) described *Sitones melitensis* as a self-standing species, but later he himself (REITTER, 1903) downgraded this species to a variety of *Sitona virgatus*. SCHULTZE (1900) described *Ceuthorrhynchus melitensis* from Malta. REITTER (1914) described *Otiorrhynchus moriger* from Malta and Corfu. GONZÁLES (1970) described *Desbrochersella hoffmanni* from Malta, and a couple of months later PESARINI (1970) named the same species *Chiloneus deluccai*. MAGNANO (1992a) described *Otiorrhynchus schembrii* from Malta. BOROVEC & OSELLA (1993) described *Trachyphloeus melitensis* from Lampedusa and Malta, a species which was already known to be a new one and indicated as such by CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907). *Alaocyba melitensis* was described by MAGNANO & MIFSUD (1998) and three years later the same authors (MAGNANO & MIFSUD, 2001) described *Torneuma maltense* and *T. strictum*. The above three blind species were collected by one of us (DM) during a two-year (1995-1997) study dedicated to evidenciate the presence in the Maltese islands of endogean arthropods in natural relict spots in Malta and Gozo where high maquis and forest type habitats still occur.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Recently collected material of Curculionoidea was mainly gathered during the last twenty years, and mostly from the island of Malta, but additional material was also obtained from the nearby islands of Gozo and Comino. Specimens were collected by general sweeping, from under bark of trees and woody shrubs, from tree branches, by rearing Curculionoidea from infected woody parts of trees and shrubs, by light traps, by sifting leaf litter, by pit fall traps and by flotation method of soil for endogean species. Particular attention was devoted to detailed examination of known host plants of Curculionoidea of Mediterranean occurrence.

The present work was undertaken so as to provide a detailed account of the local species of Curculionoidea thus updating the faunistic knowledge of the coleoptera fauna of Malta.

The study is mostly based on specimens collected in these last 20 years but also on historical material collected at the beginning of last century, most of which formed the basis of the coleoptera list published by Cameron and Caruana Gatto in 1907. In total, more than 3,600 specimens were available for the present study. The consideration and examination whenever possible of historical material, often housed in foreign institutions was often crucial for the correct species interpretation and verification of earlier doubtful records. Two main collections of old material of Curculionoidea were available, the first of which is that of Malcolm Cameron. This material was either collected by Mr. Cameron alone or most probably in collaboration with the Maltese naturalist Count Alfredo Caruana Gatto, with whom he later co-authored a list of coleoptera of the Maltese islands (CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO, 1907). Specimens of this collection are conserved in the BMNH where they can be recognised by the label "Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555". In part, material from this collection includes individual label numbers, the same as those found on Cameron's private notes, and may contain information on date of collection, name of the species, name of the person who identified the material, locality and ecological data: this data is provided in square brackets after the mentioned label number. The other collection includes specimens collected from the Maltese islands by Commander James John Walker, which is also conserved in the BMNH. This material was collected over a two year span (1874-1876) almost exclusively during the months of October and March (CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO, 1907), and is labelled as "G.C. Champion Coll., B.M. 1927-409". Except for the name "Malta" (very often abbreviated to just a typical handwritten M underneath the mounted insect specimen card), there is no other information accompanying this material. Probably, both mentioned collections formed the basis of the coleoptera list of CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907).

Where relevant, for each species in the following annotated faunistic list of the Curculionoidea, we provided the (i) cited reference(s) when Maltese material is mentioned (except for works which repeat earlier citations, e.g. LUIGIONI (1929), CILIA (1989), TONNA-BARTHET (1931)) together with the species name provided therein, if it differs from its current accepted name or if we are sure that a misidentification was reported, (ii) material examined, (iii) global distribution, (iv) ecology and (v) notes. Species marked with an asterisk (*) represent new records for the Maltese islands. For all species, excepting most Scolytidae whose diagnosis, keys and figures are provided in MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK (2009), we also provide a short diagnosis to differentiate one species from the other Maltese Curculionoidea, which together with the relevant figure should aid in species identification.

Abbreviations are as follows: BMNH = The Natural History Museum, London, UK; CBC = R. Borovec private collection, Czech Republic; CCI = E. Colonnelli private collection, Italy; CMI = L. Magnano private collection, Italy; CMM = D. Mifsud private collection, Malta; CRI = R. Caldara private collection, Italy; CSM = A. Seguna private collection, Malta; MNHM = National Museum of Natural History, Mdina, Malta; MNHN = Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France; MNHW = Museum of Natural History, Wrocław University, Poland; NHMB = Naturhistorisches Museum Basel, Switzerland.

The sequence of families follows that of ALONSO-ZARAZAGA & LYAL (1999), and the species within each family are arranged alphabetically in the annotated faunistic list which follows. Appendix I provides the check-list of the Curculionoidea of Malta with families and subfamilies arranged taxonomically (following the recently published checklist of Italian Curculionoidea of ABBAZZI & MAGGINI (2009)) whereas tribes, genera and species are listed alphabetically. We never report subgenera because of still existing uncertainty about their use among several genera of weevils.

ANNOTATED FAUNISTIC LIST

ANTHRIBIDAE

Araecerus fasciculatus (De Geer, 1775)*

Diagnosis. Length: 3.5-4.0 mm. The only Maltese Anthribidae with antennal insertion placed on the dorsum of rostrum (Fig. 1).

Material examined. MALTA: Ramla tat-Torri, 7.xi.2002, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); St. Paul's Bay, 28.ix.2005, 2 exs., associated with mature fruits of *Ceratonia siliqua* L., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Cosmopolitan (RHEINHEIMER, 2004).

Ecology. This is the "coffee bean weevil", a well known pest of stored coffee and cacao grains, but able to attack a wide array of other edible seeds like hazelnuts, legumes, drugs, maize, and others (VALENTINE, 2005). It extended its distribution all over the world by human intervention. Almost all other species of *Araecerus* occur in the Oriental Region and Australia; one is known from Madagascar and another from the United States (RHEINHEIMER, 2004).

Bruchela cana (Küster, 1848)

Diagnosis. Length: 1.3-1.9 mm. The combination of grey-yellowish dense clothing, the lack of striae on elytra, and the head clearly narrower than pronotum characterise this species (Fig. 2).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Urodon canus*).

Material examined. MALTA: 40 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN, CMM); St. Thomas Bay (Tal-Munxar), 20.iv.1996, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 1 ex., same data but 28.iii.2010, leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI); Żurrieq, Wied Babu, 26.iii.2010, 2 exs., on crucifers, leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI); Mellieħa, between Irdum Ghawsec and Irdum Ta' Ciantar, 26.iii.2010, 1 ex., on crucifers, leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI). GOZO: Qbajjar, 27.ii.2010, 6 exs., on *Sisymbrium officinale* (L.) Scop., leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI).

Distribution. Central and southern Europe (RHEINHEIMER, 2004).

Ecology. On crucifers (HOFFMANN, 1945).

Cercomorphus duvalii Perris, 1864

Diagnosis. Length: 1.5-1.9 mm. Mottled clothing of yellowish and brown hair-like scales, no striae on elytra, and the head as wide as or even wider than pronotum make this species easily recognisable (Fig. 3).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *C. duvalii*).

Material examined. MALTA: 1 ex., Dr Cameron, 8128 [= May, Girgenti], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH).

Distribution. Spain, Sicily (RHEINHEIMER, 2004) and Malta (CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO, 1907).

Ecology. On *Retama* (BAUDI, 1887).

Noxius curtirostris (Mulsant & Rey, 1861)*

Diagnosis. Length: 2.0-3.5 mm. Mixed blackish and brownish integument and somewhat tessellate markings of hairs characterise this species (Fig. 4).

Material examined. MALTA: Buskett, 8.vii.1994, 2 exs., on *Quercus ilex* L., leg. D. Mifsud

(CMM); Msida, 7.vii.1997, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). **GOZO:** Victoria, 3.vii.1995, 1 ex., reared from twigs of *Eriobotrya japonica* (Thunb.) Lindl., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM).

Distribution. France, Italy, Germany, Caucasus and Western Africa (RHEINHEIMER, 2004).

Ecology. Polyphagous on several broad-leaved trees, and feeding also on *Abies*, *Cupressus*, *Juniperus* and *Pinus* (ABBAZZI *et al.*, 1999).

RHYNCHITIDAE

Nelasiorynchites praeustus (Boheman, 1845)

Diagnosis. Length: 4.0-7.0 mm. The only hairy yellowish-red mid-sized Maltese weevil (Fig. 5).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Rhynchites praeustus*).

Material examined. MALTA: Buskett, 5.vi.1994, 1 ex., on *Ficus carica* L., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 1 ex., same data but 2.vii.1996 (CMM), 1 ex., same data but 15.viii.2004, leg. P. Sammut (CMM).

Distribution. France, Italy, Austria, Greece, Hungary, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Croatia, Poland, Ukraine, Israel, Syria, Jordan, Turkey (LEGALOV, 2003) and Malta (CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO, 1907).

Ecology. On *Quercus* (HOFFMANN, 1958).

APIONIDAE

Apion haematodes Kirby, 1808

Diagnosis. Length: 2.2-3.1 mm. The only entirely rusty-red glabrous Maltese apionid (Fig. 6, modified from www.claude.schott.free.fr).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Apion frumentarium* (Linnaeus, 1758)).

Material examined. None.

Distribution. Widely distributed in Europe, western Asia and North Africa (GØNGET, 1997).

Ecology. According to DIECKMANN (1977) and GØNGET (1997) this species is monophagous on *Rumex acetosella* L. Since this plant does not exist in Malta (MIFSUD, 2010), it is possible that the species can feed on other *Rumex*. However, it is worth mentioning that the species was locally recorded on the basis of a single specimen collected from near Valletta (CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO, 1907). The record could be simply due to an accidental introduction, since much activity centres around Valletta, with its large harbour area and intense shipping and trading activity, especially at that time.

Aspidapion aeneum (Fabricius, 1775)

Diagnosis. Length: 2.9-3.6 mm. The combination of sulcate scutellum, thick rostrum, shining elytra and rather large size are unique features and not present in the rest of Maltese Apionidae (Fig. 7, from RUSSELL (2001)).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Apion aeneum*).

Material examined. MALTA: 1 ex., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN); 1901, 4 exs., M.C., 5409 [= *Apion aeneum*, M. Gatto], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM).

Distribution. Widespread across Palaearctic (GØNGET, 1997).

Ecology. On various Malvaceae (GØNGET, 1997).

Aspidapion radiolus (Marsham, 1802)

Diagnosis. Length: 2.2-3.0 mm. Sulcate scutellum, thick rostrum and rather dull elytra characterise this species (Fig. 8, modified from www.kerbtier.de).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Apion radiolus*); SPRICK (2001).

Material examined. MALTA: Bahrija, Fomm ir-Rih, 24.vi.2002, 1 ex., Actinic Moth Trap, leg. A. Seguna (CSM); Buskett, 15.ix.1995, 6 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM, MNHW), 1 ex., same data but 2.vii.1996 (CMM), 13 exs., same data but 15.vii.1997 (CMM), 1 ex., same data but 1.viii.1997 (CMM), 2 exs., same data but 20.vii.2002 (CMM); Bahrija, 7.iv.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 2 exs., same data but 11.v.1990 (CMM), 2 exs., same data but 16/24.vii.1997 (CMM); Żejtun, 19.ix.1996, 7 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 1 ex., same data but 22.v.1998 (CMM); Chadwick Lakes, 19.v.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Rabat, Tal-Virtu, 15.x.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Marsa, Ghammieri, 15.xi.1995, 1 ex., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM), 1 ex., same data but 5.x.1997, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Marsaskala, 5.v.1998, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Wied id-Dis, 13.vi.2002, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Melliëha, near Nature Reserve, 8.v.2004, 3 exs., leg. H. Borg Barthet (CMM, MNHM); Żurrieq, Wied Babu, 26.iii.2010, 1 ex., on *Lavatera* sp., leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI); Pembroke, 26.iii.2010, 2 exs., on *Lavatera* sp., leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 28.iii.2010, 2 exs., leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI). GOZO: Mgarr ix-Xini, 19.iv.1990, 3 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Dwejra, 10.v.1996, 1 ex., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM); Ghasri, 13.ix.1994, 3 exs., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM), 1 ex., same data but 16.v.1996, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. The nominate subspecies, to which the Maltese material belongs, is common and recorded from all over the Palaearctic Region (GØNGET, 1997). The subspecies *chalybeipenne* (Wollaston, 1854) occurs in the Canaries (MACHADO & OROMÍ, 2000) and Madeira islands (MACHADO, 2008).

Ecology. On several Malvaceae (GØNGET, 1997).

Catapion pubescens (Kirby, 1811)

Diagnosis. Length: 1.7-2.2 mm. Narrow shape and rather dense clothing of greyish scales allow recognition of this small species (Fig. 9, photo by Marek Wanat).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Apion pubescens*); ANDRES (1916, as *Apion pubescens*).

Material examined. MALTA: 5 exs., M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM); Marsaxlokk, viii/ix.1901, M.C., 9 exs., 5510 [= *Apion pubescens* (Kirby), Girgenti, Id.E.A.N. (= identified by E.A. Newbery)], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM).

Distribution. Western Palaearctic, Central Asia (GØNGET, 1997).

Ecology. Common on *Trifolium* (GØNGET, 1997).

Ceratapion damryi (Desbrochers, [1894])

Diagnosis. Length: 2.18-3.10 mm. Among the *Ceratapion* species from the Maltese islands, this is the only one with a bronze tinge (Fig. 10); refer to accompanying note.

Literature records. WANAT (1995).

Material examined. MALTA: xi.1901, 1 ex., 6199 [= *Apion* v. *meridianum* Wencker, 1864, Gnejna (cf. E.A.N)], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH). GOZO: Ramla, 27.iii.2010, 12 exs., on *Cynara cardunculus* L., leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI, CMM).

Distribution. Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, Malta, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Herzegovina, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Rumania, Greece, Turkey, Libya (WANAT, 1995).

Ecology. Associated mainly with *Cynara cardunculus* L., and sometimes recorded as a pest of the artichoke, *Cynara scolymus* L. (WANAT, 1995).

Note. The integument's colour of all studied Maltese material is bronze which differs from specimens from elsewhere, differing also in other minor morphological characters. This species could be a complex of closely related cryptic ones (GIUSTO, C., *pers. comm.*).

Ceratapion gibbirostre (Gyllenhal, 1813)

Diagnosis. Length: 2.04-2.95 mm. This species may be distinguished by its rostrum with tooth-like dilatation at the antennal insertion, dark bluish elytra and rather dense clothing (Fig. 11).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Apion carduorum* Kirby, 1808 and *A. carduorum* v. *meridianum* Wencker, 1864); ANDRES (1916, as *Apion carduorum*).

Material examined. MALTA: 1 ex., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN); viii.1901, M.C., 3 exs., 5775 [= *Apion* ? *carduorum* (Kirby) v. *galactitis* Wenck, Girgenti], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM); 7 exs., M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM); Wied il-Ghasel, 26.ix.1992, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Żejtun, 19.ix.1996, 6 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM, MNHW). **GOZO:** Ramla, 9.v.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Europe, Middle East, North Africa (WANAT, 1995).

Ecology. Mainly on *Onopordum acanthium* L. where larvae are known to develop. Adults also found on *Cirsium arvense* (L.) Scop., *C. vulgare* (Savi) Ten., and *Carduus pycnocephalus* L. (WANAT, 1995).

Ceratapion onopordi (Kirby, 1808)

Diagnosis. Length: 1.69-3.12 mm. Readily recognisable by the rostrum only slightly widened at antennal insertion, very coarsely punctured pronotum, and blue elytra apparently devoid of scales (Fig. 12, photo by Marek Wanat).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Apion carduorum* v. *galactitis* Wencker, 1858 and *Apion penetrans* (Germar, 1817)).

Material examined. MALTA: viii.1901, 6 exs., (of which one specimen standing under *C. penetrans*), M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM); viii.1901, 1 ex., 5486 [= *Apion onopordi* (Kirby), Marsaskala], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); x.1901, 1 ex., 5822 [= *Apion* ? *penetrans* (Germar) (EAN)], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH).

Distribution. Widely diffused across Palaearctic (WANAT, 1995).

Ecology. On several Asteraceae of the genera *Arctium*, *Carduus*, *Cirsium*, *Centaurea*, *Onopordum* and *Cnicus* (WANAT, 1995).

Note. *C. onopordi parviclava* (Debrochers, 1897), considered as a subspecies by WANAT (1995) cannot in our opinion be maintained separate from the nominate one, due to west-east clinal variation and to the overlapping and mixing of the two forms. As indicated in the material examined ascribed to this species, some specimens available to Cameron and Caruana Gatto for their 1907 coleoptera list of Malta, were incorrectly identified as *C. penetrans*. This species was then included in their catalogue, but given the fact that no material of the true *C. penetrans* was found, and that the species was never recollected in the archipelago, we are excluding it from the Maltese list.

Ceratapion robusticorne (Desbrochers, 1866)

Diagnosis. Length: 2.28-2.70 mm. Particularly thick antennae and rostrum, "naked" appearance and blue elytra, make this species easily recognisable (Fig. 13, photo by Marek Wanat).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Apion robusticorne*); WANAT (1995).

Material examined. MALTA: 1 ex., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN).

Distribution. Spain, southern Italy, Sicily, Malta, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia (WANAT, 1995).

Ecology. Unknown.

Diplapion detritum (Mulsant & Rey, 1858)

Diagnosis. Length: 1.59-2.68 mm. The deeply and confluent U-shaped frontal sulci distinguish this apionine (Fig. 14, photo by Marek Wanat).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Apion detritum*); WANAT (1995).

Material examined. MALTA: xi.1901, 1 ex., 7556 [= *Apion stolidum* (Germar, 1917), ER (=? determined by E. Reitter, Gozo)], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); 3 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN, CMM); White Tower Bay, 30.i.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 25.v.1994, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

GOZO: Dwejra, 10.v.1996, 4 exs., leg. C. Farrugia & D. Mifsud (CMM); Ramla, 27.iii.2010, 4 exs., on *Anthemis urvilleana* (DC) Sommier & Caruana Gatto, leg. E. Colonnelli & D. Mifsud (CCI, CMM); Qbajjar, 27.iii.2010, 1 ex., on *Anthemis urvilleana*, leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI).

Distribution. Central and southern Europe, Cyprus, Egypt, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Georgia, North Africa (WANAT, 1995).

Ecology. Known to breed on *Anthemis tinctoria* L. (WANAT, 1995). Adults have been also found feeding on other *Anthemis*, and on *Matricharia chamomilla* L., *Tripleurospermum perforatum* (Merat) Wagenitz and *Chrysanthemum segetum* L. (WANAT, 1995).

Eutrichapion vorax (Herbst, 1797)

Diagnosis. Length: 2.3-3.0 mm. The only Maltese hairy apionid with quite flattened and long legs, blue elytra and at least proximal joints of antenna reddish (Fig. 15, photo by Marek Wanat).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Apion vorax*).

Material examined. None.

Distribution. Widespread and common across all the Palaearctic Region (GØNGET, 1997).

Ecology. Oligophagous on species of *Vicia*, sometimes indicated as a pest of fava beans (GØNGET, 1997).

Holotrichapion pisi (Fabricius, 1801)

Diagnosis. Length: 2.2-2.9 mm. Pear-shaped body, shining blue apparently hairless elytra, transverse gular ridge make it easy to distinguish this species (Fig. 16, from RUSSELL (2001)).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Apion pisi*).

Material examined. None.

Distribution. Widespread and common in the Palaearctic (GØNGET, 1997).

Ecology. On *Medicago* (GØNGET, 1997).

Kalcapion semivittatum (Gyllenhal, 1833)

Diagnosis. Length: 1.8-2.4 mm. Reddish legs, dark brown integument, and central dark patch on elytra characterise this apionid (Fig. 17, photo by Marek Wanat).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Apion semivittatum*); ANDRES (1916, as *Apion semivittatum*); SPRICK (2001).

Material examined. MALTA: 1 ex., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN); viii.1901, 4 exs., 5180 [= *Apion semivittatum* (Gyllenhal), Malta, Id. E.A.N.], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM); Chadwick Lakes, 19.v.1990, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Wied Has-Sabtan, 14.iv.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Bahrija, 7.iv.1990, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 2 exs., same data but 12.v.1996/16.vii.1997 (CMM); Buskett, 15.ix.1995, 3 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 2 exs., same data but 2.vii.1996 (CMM), 59 exs., same data but 9.vii./1.viii.1997 (CMM, MNHW); Girgenti, 8.x.1996, 4 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 1 ex., same data but 25.vii.1997 (CMM); Żejtun, 16.vi.1989, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 5 exs., same data but 19.ix.1996 (CMM, MNHW); Wied id-Dis, 27.vi.1997, 20 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Mellieħa, Kortin, 8.iv.2004, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM), 2 exs., same data but 16.v./21.vii.2004 (MNHM), 4 exs., same data but 9.iv./15.v.2005 (MNHM), 1 ex., same data but 20.vi.2006 (MNHM); Mellieħa, near Nature Reserve, 14.iv./8.v.2004, leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM); Mellieħa Bay, nr. Mellieħa Holiday Centre, 20.xi.2004/25.iii.2005, 2 exs., leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM); Landrijiet, 9.v.2004, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM); Mistra, upper valley near dam, 6.xi.2004/15.iii.2005, 2 exs., leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM); Żurrieq, Wied Babu, 11.xii.1994, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 4 exs., same data but 15.ix.1995 (CMM), 2 exs., same data but 26.iii.2010, leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 20.iv.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 3 exs., same data but 28.iii.2010, leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI). **GOZO:** Mgarr ix-Xini, 19.iv.1990, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Għasri, 16.v.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). **COMINO:** Il-Hazina, 13.viii.2002, 35 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Central and southern Europe, North Africa, Middle East and Azores (GØNGET, 1997). Possibly the position of the subspecies *sagittiferum* (Wollaston, 1854) from Madeira (MACHADO, 2008) and *fortunatum* (Roudier, 1963) from the Canary islands (MACHADO & OROMÍ, 2000) must be revised since in both archipelagoes is to be found also the nominate subspecies *semivittatum* (MACHADO & OROMÍ, 2000; MACHADO, 2008) to which the Maltese material also belongs.

Ecology. On *Mercurialis* (GØNGET, 1997).

Malvapion malvae (Fabricius, 1775)

Diagnosis. Length: 2.0-2.5 mm. Red legs, dark pronotum and often hairy red elytral base distinguish this apionid from other species occurring in Malta (Fig. 18, from RUSSELL (2001)).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Apion malvae*); SPRICK (2001).

Material examined. MALTA: 1 ex., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN); 2 exs., M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM); Bahrija, 12.v.1996, 5 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 1 ex., same data but 20.iv.2002 (CMM); Fiddien, 19.iii.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Ghadira, 4.vi.1994, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Marsa, Għammieri, 30.iv.1996, 1 ex., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM); Mistra valley, 26.iv.1994, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Naxxar, 7.vi.2002, 1 ex., Actinic Moth Trap, leg. A. Seguna (CSM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 11.xi.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (MNHM), 3 exs., same data but 28.iii.2010, leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI).

Distribution. Widespread across the Palaearctic Region (GØNGET, 1997).

Ecology. On Malvaceae (GØNGET, 1997).

Omphalapion dispar (Germar, 1817)

Diagnosis. Length: 1.45-2.00 mm. The strongly rounded sides of pronotum, in addition to the presence of thick antennae and shiny elytra, enable correct recognition of this species (Fig. 19, photo by Marek Wanat).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Apion brisouti* Bedel, 1887); WANAT (1995).

Material examined. MALTA: 1 ex., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN); 3 exs., M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM); 1 ex., 7458 [= *Apion brisouti*, St. Paul's Bay, M.C.]; vi.1902, 1 ex., 7419 [= *Apion brisouti*, ♂, Malta]; vi.1902, 1 ex., 7435 [= *Apion brisouti*, ♀, Malta].

Distribution. Denmark, Sweden, Baltic countries, Poland, Byelorussia, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Bosnia, Rumania, Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, Syria?, Jordan?, Armenia, Russia estward to Dagestan (WANAT, 1995).

Ecology. Larvae develop on *Anthemis* spp., and adults are to be found also on *Matricharia*, *Tripleurospermum* and *Hieracium umbellatum* L. (WANAT, 1995).

Perapion hydrolapathi (Marshall, 1802)

Diagnosis. Length: 2.8-3.1 mm. Extremely similar to the following species, differing only by the rostrum a trifle narrowing in apical half and slightly longer in females.

Literature records. SPRICK (2001).

Material examined. MALTA: 1 ex., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN); Bahrija, 20.iv.2002, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Europe, Mediterranean (GØNGET, 1997).

Ecology. On *Rumex* (GØNGET, 1997).

Perapion violaceum (Kirby, 1808)

Diagnosis. Length: 2.6-3.5 mm. Elongate pear-shaped shining blue elytra, thick rostrum and comparatively large size, are the distinguishing features of this (Fig. 20, photo by Guido Bonetti) and the preceding species, the differences from the latter have been remarked above.

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Apion violaceum*).

Material examined. MALTA: 12 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN); Bahrija, 20.iv.2002, 3 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Fiddien, 19.iii.1996, 5 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM, MNHM); Rabat, Tal-Virtu, 14.iii.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Mista valley, 23.v.1990, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Wied tal-Isqof, 11.iv.1990, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). **GOZO:** Ramla, 25.iv.2003, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Present all over the Palaearctic Region (GØNGET, 1997).

Ecology. Common on several species of *Rumex* (GØNGET, 1997).

Protapion apricans (Herbst, 1797)

Diagnosis. Length: 1.9-2.7 mm. Glossy, blackish, rather large, the yellow trochanters and the elongate shape discriminate this species from similar ones (Fig. 21, from RUSSELL (2004)).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Apion apricans*).

Material examined. MALTA: 3 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN); x.1901, 4 exs., 5519 [= ? *Apion assimile* (Kirby, 1808), Girgenti, E.A.N.], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM).

Distribution. Western Palaearctic, from Siberia to western Europe, Morocco and Algeria (RUSSELL, 2004).

Ecology. Probably monophagous on *Trifolium pratense* L. (RUSSELL, 2004)

Protapion dentipes (Gerstaecker, 1854)

Diagnosis. Length: 2.1-2.6 mm. Males are immediately recognized by the protibial teeth, and females differ from the other Maltese members of the genus by the loose segments of the antennal club (Fig. 22, from RUSSELL (2004)).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Apion dentipes*).

Material examined. MALTA: viii.1901, 1 ex., 5519 [= *Apion assimile* (Gyll?), Girgenti, E.A.N.], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); ix.1901, 1 ex., 5519(a) [= *Apion dentipes*], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Bahrija valley, 11.v.1990, 9 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 3 exs., same data but 27.vi.1993 (CMM), 2 exs., same data but 12.v.1996 (CMM, MNHM).

Distribution. Northern Mediterranean (islands included), from Portugal to Syria (RUSSELL, 2004).

Ecology. On *Trifolium* possibly *pratense* L. (RUSSELL, 2004).

Protapion interjectum (Desbrochers, 1895)*

Diagnosis. Length: 2.1-2.6 mm. Scape clearly shorter than mesostral width and usually of a dark coloration, allow separation of this species (Fig. 23, modified from www:biolib.cz, photo by Miroslav Deml) from the close *P. apricans*.

Material examined. MALTA: 3 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN). GOZO: Dwejra, 19.vii.1996, 1 ex., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM).

Distribution. Widespread across Europe (eastward to Southeastern Russia) and North Africa (RUSSELL, 2004).

Ecology. On *Trifolium* (DIECKMANN, 1977) and *Ononis* (HANSEN, 1965).

Note. *P. interjectum* represents a highly variable species across its distribution range. It seems that the northermost populations from northern Denmark and southern Sweden, described by GØNGET (1997) as *Apion (Protapion) interjectum* ssp. *boreum* Gønget, 1997, can be considered as nothing more than a local colour variety, breeding upon *Trifolium medium* L. Thus: *Protapion interjectum* (Desbrochers, 1895) [= *Protapion interjectum boreum* Gønget, 1997, **syn. rev.**].

Pseudapion rufirostre (Fabricius, 1775)

Diagnosis. Length: 2.1-2.0 mm. The only Maltese apionid with the combination of entirely red legs, polished bluish elytra and apical half of male rostrum reddish (Fig. 24, photo by Marek Wanat).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Apion rufirostre*); SPRICK (2001).

Material examined. MALTA: 1 ex., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN); 1 ex., M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Bahrija, 12.v.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 25.v.1994, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Wied tal-Isqof, 11.iv.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Central Asia, western Palaearctic (GØNGET, 1997).

Ecology. On Malvaceae (GØNGET, 1997).

Taeniapion rufescens (Gyllenhal, 1833)

Diagnosis. Length: 1.8-2.2 mm. This and the following species are identified by the slender reddish body with two transverse oblique dark elytral stripes. *T. rufescens* differs from *T. rufulum*, mainly by its rostrum which is slightly enlarged at antennal insertion (Fig. 25, photo by Marek Wanat).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Apion rufescens*); ANDRES (1916, as *Apion rufescens* and *Apion rufescens* v. *notatum* Wagner, 1912); SPRICK (2001).

Material examined. MALTA: 6 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN, CMM); viii.1901, 6 exs., 5181 [= *A. rufescens* (Gyllenhal), Malta, Id. E.A.N.], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM); Buskett, 2.vii.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 2 exs., same data but 13.i.1999 (CMM), 1 ex., same data but 20.vii.2002 (CMM); Girgenti, 8.x.1996, 3 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Guardamangia, St. Lukes road, 22.iv.2003, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM); Marsa, Ghammieri, 11.iv.2003, 2 exs., on *Urtica pilulifera* L., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Mtahleb, 1.vii.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 25.v.2002/15.iii.2003, 2 exs., on *Urtica* sp., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Żejtun, 19.ix.1996/22.x.1997, 5 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM, MNHW). GOZO: Ghasri, 16.v.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). COMINO: Il-Hazina, around man-made freshwater pool, 13.viii.2002, 9 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM, MNHM).

Distribution. Southern Europe, Mediterranean (SCHATZMAYR, 1925).

Ecology. On *Parietaria* and *Urtica* (SCHATZMAYR, 1925).

Taeniapion rufulum (Wencker, 1864)*

Diagnosis. Length: 1.6-2.3 mm. Very similar to the preceding species, differing only by its rostrum more abruptly widened at antennal insertion (Fig. 26, photo by Marek Wanat).

Material examined. MALTA: viii.1901, 1 ex., 5181 [= *A. rufescens* (Gyll.), Malta, Id. E.A.N.], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Buskett, 8.vii.1994/15.ix.1995/15.vii.1997, 6 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM, MNHW); Girgenti, 8.x.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Guardamangia, 18.xi.2003, 2 exs., leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM); Mellieħa, Ġnien Ingraw, 1.v.2004, leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM); Mtahleb, 3.vii.1994, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Wied id-Dis, 27.vi.1997, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Żejtun, 25.i.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 7 exs., same data but 19.ix.1996 (CMM, MNHM); Żurrieq, Wied Babu, 15.ix./7.x.1995, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). GOZO: Ramla dunes, 27.iii.2010, 1 ex., leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI).

Distribution. Central and southern Europe, Middle East, North Africa (GØNGET, 1997).

Ecology. On *Urtica* (GØNGET, 1997).

NANOPHYIDAE

Corimalia centromaculata (Costa, 1863)*

Diagnosis. Length: 1.5-2.0 mm. This species has frons almost as wide as half of rostral length and a transverse blackish common patch is present at base of elytral two-thirds (Fig. 27).

Material examined. GOZO: Ramla dunes, 27.iii.2010, 11 exs., on *Tamarix* sp., leg. E. Colonnelli & D. Mifsud (CCI, CMM).

Distribution. Sardinia, Sicily, Algeria (FORMÁNEK & MELICHAR, 1916) and Tunisia (GIORDANI-SOIKA, 1937; NORMAND, 1937).

Ecology. On *Tamarix* (GIORDANI-SOIKA, 1937).

Corimalia pallida (Olivier, 1807)

Diagnosis. Length: 1.5-2.0 mm. This species is characterised by the frons almost as wide as half of rostral length and elytra with one or two small dark patches, sometimes lacking (Fig. 28, from www.gohns.org).

Literature records. SPRICK (2001).

Material examined. MALTA: Salina Bay, 20.v.1994, 1 ex., leg. L. Magnano (CCI); Żurrieq, Wied Babu, 26.iii.2010, 1 ex., on *Tamarix* sp., leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI); Pembroke, 26.iii.2010, 2 exs., on *Tamarix* sp., leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI); Mellieħa, between Irdum Ghawsec and Irdum Ta' Ciantar, 26.iii.2010, 1 ex., on *Tamarix* sp., leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI). **GOZO:** Ramla dunes, 27.iii.2010, 24 exs., on *Tamarix* sp., leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI).

Distribution. Southwestern Europe, North Africa, Syria (GIORDANI-SOIKA, 1937).

Ecology. On *Tamarix* (GIORDANI-SOIKA, 1937).

Corimalia tamarisci* (Gyllenhal, 1838)

Diagnosis. Length: 1.5-2.0 mm. Very narrow frons, and often clearly visible oblique band at apical two-thirds of elytra allow recognition of this species (Fig. 29, from RUSSELL (2001)).

Material examined. MALTA: 1 ex., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN, CMM); Marsa, Għammieri, 4.i.1994, 2 exs., on *Tamarix* sp., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Marsaxlokk, 14.v.1994, 3 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Miġra Ferħa, 13.i.1999, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Ghadira, 21.ix.1993, 6 exs., on *Tamarix africana*, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Pembroke, 26.iii.2010, 2 exs., on *Tamarix* sp., leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI). **GOZO:** Ramla, 1.x.1995, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 7 exs., same data but 9.viii.2002, Actinic Moth Trap, leg. A. Seguna & P. Sammut (CSM, MNHM); Dwejra, 26.xii.2002, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). **COMINO:** Santa Marija Bay, 13.viii.2002, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Southwestern Europe, North Africa (GIORDANI-SOIKA, 1937).

Ecology. On *Tamarix* (GIORDANI-SOIKA, 1937).

***Nanophyes hemisphaericus* (Olivier, 1807)**

Diagnosis. Length: 2.0-2.5 mm. Black pronotum, and large black V-shaped patch on elytral base characterise this species immediately (Fig. 30, photo by Guido Bonetti).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907).

Material examined. MALTA: 3 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN, CMM).

Distribution. Central and southern Europe, Caucasus, Middle East, North Africa (GØNGET, 1997).

Ecology. On *Lythrum* (GØNGET, 1997).

***Nanophyes nitidulus* Gyllenhal, 1838**

Diagnosis. Length: 1.0-1.7 mm. This variable species is identified by its elongate body shape, and quite hairy maculate elytra (Fig. 31, photo by Guido Bonetti).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907).

Material examined. MALTA: 1 ex., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN); ix.1901, 1 ex., 5783 [= *Nanophyes nitidulus*, ER, Marsaxlokk], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); v.1904, 1 ex., M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Mistra valley, 23.v.1990, 6 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM, MNHW); Gırgenti, 8.x.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Central and southern Europe, Middle East (FORMÁNEK & MELICHAR, 1916), Tunisia (NORMAND, 1937), Algeria, Morocco (HOFFMANN, 1958) and Canary Islands (MACHADO & OROMÍ, 2000).

Ecology. On *Lythrum* (HOFFMANN, 1958).

BRACHYCERIDAE

Brachycerus albidentatus Gyllenhal, 1840

Diagnosis. Length: 10.0-18.0 mm. Easy to recognize by its undulate stripes of whitish scales on almost rectangular elytra (Fig. 32, modified from www.entomologiitaliani.net).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *B. albidentalus*); ANDRES (1916, as *B. albidentalus* Schoenherr).

Material examined. MALTA: 2 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN, CMM); Mellieha, M.C., 10.xi.1901, 2 exs., 5415 [= *Brachycerus albidentatus*, M. Gatto], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM); Karraba, 31.xii.1988, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Buskett, 12.xi.1995, 1 ex., leg. J. Bugeja (CMM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 16.iii.2003, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Rabat, 4.xi.2002, 4 exs., leg. P. Sammut (CMM, MNHM); Gharghur, 30.i.2000, 1 ex., leg. A. Seguna (CSM); Naxxar, Tas-Saghjtar, 29.v.2008, 1 ex., leg. A. Seguna (CSM); Wied Qirda, 7.ii.2001, 1 ex., Actinic Moth Trap, leg. A. Seguna (CSM); Mellieha, near Ghadir Bay, 19.iii.2004, 1 ex., leg. A. Seguna (CSM); Bidnija, 15.i.1990, 1 ex., leg. A. Seguna (CSM). **GOZO:** Ghasri, 23.x.1994, 1 ex., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM).

Distribution. Croatia, Corsica, central and southern Italy (ZUMPT, 1937), and Malta (CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO, 1907).

Ecology. On Liliaceae, sometimes damaging garlic (ESPINOSA *et al.*, 1991).

Brachycerus muricatus Olivier, 1790

Diagnosis. Length: 7.0-12.0 mm. The smallest of the Maltese species of Brachyceridae, distinguished by its rough appearance due to irregular tufts of short brownish scales and short plump elytra (Fig. 33, photo by Guido Bonetti).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *B. algirus* (Fabricius, 1787)); SPRICK (2001).

Material examined. MALTA: 27 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN, CMM); St. Paul's Bay, M.C., 11.xi.1901, 2 exs., 5407 [= *Brachycerus algirus*, M. Gatto], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM); Żebbuġ, 26.xii.1994, 1 ex., leg. M. Psaila (CMM); Rabat, 13.ix.2002, 4 exs., leg. P. Sammut (CMM, MNHM); Mistra (upper valley near dam), 18/20.ii.2006, 3 exs., leg. H. Borg Barthet (CMM, MNHM); Wied Qirda, 7.ii.2001, 1 ex., M.V. light, leg. A. Seguna (CSM).

Distribution. Spain, France, Italy, Malta, Hungary, Balkans, Turkey, Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia (CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO, 1907; ZUMPT, 1937; and *pers. rec.*).

Ecology. On Liliaceae, attacking and seriously damaging garlic in southern Italy (ESPINOSA *et al.*, 1991).

Brachycerus undatus (Fabricius, 1798)

Diagnosis. Length: 8.0-22.0 mm. Although highly variable, this species can be identified by the almost rectangular shape of elytra apparently devoid of scales on undulate keels, and elevated supraocular ridges (Fig. 34, modified from www.galerie-insecte.org).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907); SPRICK (2001).

Material examined. Malta: 42 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN, CMM); Gnejna, 5.xi.1901, 9 exs., 5408 [= *Brachycerus barbarus*, M. Gatto], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM); Wied Has-Sabtan, 24.xi.1989, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Pellegrin, 4.ii.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 15.iv.2004,

1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Selmun, Mġiebah, clay slopes, 7.ii.2005, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (CMM); Mellieħa, W Lassel street, near pool, 5.iv.2002, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (CMM); Mellieħa, Kortin, 1.iv.2003, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (CMM), 1 ex., same data but 16.v.2004 (CMM); Mistra, upper valley near dam, 29.xii.2005, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (CMM), 2 exs., same data but 18/20.ii.2006 (MNHM); Gharghur, 30.i.2000, 2 exs., leg. A. Seguna (CSM); Wied Qirda, 7.ii.1988, 1 ex., leg. A. Seguna (CSM). **GOZO:** Ta' Kantra (l/o Munxar), 28.xii.2002, 3 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). **COMINO:** Trunciera, 5.iv.2003, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Spain, France, Italy, Malta, Hungary, Balkans, Turkey, Algeria, Tunisia (CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO, 1907; ZUMPT, 1937; and *pers. rec.*).

Ecology. On Liliaceae, Amaryllidaceae and Orchidaceae, often a pest of garlic (ESPINOSA *et al.*, 1991).

CURCULIONIDAE

Amaurorhinus bewickianus (Wollaston, 1860)*

Diagnosis. Length: 1.9-2.7 mm. Brown colour, convex and elongate relatively shining body and the eyes reduced to few ommatidia, allow an easy identification of this weevil (Fig. 35), except from the following species.

Material examined. **MALTA:** White Tower Bay, 23.v.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 9.vi.1995, 2 exs., coastal, under stone in fine particles, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 1 ex., same data but 14.i.2003, in dead branch of *Capparis* sp. (CMM); Marsaxlokk, 6.v.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Marsaskala, 7.v.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

GOZO: Qbajjar, around Qolla l-Bajda, 18.i.1989, 1 + 2 dead exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CCI).

Distribution. Madeira, Spain, France, Italy, Malta, Greece, Cyprus and Israel (FOLWACZNY, 1973).

Ecology. Under dead wood near the seashore (FOLWACZNY, 1973).

Amaurorhinus sp. near *A. paganettii* (Ganglbauer, 1903)*

Diagnosis. Length 2.1 mm. Very similar to *A. paganettii* and to the preceding species.

Material examined. **MALTA:** St. Thomas Bay, Munxar, 17.v.1998, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Unknown.

Ecology. The above specimen was found in a small rock pool very close to the sea.

Note. Perhaps a new species to science with shagreened pronotum which is not described here, waiting for collection of additional material.

Anthonomus amygdali Hustache, 1930

Diagnosis. Length: 3.6-4.5 mm. The combination of pear-shaped body with transverse elytral stripes, and strongly dentate femora characterise this species (Fig. 36).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Anthonomus ornatus* Reiche, 1861).

Material examined. **MALTA:** Buskett, 31.iii. 2004, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Dingli, 1.iv.1994, 5 exs., on *Prunus* sp., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Mellieħa, Kortin, 13.xii.2004, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (CMM); Naxxar, 12.iv.2003, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Wied Has-Sabtan, 4.iv.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Żurrieq, Wied Babu, 26.iii.2010, 10 exs., on *Prunus amygdalus* L., leg. E. Colonnelli & D. Mifsud (CCI, CMM, MNHM). **GOZO:** Għasri, 4.iv.1995, 2 exs., on *Oxalis* sp., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM).

Distribution. Southern Europe, Turkey, Algeria (DIECKMANN, 1968).

Ecology. On *Prunus amygdalus* Stokes, *P. persica* L., and *P. armeniaca* L.; often damaging their cultivation (DIECKMANN, 1968).

Asproparthenis maculicollis (Chevrolat, 1873) status revisitatus

Diagnosis. Length: 7.2-11.5 mm. Among Maltese weevils, the combination of large size and relatively uniform light grey vestiture of hair-like scales, are only shared with *Conorhychus mendicus*, from which it differs by its only slightly tapering rostrum and not so raised elytral intervals (Fig. 37, photo by Guido Bonett).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Cleonus maculicollis*); LUKJANOVITSH (1958, as *Bothynoderes albicans* Gyllenhal, 1834).

Material examined. MALTA: 8 exs., 8114 [= *Cleonus maculicollis*, Mellieħa], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM); Ghadira, 11.vi.1971, 1 ex., leg. M.J. Ebejer (CMM).

Distribution. *A. maculicollis* is known from the southern Italian regions of Basilicata and Calabria (ABBAZZI & MAGGINI, 2009), Sicily (Torre Salsa, Agrigento province; *pers. rec.*) and Malta.

Ecology. On *Arthrocnemum* (COLONNELLI, 1991, as *Bothynoderes andreae*). Not recollected in Malta since 1971.

Note. This species was considered a synonym of *Asproparthenis albicans* by FAUST (1904, as *Bothynoderes albicans*) in his posthumous revision of the Cleoninae. The synonymy was also reported (as due to Faust) in the REITTER'S (1905, as *Bothynoderes albicans*) revision of *Asproparthenis*, and in the Junk's Catalogue by CSIKI (1934). According to the photos of the types of both *A. albicans* and *A. maculicollis*, kindly sent to us by Bert Viklund, curator of the Naturhistoriska Rikmuseet, Stockholm, it became evident that not only *A. maculicollis* is a species different from *A. albicans*, but also that the later described (COLONNELLI, 1991) *A. andreae* (Colonnelli, 1991), is a synonym of it. In consequence: *Asproparthenis albicans* (Chevrolat, 1873), **stat. rev.** [= *Bothynoderes andreae* Colonnelli, 1991, **syn. rev.**]. For differentiating *A. maculicollis* from the close *A. albicans*, refer to COLONNELLI (1991). Whereas on page 276 of the FAUST (1904) revision there are no locality records, it is curious that the latter species, described from "Austria" and Algeria (GYLLENHAL, 1834) was reported by REITTER (1905) only from Illyria, Dalmatia and Greece; by CSIKI (1934) generically from "Mittel und Süd-Europa"; by LUKJANOVITSH (1958) from Dalmatia, Yugoslavia, northern Greece and Malta, and by TER-MINASSIAN (1958) from southern Austria and Yugoslavia. All of the above authors do not indicate the species from Algeria, and, since no mention of *A. albicans* is on the KOCHER (1961) catalogue of Moroccan beetles, nor in the NORMAND (1937) one of the coleoptera from Tunisia, perhaps the locality label "Algeria" borne by one of the type specimens is incorrect.

Aulacobaris coeruleascens (Scopoli, 1763)

Diagnosis. Length: 2.3-4.5 mm. This is the only Maltese weevils with strongly shining bare blue integument, and elongate oval body (Fig. 38, from www.curci.de).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Baris coeruleascens*); FARRUGIA (1997, as *Baris coeruleascens*).

Material examined. MALTA: 6 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN, CMM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 5.i.2003, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). GOZO: Qbajjar, 26.xii.2002, 7 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM, MNHM); Ramla, 8/28.xii.2002, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 1 ex., same data but 27.iii.2010, leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI); Għasri, 19.xi.1994/6.i.1995, 2 exs., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM).

Distribution. Central and southern Europe, Mediterranean and Middle East (HOFFMANN, 1954).

Ecology. Larvae are gall-makers on several crucifers, sometimes damaging cauliflowers and colza (HOFFMANN, 1954).

Brachypera crinita (Boheman, 1834)

Diagnosis. Length: 3.1-6.3 mm. Oval elytra with tessellate clothing of scales and long hairs distinguish this medium sized weevil (Fig. 39).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Hypera crinita*); ANDRES (1916, as *Hypera crinita*).

Material examined. MALTA: 12 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN, CMM); Ġnejna, xi.1901, 6 exs., 5419 [= *Hypera crenata*, M. Gatto], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CCI, CMM); Bahrija, 12.v.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Birzebbuga, Wied Has-Sabtan, 21.x.1995, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 19.viii.1989, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 2 exs., same data but 21/23.v.1994 (CMM), 1 ex., same data but 28.iii.2010, leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI); Mellieħa Bay, 8.i.2005, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM); Marsaxlokk, 6.v.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Xorb il-Għaġin, 27.xi.1993, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); White Tower Bay, 23.v.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). GOZO: Ramla, 9.v.1996, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 1 ex., same data but 27.iii.2010, leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI); Dwejra, San Lawrenz, 5.xi.2004, 2 exs., leg. A. Seguna (CMM, CSM); Dwejra, 10.v.1996/26.iv.1998, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Għasri, 13.x.1994, 1 ex., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM); Wied tax-Xlendi, 15.vii.1989, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Mediterranean (HOFFMANN, 1954).

Ecology. Unknown.

Brachypera fallax (Capiomont, 1867)*

Diagnosis. Length: 7.0-9.5 mm. Very similar to *B. zoilus*; differentiated by its shoulders a trifle less protruding, and a slightly longer rostrum in both sexes.

Material examined. MALTA: 9 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN, CMM).

Distribution. Canaries, Southern Spain and Morocco (WINKLER, 1932; MACHADO & OROMÍ, 2000).

Ecology. Unknown.

Brachypera parvithorax (Desbrochers, 1896)

Diagnosis. Length: 7.0-9.5 mm. Rather similar to *B. zoilus*, but its much slender rostrum and relatively different elytral pattern allow its separation (Fig. 40, from www.jcringenbach.free.fr).

Literature records. ANDRES (1916, as *Phytonomus tripolitanus* Petri, 1901).

Material examined. MALTA: Żejtun., 14.v.1989, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Malta, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya (ANDRES, 1916; WINKLER, 1932; *pers. rec.*).

Ecology. Unknown.

Brachypera lunata (Wollaston, 1854)*

Diagnosis. Length: 5.0-7.0 mm. The V-shaped light transverse band on elytra characterise this species (Fig. 41).

Material examined. GOZO: Ramla, 9.vi.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Western Palaearctic (DIECKMANN, 1981).

Ecology. On *Geranium* and *Erodium* of the family Geraniaceae (DIECKMANN, 1981).

Brachypera zoilus (Scopoli, 1763)*

Diagnosis. Length: 6.8-10.0 mm. Easy to confuse with *B. fallax*; the slightly shorter rostrum and stronger elytral humeri allow its recognition (Fig. 42, from www.kaefer-der-welt.de).

Material examined. MALTA: Wied Qannotta, 18.xi.1984, 1 ex., leg. A. Seguna (CMM).

Distribution. Palaearctic (OSELLA *et al.*, 2005).

Ecology. On *Medicago* and *Trifolium*, sometimes injurious to the latter (DIECKMANN, 1989).

Ceutorhynchus leprieuri C. Brisout, 1881*

Diagnosis. Length: 1.8-2.5 mm. Shining blue sub-rectangular elytra with elevated blackish hairy scales, allow the differentiation of this species (Fig. 43) from the following one.

Material examined. GOZO: Qbajjar, 27.iii.2010, 11 exs., on *Sisymbrium officinale* (L.) Scop., leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI, CMM).

Distribution. Euro-Mediterranean (COLONNELLI, 2004).

Ecology. On *Alyssum*, *Brassica*, *Bunias*, *Rapistrum*, *Raphanus* and *Sinapis* (COLONNELLI, 2004).

Ceutorhynchus melitensis A. Schultze, 1900

Diagnosis. Length: 2.1-2.6 mm. The combination of rather plump blue elytra clothed by greyish hair-like scales and epimera with dense vestiture of whitish scales make it easy to identify this species (Fig. 44).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Ceuthorrhynchus melitensis*); SPRICK (2001).

Material examined. MALTA: 2 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN); Marsa, Ghammieri, 8.i.1999, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Msida, Tal-Qroqq, 26.x.1994, 1 ex., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM); Selmun, 22.xi.2003, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM); Żejtun, 13.iv.2002, 1 ex., leaf litter under *Ceratonia siliqua* L., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). **GOZO:** Ghasri, 6.x.1994, 1 ex., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM); San Lawrenz, 27.xii.2002, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Mediterranean (COLONNELLI, 2004).

Ecology. On white-flowering Brassicaceae, occasionally on *Isatis tinctoria* L. (COLONNELLI, 2004; and *pers. obs.*).

Ceutorhynchus pallidactylus (Marshall, 1802)

Diagnosis. Length: 2.0-3.5 mm. The only ceutorhynchine with a double clothing of whitish recumbent scales and erect setae on piceous elytra (Fig. 45, modified from www.agroatlas.ru).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Ceuthorrhynchus quadridens* (Panzer, 1794)); FARRUGIA (1997); SPRICK (2001).

Material examined. MALTA: v.1904, 1 ex., M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Bidnija, 8.ix.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Buskett, 29.iii.2010, 1 ex., leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI); Dingli Cliffs, 4.v.1993, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 1 ex., same data but 31.iii.2002, leg. Schuh & Lang (CMM); Marsa, Ghammieri, 10.iii.2003, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM);

Mtahleb, 5.iv.1998, 3 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 3.x.2002, 4 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Żebbug, Tal-Ħlas, 6.i.1995, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Żejtun, 8.iv.1989, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Żurrieq, Wied Babu, 26.iii.2010, 1 ex., leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI). **GOZO:** Dwejra, 21.ii.2000, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Ramla tat-Torri, 7.xi.2002, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Sub-cosmopolitan (COLONNELLI, 2004).

Ecology. On several members of Brassicaceae and Resedaceae and occasionally on *Cannabis sativa* L. (COLONNELLI, 2004).

Charagmus gressorius (Fabricius, 1792)*

Diagnosis. Length: 7.0-10.0 mm. The largest member of its genus in Malta; characterised by a tuft of divergent scales on scutellum, easy to differentiate from the following species by its narrow striking whitish longitudinal stripe on pronotum (Fig. 46, modified from www.rhmus.hu).

Material examined. MALTA: vi.1902, 1 ex., 7440 [= *Sitona griseus*, Ta' Baldu], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Mellieħa, Mellieħa Hill, 17.iv.2004, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (CMM).

Distribution. Western Palaearctic, comprising Canaries and excluding northern Europe (GAEDIKE, 1971).

Ecology. On several Papilionaceae (DIECKMANN, 1980).

Charagmus intermedius (Küster, 1847)

Diagnosis. Length: 4.5-8.0 mm. The prothorax with not so striking band allows recognition of this weevil (Fig. 47) from the preceding one, both sharing the flattened frons.

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Sitona intermedius*); ANDRES (1916, as *Sitona intermedius*).

Material examined. MALTA: 1 ex., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMNH); vi.1902, 4 exs., M.C., 7440 [= *Sitona griseus*, Ta' Baldu], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH).

Distribution. Mediterranean and central Europe (GAEDIKE, 1971).

Ecology. On *Hippocrepis* (DIECKMANN, 1980).

Charagmus variegatus (Fåhraeus, 1840)

Diagnosis. Length: 6.0-7.5 mm. The convex frons distinguish this species from the other Maltese congeners (Fig. 48, modified from jcringenbach.free.fr).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Sitona cachecta* Gyllenhal, 1834 v. *setulifer* Fåhraeus, 1840).

Material examined. MALTA: Mellieħa, 1901, 7 exs., 5422 [= *Sitona cachectus* var. *setulifer*, ER, M. Gatto], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM); v.1901, 1 ex., 5788 [= *Sitones griseus* (Fabricius, 1775), ER., Marsa], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Ghadira, 23.v.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). **GOZO:** Ramla, 18.iv.1990, 1 ex., in sand-dunes, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 25 exs., same data but 1.x.1995, 9.v.1996, 28.i.1997, 18.i.1999, 8/29.xii.2002, 25.iv.2003 (CMM, NHMM), 1 ex., same data but 30.iii.2002, leg. Schuh & Mifsud (CMM), 2 exs., same data but 27.iii.2010, leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI).

Distribution. Mediterranean and Canaries (VELÁZQUEZ DE CASTRO, 2009).

Ecology. On *Ononis*, particularly near the coast (VELÁZQUEZ DE CASTRO, 2009).

Chiloneus hoffmanni (González, 1970)

Diagnosis. Length: 4.1-5.2 mm. Characterised by its medium size, rostrum with nasal plate, scrobes partially visible from above and brownish shining integumental colour (Fig. 49, photo by Guido Bonett).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Sciaphilus siculus* Boheman, 1834); GONZÁLES (1970, as *Desbrochersella hoffmanni* González, 1970); PESARINI (1970, as *Chiloneus solarii* Pesarini, 1970).

Material examined. MALTA: 1 ex., 24, *Sciaphilus* sp., sec Daniel, perhaps a Tunisian sp., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN); 3 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN, CMM); Ghar Hasan, 8.i.1989, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Mellieħa, between Irdum Ghawsec and Rdum Ta' Ciantar, 26.iii.2010, 1 ex., leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 20.v.1994, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Żurrieq, Wied Babu, 11-12. xii.1994/5.i.1998, 8 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM, MNHM); Wied Anġlu, 29.xi.1995, 3 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Wied il-Ghasel, 21.xi.1989, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). GOZO: Il-Qortin tal-Magun (l/o Nadur), 28.xii.2002, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). COMINO: 9.xii.1995, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Endemic to the Maltese archipelago.

Ecology. Adults often collected at the base of *Scilla* leaves.

Note. This species, originally mentioned from Malta as *Sciaphilus siculus* by CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907) by evident misidentification with the Sicilian *Chiloneus meridionalis* Boheman, 1838, a senior synonym of *C. siculus*, was recognized as new by GONZÁLES (1970) and described as *Desbrochersella hoffmanni* upon material collected by Champion. Soon after, PESARINI (1970) redescribed the same species as *Chiloneus solarii*, and the same author (PESARINI, 1980) sunk *C. solarii* as a synonym of *C. hoffmanni*, correctly transferring it to the genus *Chiloneus* Schoenherr [1842].

Choerorhinus squalidus Fairmaire, 1858

Diagnosis. Length: 2.3-3.2 mm. Narrowly elongate mat brownish body with very coarse sculpture, protruding eyes and marginate posterior margin of elytra make this weevil unmistakable (Fig. 50, modified from www.insecte.org).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907).

Material examined. MALTA: 31 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN, CMM); Buskett, 15.v.2003, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Portugal, Spain, Andorra, France, Italy, Malta, Balkans, Middle East, Algeria, Tunisia (FOLWACZNY, 1973; ALONSO-ZARAZAGA, 2002).

Ecology. In dead wood of broadleaf trees (FOLWACZNY, 1973).

Coelositona ocellatus (Küster, 1849)

Diagnosis. Length: 5.0-7.5 mm. Easy to recognise by the numerous spots on pronotum and elytra (Fig. 51).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Sitona ocellatus*).

Material examined. MALTA: 2 exs., 8116 [= *Sitona ocellatus*, Mellieħa, MC], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM).

Distribution. Baleares, Sicily, Crete, Cyprus, North Africa, Canaries (MACHADO & OROMÍ, 2000; ABBAZZI & MAGGINI, 2009; VELÁZQUEZ DE CASTRO, 2009).

Ecology. Unknown.

Coelositona puberulus (Reitter, 1903)

Diagnosis. Length: 4.1-5.0 mm. The only Maltese Sitonini with entirely hairy vestiture (Fig. 52).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Sitona cambricus* Stephens, 1831); DIECKMANN (1963).

Material examined. MALTA: 1 ex., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN); 2 exs., M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); 1901, 1 ex., 5423 [= *Sitona cambricus*, ER, M. Gatto], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); 2 exs., 8054 [= *Sitona cambricus*, (D. Det), Gbir (Malta), dry debris, May, 1903], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM); Fomm ir-Rih, 11.v.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); St. Thomas Bay, 11.xi.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Western Europe, Mediterranean, Caucasus, Canaries and Madeira (DIECKMANN, 1963).

Ecology. Unknown, perhaps on *Lotus* (DIECKMANN, 1963).

Coniatus tamarisci (Fabricius, 1787)*

Diagnosis. Length: 4.0-6.0 mm. The striking coloration of this middle-sized species allows its easy recognition (Fig. 53).

Material examined. MALTA: Salina, 1.vi.1994, 1 ex., leg. J. Ismay (CMM), 4 exs., same data but 11.iii.1995/11.vii.2002, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM, NHMM). **GOZO:** Marsalforn valley, 6.vi.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Ramla Bay, 9.viii.2002, 2 exs., Actinic Moth Trap, leg. A. Seguna (CSM); Ramla dunes, 1.x.1995/28.i.1997, 7 exs., on *Tamarix* sp., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 3 exs., same data but 27.iii.2010, leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI).

Distribution. Southern Europe, Mediterranean and Canaries (HOFFMANN, 1954; MACHADO & OROMÍ, 2000).

Ecology. On *Tamarix* (HOFFMANN, 1954).

ConioCLEONUS excoriatus (Gyllenhal, 1834)

Diagnosis. Length: 11.0-14.0 mm. The combination of large size, uneven prothorax and two transverse blackish stripes on elytra are shared only with the following species, from which it can be separated by its much shorter and thicker V-shaped elytral bands (Fig. 54, modified from www.nature-of-oz.com, picture by Oz Rittner).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Cleonus excoriatus*); ANDRES (1916, as *Cleonus excoriatus*).

Material examined. MALTA: 6 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN, CMM); vi/viii.1901, 5 exs., 5405 [= *Cleonus excoriatus*, M. Gatto], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM); Ta' Qali, 10.x.1970, 3 exs., leg. C. De Lucca (MNHM); Gharghur, 14.xi.1968, 2 exs., leg. Delucca (MNHM); Mensija, 28.xi.1969, 1 ex., leg. M. Gauci (MNHM); Ramla tat-Torri, 7.xi.2002, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); St. Thomas Bay, 12.x.1989, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Wied Qirda, 13.xii.1989, 1 ex., leg. A. Seguna (CSM); Naxxar, Tas-Saghjtar, 10.x.2003, 1 ex., Actinic moth trap, leg. A. Seguna (CSM); Mistrà, 19.vii.1972, 1 ex., leg. M.J. Ebejer (CMM). **GOZO:** Ghasri, 28.vi.1995, 1 ex., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM).

Distribution. Canaries and Mediterranean (HOFFMANN, 1950).

Ecology. Unknown.

Coniocleonus pseudobliquus (G. Müller, 1921)*

Diagnosis. Length: 9.8-13.5 mm. Similar to the preceding species; elytral stripes are however longer and more oblique (Fig. 55).

Material examined. MALTA: 4 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN, CMM).

Distribution. Italy, Balkans (*pers. rec.*).

Ecology. Unknown.

Conorhynchus brevirostris (Gyllenhal, 1834)*

Diagnosis. Length: 10.0-16.0 mm. The large size, grey vestiture and conical rostrum are shared with *Asproparthenis maculicollis* above and *Conorhynchus mendicus* below. This weevil differs from the former by its much more conical and shorter rostrum, and from the latter by its simple hair-like scales (Fig. 56, photo by Guido Bonett).

Material examined. MALTA: Wied Speranza, 19.iii.1952, 1 ex., leg. G. Lanfranco (MNHM); Żejtun, 20.ix.1997, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Canaries and Mediterranean (HOFFMANN, 1950; MACHADO & OROMÍ, 2000).

Ecology. On *Salicornia* and *Sueda* (HOFFMANN, 1950).

Conorhynchus mendicus (Gyllenhal, 1834)

Diagnosis. Length: 14.0-16.0 mm. Very similar to the above species, but larger and with bifid elytral scales (Fig. 57, photo by Guido Bonnet).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Cleonus mendicus*).

Material examined. MALTA: 3 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN); x/xi.1901, M.C., 2 exs., 6040 [= 19 Oct., *Cleonus mendicus*, Ft. Manuel], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM); Marsaxlokk, Balluta saltmarsh, 21.xi.1993/9.x.1994/27.x.1996, 3 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Miġra Ferġa, 22.x.1996, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 27.x.1996/3.x.2002, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). GOZO: Dwejra, 23.x.1996, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Dwejra, San Lawrenz, 5.xi.2004, 1 ex., leg. A. Seguna (CSM).

Distribution. Western Mediterranean (HOFFMANN, 1950).

Ecology. On Chenopodiaceae, sometimes injurious to sugar beet (HOFFMANN, 1950).

Cosmobaris alboseriata (Reitter, 1908)*

Diagnosis. Length: 2.6-3.4 mm. Elongate oval body shape, dense vestiture of mottled whitish and brownish scales and an average size of about 3 mm readily distinguish this weevils (Fig. 58, photo by Guido Bonnet) from similar ones, except from the following one.

Material examined. Malta: St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 3.x. 2002/13.iv. 2003, 3 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Żejtun, 23.ix.1997/10.iv.1998/20.ix.2001, 3 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Cyprus, Egypt (WINKLER, 1932; ALZIAR, 1995) and Malta.

Ecology. On Chenopodiaceae (*pers. obs.*).

Cosmobaris scolopacea (Germar, 1824)*

Diagnosis. Length: 2.2-3.5 mm. Very similar to *C. alboseriata* above, only differing by its more elongate body and less dense vestiture (Fig. 59, photo by Guido Bonett).

Material examined. Malta: Marsaxlokk, saltmarsh, 2.vi.1994, 3 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Pembroke, 26.iii.2010, 1 ex., on *Beta vulgaris* L., leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI); Salina, 11.iii.1995/11.vii.2002, 4 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM, MNHM).

Distribution. Western Palaearctic (ZASLAVSKIJ, 1956).

Ecology. On Chenopodiaceae (ZASLAVSKIJ, 1956).

Cycloderes belonis (Desbrochers, 1872)

Diagnosis. Length: 9.0-11.0 mm. The combination of rather large size, short rostrum, vibrissae on sides of anterior margin of pronotum and dense silvery-grey vestiture are unique characteristics for this species (Fig. 60, photo by Guido Bonett).

Literature records. DESBROCHERS (1872, 1884, 1903a, as *Thylacites belonis*; 1903c, as *Thylacites beloni*); CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Thylacites belloni*).

Material examined. MALTA: 6 exs., (of which 4 exs., form the type series), ex. Musaeo Desbrochers 1914 (CMM, MNHN); 1901, M.C., 5 exs., 5335 [= *Thylacites Beloni*, ER, Marsa], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM).

Distribution. Malta and Sicily (ABBAZZI & MAGGINI, 2009). Most probably the indication “Crete” by DESBROCHERS (1903c) is incorrect.

Ecology. Unknown.

Note. The original spelling of this species is *Thylacites belonis*, and as the author wrote that it is named after Belon, it is evident that Desbrochers considered the name of the collector as a Latin one, thus using the third Latin declination whose genitive ends in “is”. The same author (DESBROCHERS, 1884; 1903a: 125) later quoted the same right spelling “*belonis*”, whereas he himself (DESBROCHERS, 1903b; 1903c) used the incorrect subsequent spelling of “*beloni*” which according to article 33.3 of the Code (ICZN, 1999) is thus unavailable.

Derelomus chamaeropsis (Fabricius, 1792)*

Diagnosis. Length: 2.0-2.4 mm. The yellowish sometimes maculate integument, small size, flat body and quite long rostrum with antennae inserted near apex allow the easy recognition of this species (Fig. 61, from www.gonhs.org).

Material examined. MALTA: Marsaskala, 31.iii.2004, 6 exs., on *Chaemerops*, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Mellieħa, Kortin, 8.v.2005, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM). **GOZO:** Qbajjar, 26.xii.2002, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Western Mediterranean (HOFFMANN, 1958).

Ecology. On *Chaemerops humilis* L. flowers (HOFFMANN, 1950).

Dichromacalles diocletianus (Germar, 1817)

Diagnosis. Length: 3.0-4.5 mm. Easy to recognise by its peculiar pattern (Fig. 62, photo by Guido Bonett).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Acalles diocletianus*).

Material examined. MALTA: Bahrija Valley, 11.v.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). **GOZO:** Ramla, 18.iv.1990, 8 exs., on roots of *Erygium maritimum*, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 1 ex., same data but 21.ii.2000 (CMM).

Distribution. Western Mediterranean, Croatia (STÜBEN *et al.*, 2001).

Ecology. Breeding on roots of Asteraceae (STÜBEN *et al.*, 2001).

Donus philantus (Olivier, 1790)

Diagnosis. Length: 7.0-11.0 mm. This medium-sized species is identified by its oval elytra with peculiar markings (Fig. 63, from www.entomologiitaliani.net/forum).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Hypera philanthus*); ANDRES (1916, as *Hypera philanthus*).

Material examined. MALTA: 26 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN); Mellieħa, 1901, M.C., 6 exs., 5420 [= *H. philantus*, M. Gatto], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM); Bahrija, 12.v.1996, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Chadwick Lakes, 26.ii.1997, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Fomm ir-Riħ, 1.vii.1989/11.v.1990, 3 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Ghajn Hadid, 30.i.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Marsa, Għammieri, 1.ix.1997, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Mellieħa, Aħrax ta' Ġewwa, 13.iv.2005, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM); Qrendi, Maqluba, 30.x.2004, 2 exs., leg. A. Seguna (CMM, CSM); Rabat, 5.xi.1989, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Rabat, Tal-Virtu, 15.x.1989, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Ramla ta' Ghajn Tuffieħa, 9.v.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Salina, 3.xi.1957, 1 ex., leg. C. De Lucca (MNHM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 1.vi.1990/21.v.1994, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); White Tower Bay, 23.v.1990/7.xi.2002, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Wied il-Kbir, 12.v.1983/30.i.1988, 2 exs., leg. A. Seguna (CSM).

Distribution. Western Mediterranean (HOFFMANN, 1954).

Ecology. On *Rumex* (HOFFMANN, 1954).

Echinodera sp. near *E. variegata* (Boheman, 1837)*

Diagnosis. Length: 1.8-2.4 mm. The short lifted elytral scales, densely clothed matte upper side and the convex pear-shaped body are unique characters among Maltese weevils (Fig. 64).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Acalles ptinoides* (Marsham, 1802)).

Material examined. MALTA: Wardija, 3.x.1993, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Għammieri, Marsa, 7.xii.1993, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 1 ex., same data but 9.xii.1993 (CMM); Bidnija, 1.i.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 2 exs., same data but 30.ix.1997 (CMM); Buskett, 2.xii.1997, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 1 ex., in soil under *Quercus ilex*, same data but 12.ii.2000 (CMM); Ballut tal-Imġiebaħ (l/o Selmun), 23.ii.2000, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Wardija, Ballut tal-Imġiebaħ (l/o San Pawl il-Baħar), 23.ii.2000, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Dingli Cliffs, 29.iii.2010, 1 ex., sifting under *Lentiscus*, leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI).

Distribution. Unknown.

Ecology. Sifted from leaf litter in maquis and forest type habitats.

Note. Most likely, the record of *Acalles ptinoides* by CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907) should refer to this species probably new to science and closely related to *E. variegata* from Sicily. It seems wise to collect additional material to have a more precise understanding of its status and relationships with related taxa.

Eremobaris picturata (Ménétries, 1849)

Diagnosis. Length: 2.2-3.2 mm. Body shape and elytral pattern similar to the two *Cosmobaris* spp., but this species has more contrasting black and white markings and shinier scales (Fig. 65).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Baris picturata*); ANDRES, (1916, as *Baris opiparis*).

Material examined. MALTA: 7 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN, CMM); vii.1903, M.C., 1 ex., 8341 [= 20 July, 1903, *Baris opiparis* (Desbroch.), Marsa (Malta)], M.

Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Msida, University grounds, 22.iii.1998, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 28.iv. 2002/13.iv. 2003, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Wied il-Ghasel, 14.iv.1999, 1 ex., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM).

Distribution. Western Palaearctic (ZASLAVSKIJ, 1956).

Ecology. On crucifers (ZASLAVSKIJ, 1956).

Note. Due to the extreme variability of this weevil, there is no possibility to really distinguish the two so-called subspecies *picturata* and *opiparis*, as done e.g. by ZASLAVSKIJ (1956) and recently by ABBAZZI & MAGGINI (2009). In consequence: *Eremobaris picturata* (Ménétries, 1849) [= *E. opiparis* (Jacquelin du Val, 1852), **syn. rev.**].

Gronops lunatus (Fabricius, 1775)

Diagnosis. Length: 2.5-4.0 mm. The combination of rather small prothorax, much protruding humeri and anteapical calli, and characteristic pattern makes the recognition of this species easy (Fig. 66, photo by Guido Bonett).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907).

Material examined: MALTA: 17 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMNH, CMM); Marsa, Zebbal Gate (= ? Żabbar Gate), x/xi.1901, Dr. Cameron/M.C., 8 exs., mulberry roots, 6061 [= *Gronops lunatus*, October, ER, Marsa], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM).

Distribution. Europe (BURAKOWSKI *et al.*, 1995).

Ecology. Unknown. The species was locally found in association with roots of *Morus* sp.

Hypurus bertrandi (Perris, 1852)*

Diagnosis. Length: 1.9-2.1 mm. Immediately recognised by its swollen hind femora in combination with subquadrate elytra, rostrum directed forward, reddish-brown colour and flattened elytra (Fig. 67).

Material examined. MALTA: Mellicha Bay, near Nature Reserve, 15.v.2004, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (CMM).

Distribution. Sub-cosmopolitan (COLONNELLI, 2004).

Ecology. On *Portulaca oleracea* L. (COLONNELLI, 2004).

Hypera jucunda (Capiomont, 1868)

Diagnosis. Length: 4.0-5.0 mm. Very similar to *H. melancholica* and *H. postica*; distinguished by its V-shaped elytral scales (Fig. 68, from jcringenbach.free.fr).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907).

Material examined. MALTA: 15 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMNH, CMM).

Distribution. Southern Mediterranean, Spain, Sicily (PETRI, 1901; ALONSO-ZARAZAGA, 2002; ABBAZZI & MAGGINI, 2009).

Ecology. Almost surely on Fabaceae.

Hypera melancholica (Fabricius, 1792)

Diagnosis. Length: 4.5-7.0 mm. Very similar to *H. postica*, usually larger with elytral pattern less evident, prothorax more clearly rounded and widest at basal third. Differs from *H. jucunda*, by its scales divided only up to half their length (Fig. 69).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Hypera murina* (Fabricius, 1792)).

Material examined. MALTA: 1 ex., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN); Gharghur, 29.iv.1970, 1 ex., leg. DeLucca (NHMM).

Distribution. Western Palaearctic, imported in North America (HOFFMANN, 1954).

Ecology. On *Trifolium* and *Medicago*, injurious to alfalfa (HOFFMANN, 1954).

Note. For the synonymy: *Hypera melancholica* (Fabricius, 1792) [= *H. fuscocinerea* (Marshall, 1802)] refer to ALONSO-ZARAZAGA (2008).

Hypera nigrirostris (Fabricius, 1775)

Diagnosis. Length: 3.0-4.0 mm. The combination of the rather uniform green to brownish vestiture and relatively long rostrum makes the identity of this *Hypera* straightforward (Fig. 70, modified from www.kaefer-der-welt.de).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907).

Material examined. MALTA: 4 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN, CMM); vi.1902, M.C., 1 ex., 7417 [= *Hypera nigrirostris*, Gnejna], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH).

Distribution. Canary Islands, Europe, Mediterranean. Imported in North America (HOFFMANN, 1954).

Ecology. On Fabaceae, mainly *Trifolium*, and sometimes injurious (HOFFMANN, 1954).

Hypera postica (Gyllenhal, 1813)

Diagnosis. Length: 4.0-6.5 mm. A trifle smaller than *H. melancholica* above, and with the maximum width of the pronotum not behind middle (Fig. 71, from www.ento.okstate.edu).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Hypera variabilis* (Herbst, 1795)); ANDRES (1916, as *Phytonomus variabilis*).

Material examined. MALTA: 2 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN); Bidnija, 8.ix.1996/1.iv.2002, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Fomm ir-Rih, 26.iii.1995, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Ghajn Rihana, 26.ix.2002, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Gharghur, 17.xi.2004, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM); Haġar Qim, 5.xi.1989, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Hal Far, 22.vi.1989, 3 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Hal Ġinwi, 1.v.1989, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Marsaxlokk, saltmarsh, 22.viii.1989/15.ix.1989/28.iv.1990, 10 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Mellieħa, Kortin, 8.ii.2004/9.iv.2005, 2 exs., leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM); Miġra Ferħa, 13.i.1999, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Naxxar, 9.xi.2000, 1 ex., M.V. light, leg. A. Seguna (CSM); Selmun, near Castle, 19.iv.2005, 6 exs., leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 6.vii.1989/6.ix.1996/29.iv.2002/14.i.2003, 5 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). **GOZO:** Ramla, 9.v.1996, 2 exs., on sand dunes, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 2 exs., same data but 29.xii.2002 (CMM), 2 exs., same data but 30.iii.2002, leg. Schuh & Mifsud (CMM), 2 exs., same data but 27.iii.2010, leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI); Qbajjar, 26.xii.2002, 11 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Canary Islands, Madeira, Azores, Europe, northern Africa, Middle East, central Asia and introduced into North America (HOFFMANN, 1958; MACHADO & OROMÍ, 2000; MACHADO, 2008; BORGES & VIEIRA, 2010).

Ecology. This is the pest known as “alfalfa weevil”, feeding on several Fabaceae (HOFFMANN, 1954).

Hypera sp. near *H. tenuirostris* (Petri, 1901)*

Diagnosis. Length: 3.3-4.0 mm. Very similar to *H. tenuirostris* (Fig. 72, photo by Guido Bonetti).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Hypera pastinacae* (Rossi, 1790)).

Material examined. MALTA: 2 exs., Dr. Cameron, M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); xi.1901, M.C., 1 ex., *Hypera meles* Fabr., 6232 [= *Hypera pastinacae* var. ER., Mellieħa], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); 1901, M.C., 2 exs., 7908 [=no data available] (BMNH, CMM); Mellieħa Bay, nr. Mellieħa Holiday Centre, 25.iii.2005, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (CMM).

Distribution. Unknown.

Ecology. Unknown.

Note. An enigmatic species apparently closely related to *H. tenuirostris* from the Eastern Mediterranean (WINKELMANN, *pers. comm.*). Since many groups of this difficult genus are being revised, it is currently impossible to name this Maltese weevil. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907) recorded this species from Mellieħa as *H. pastinacae* (also refer to note following *H. pastinacae* under the heading 'species incorrectly recorded for the Maltese fauna').

Larinus cynarae (Fabricius, 1787)

Diagnosis. Length: 11.0-20.0 mm. The largest native Maltese weevil, identified by its blackish integument, oval body shape, no clear markings, and rather elongate depressed rostrum (Fig. 73, from jcringenbach.free.fr).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, also as *Larinus cynarae* v. *glabrirostris* Gyllenhal, 1936).

Material examined. MALTA: 1901, M.C., 5 exs., 5416 [= *Larinus latus* v. *glabrirostris*, M. Gatto], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM); Burmarrad, Wied Arkata, 24.v.2003, 23 exs., leg. D. Mifsud & P. Sammut (CMM, MNHM).

Distribution. Southern Europe, North Africa (TER-MINASSIAN, 1967).

Ecology. On thistles (TER-MINASSIAN, 1967).

Larinus flavescens Germar, 1824

Diagnosis. Length: 5.5-11.0 mm. Rather similar to the preceding species, but with shorter rostrum, more convex body and markings of hairs on elytra (Fig. 74, from jcringenbach.free.fr).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907).

Material examined. MALTA: vi.1902, M.C., 6 exs., 7414 [= *Larinus*, Ġnejna], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM); Ghajn Hadid, 23.v.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Ghajn Rihana, 23.vi.1989, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Rabat, 3.vi.2002, 2 exs., leg. P. Sammut (CMM, MNHM); Rabat, Ta' Koronja, 3.vi.2002, 3 exs., leg. P. Sammut (CMM, MNHM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 25.v.1994/5.i.2003, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Selmun, East of Castle, on path off Campbell Battery road, 13.iv.2002, 1 ex., on *Galactites tomentosa*, leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM); Wied is-Sewda, 17.vi.1977, 3 exs., leg. M.J. Ebejer (CMM).

Distribution. Southern Europe, North Africa (TER-MINASSIAN, 1967).

Ecology. On thistles, primarily *Carthamus* (HOFFMANN, 1954; TER-MINASSIAN, 1967).

Larinus scolymi (Olivier, 1807)*

Diagnosis. Length: 9.0-14.5 mm. Extremely similar to the preceding species, differing only by its abdomen having simple instead of bifid hairs.

Material examined. MALTA: 10 exs., M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); vi.1902, M.C., 1 ex., 7413 [= *Larinus*, Ġnejna], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Bahrija, 12.v.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Burmarrad, Wied Arkata, 24.v.2003, 6 exs., leg. D. Mifsud & P. Sammut (CMM, MNHM); Fort Bingemma, 24.vi.2002, 2 exs., Actinic moth trap, 2 exs., leg. A. Seguna (CSM); Ghajn Hadid, 23.v.1990, 3 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Ghammieri, Marsa, 29.xi.1993, 1 ex., under bark of *Cupressus*, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Ghar Lapsi, 5.v.2002, 4 exs., on *Cynara cardunculus*, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Mellieħa, 17.iv.1970, 1 ex., leg. C. De Lucca (MNHM); Mellieħa Bay, near Nature Reserve, 15.v.2004, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM); Rabat, Ta' Koronja, 24.v.2002/3.vi.2002, 14 exs., leg. P. Sammut (CMM, MNHM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 5.i.2003/2.ii.1997/2.x.1997, 7 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). **GOZO:** Ghasri, 25.vi.1995, 1 ex., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM).

Distribution. Southern Europe, Mediterranean (HOFFMANN, 1954).

Ecology. On thistles (HOFFMANN, 1954).

Larinus ursus (Fabricius, 1792)

Diagnosis. Length: 8.0-12.0 mm. The combination of large size, oval body and longitudinally striped elytra are unique features and not present in other Maltese weevils (Fig. 75, from www.curci.de, photo by Gabriel Alziar).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Larinus vittatus* Fabricius, 1781).

Material examined. MALTA: 1 ex., Dr. Cameron, 8108 [= *Larinus vittatus*, Buskett], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Mellieħa, Mistra Bay, 11.v.2003, 1 ex., leg. A. Seguna (CSM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 20.v.1994, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Żurrieq, Wied Babu, 26.iii.2010, 4 exs., leg. E. Colonnelli & D. Mifsud (CCI, CMM).

Distribution. Western Mediterranean (HOFFMANN, 1954).

Ecology. On *Carlina* (HOFFMANN, 1954).

Leptolepurus meridionalis (Jacquelin du Val, 1854)*

Diagnosis. Length: 5.0-7.0 mm. Convex densely creamy scaled body, middle size, quite short tapering rostrum and dilated hind tibiae makes it difficult to misidentify this weevil (Fig. 76, photo by Guido Bonetti).

Material examined. GOZO: Ramla, 18.i.1999/15.iv.1994/3.vii.1997/21.ii.2000, 4 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 2 exs., same data but leg. Schuh & Mifsud (CMM), 5 exs., same data but 27.iii.2010, 5 exs., leg. E. Colonnelli & D. Mifsud (CMM, CCI).

Distribution. Southern Mediterranean, central and southern Italy, Cyprus; whereas the single record from southern France is most probably due to a mislabelling (HOFFMANN, 1954; ALZIAR, 1995; ABBAZZI & MAGGINI, 2009).

Ecology. On sand dunes, nocturnal (*pers. obs.*).

Note. All Maltese examples belong to the subspecies *siculus* Rottenberg, 1871, differentiated from the nominotypical one by the lack of lifted scales on elytra, and so far known only from Sicily (ABBAZZI & MAGGINI, 2009). A careful study based upon abundant material may reveal that this is even a good species, but the assessment of the taxonomic status of this weevil is beyond the scope of the present work.

Limobius mixtus (Boheman, 1834)*

Diagnosis. Length: 2.5-3.0 mm. Hairy dorsal surface, convex pronotum and tessellate elytral pattern allow a proper recognition of this small weevil (Fig. 77, from www.jcringenbach.free.fr).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Limobius borealis* (Paykull, 1792)).

Material examined. MALTA: 8 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN, CMM); v.1904, M.C., 5 exs., *Limobius mixtus*, M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM); 1903, M.C., 1 ex., *Limobius mixtus*, 8087 [= May 1903, *Limobius mixtus*, Ta' Baldu, Id. Desbroch.], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Mellieħa, Selmun - Imgiebah road, 27.iv.2004, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (CMM); Mistra, upper valley near dam, 15.iii.2005, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM). **GOZO:** Dwejra, 10.v.1996, 1 ex., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM).

Distribution. England, France, Belgium, Algeria, Tunisia, Malta, Libya (HOFFMANN, 1954; *pers. rec.*).

Ecology. On *Erodium* (HOFFMANN, 1954).

Note. All historical and recently collected material of *Limobius* were found to belong to *L. mixtus*.

Lixus anguinus (Linnaeus, 1767)

Diagnosis. Length: 11.0-18.0 mm. This weevils can be identified by its large size, elongate body, and striped elytra pointed at apex (Fig. 78, from www.gohns.org).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907).

Material examined. MALTA: viii.1901, M.C., 1 ex., 5501 [= *Lixus anguinus* (L.), Malta], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Bahrija, 31.iii.2004, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); St. Thomas Bay, 15.ii.1998, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Wied il-Kbir, 24.ii.1986, 1 ex., leg. A. Seguna (CSM). **GOZO:** Qbajjar, 27.iii.2010, 1 ex., on crucifers, leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI); Wied tax-Xlendi, 17.iv.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Mediterranean (HOFFMANN, 1954).

Ecology. On crucifers (HOFFMANN, 1954).

Lixus brevirostris Boheman, 1836*

Diagnosis. Length: 5.0-6.0 mm. This is the smallest of the Maltese *Lixus*, identified by its short rostrum, commonly rounded elytra and rather shining integument with no particular markings (Fig. 79).

Material examined. GOZO: Ghasri, 6.x.1994/13.xii.1994/25.vi.1995, 3 exs., of which one found on *Atriplex prostrata*, leg. C. Farrugia (CMM); Xaghra, 18.ix.1994, 1 ex., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM).

Distribution. Western Mediterranean (HOFFMANN, 1954).

Ecology. On *Atriplex* (HOFFMANN, 1954).

Lixus juncii Boheman, 1836

Diagnosis. Length: 9.0-15.0 mm. The combination of lateral white stripe on elytra and large frontal pit characterise this species (Fig. 80, modified from www.naturamediterraneo.com).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Lixus junci*); ANDRES (1916, as *Lixus junci*).

Material examined. MALTA: viii.1901, M.C., 8 exs., 5343 [= *Lixus junci*, Marsa, *ascanii*], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM); Bidnija, 20.ii.1998, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Birzebbugia, Wied Has-Sabtan, 21.x.1995, 3 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM, MNHM);

Mistra, 10.ii.1995, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Pembroke, 26.iii.2010, 2 exs., on *Beta vulgaris* L., leg. E. Colonnelli & D. Mifsud (CCI, CMM); Rabat, 3.iii.1991, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 15.ii.1998/14.i.2003, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Wied tal-Isqof, 13.ix.2004, 1 ex., leg. P. Sammut (CMM); Żejtun, 11.ii.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). **GOZO:** Ramla, 8.xii.2002, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Xaghra, 22.iii.2004, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (CMM).

Distribution. Central and southern Europe, Mediterranean (HOFFMANN, 1954).

Ecology. On Chenopodiaceae and Amaranthaceae, sometimes injurious to beet (HOFFMANN, 1954).

Lixus pulverulentus (Scopoli, 1763)

Diagnosis. Length: 10.5-17.5 mm. Readily identified by its large size and elytra transversely rugose at base and rounded at apex (Fig. 81, photo by Guido Bonett).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Lixus algerus* (Linnaeus, 1758)); ANDRES (1916, as *Lixus algerus*).

Material examined. MALTA: 7 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN); 2 exs., M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); viii.1901, M.C., 1 ex., 5190 [= *Lixus algerus*, Malta], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Birżebbuġia, 15.vi.1995, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Buskett, 5.vi.1994, 3 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 1 ex., same data but 27.v.2003, leg. P. Sammut (CMM); Guardamangia, 6.ii.2004, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (CMM); Delimara, 26.xii.1989, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Rabat, 3.vi.2002/15.ix.2003, 2 exs., leg. P. Sammut (CMM, MNHM); Mellieħa, 19.ii.2003/13.ix.2003, 2 exs., leg. H. Borg Barthet (CMM); Mensija, 28.xi.1969, 1 ex., leg. M. Gauci (MNHM); Naxxar, 2.iii.1970, 1 ex., leg. C. De Lucca (MNHM), 1 ex., same data but 20.ii.1990, leg. A. Seguna (CSM); Naxxar, Tas-Saghjtjar, 21.ix.2003, 2 exs., Actinic moth trap, leg. A. Seguna (CSM); Wied il-Ghasel, 12.vi.1969, 1 ex., (MNHM); Żejtun, 9.vi.1989, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). **GOZO:** Ghasri, 29.vii.1994, 1 ex., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM).

Distribution. Western Palaearctic, including Canaries and Madeira (DIECKMANN, 1983).

Ecology. On Fabaceae, Malvaceae and Asteraceae (DIECKMANN, 1983).

Note. It is possible that this is a complex of closely related species (GÜLTEKIN, *pers. comm.*). For the synonymy *Lixus pulverulentus* (Scopoli, 1763) [= *L. angustatus* (Fabricius, 1775)] refer to ALONSO-ZARAZAGA (2008).

Lixus punctiventris Boheman, 1836*

Diagnosis. Length: 8.0-13.0 mm. Rather similar to *L. vilis*, distinguished by the curved rostrum, coarse dorsal punctures, abdomen with evident bare dots (Fig. 82, photo by Guido Bonett).

Material examined. MALTA: Guardamangia, 27.i.2004, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (CMM); Salina, 20.ii.1990, 1 ex., M.V. light, leg. A. Seguna (CMM), 1 ex., same data but 28.i.1978, leg. P. Gatt (CMI).

Distribution. Europe, Middle East, North Africa (DIECKMANN, 1983).

Ecology. On Asteraceae (DIECKMANN, 1983).

Lixus vilis (Rossi, 1790)*

Diagnosis. Length: 8.0-14.0 mm. Fresh specimens can be identified by the red and yellow pollinosity, and from *L. punctiventris* by the straight rostrum and lack of striking bare dots on abdomen (Fig. 83, photo Guido Bonett).

Material examined. MALTA: Gharghur, 10.iv.1969, 1 ex., (MNHM); Melliha, Kortin, 20.ii.2005, leg. H. Borg Barthet (CMM); Mistra, 14.iii.2003, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Central and southern Europe, Middle East, North Africa (DIECKMANN, 1983).

Ecology. On Geraniaceae (DIECKMANN, 1983).

Malvaevora timida (Rossi, 1792)

Diagnosis. Length: 4.0-6.0 mm. Black feebly shining integument, widely oval body and long rostrum separated from head by a transverse sulcus characterise this weevil (Fig. 84).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Baris timida*).

Material examined. MALTA: Dingli Cliffs, 4.v.1993, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Melliha, Kortin, 15.v.2005, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (CMM); Melliha, Gnien Ingraw, 1.v.2004, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM); Msida, Tal-Qroqq, 19.iii.1995, 1 ex., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 29.iv.2002, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Wied tal-Isqof, 11.iv.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Żejtun, 6.iv.2002, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Żurrieq, Wied Babu, 26.iii.2010, 4 exs., on *Lavatera* sp., leg. E. Colonnelli & D. Mifsud (CCI, CMM). **GOZO:** Ghammar, 30.iii.2006, 2 exs., leg. H. Borg Barthet (CMM).

Distribution. Western Palaearctic (ZASLAVSKIJ, 1956).

Ecology. On Malvaceae (ZASLAVSKIJ, 1956).

Mecinus circulatus (Marshall, 1802)

Diagnosis. Length: 3.0-3.5 mm. Elongate body shape, hairy dorsal surface and reddish sides of elytra should facilitate the identification of this weevil (Fig. 85, photo by Guido Bonett).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907); ANDRES (1916, as *Mecinus circularis*).

Material examined. MALTA: 1 ex., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN); Marsa, Ghammieri, 7.xii.1993, 4 exs., under bark of *Eucalyptus*, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Ta' Qali, 13.ii.2000, 1 ex., under bark of *Eucalyptus*, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Żejtun, 30.vi.1990, 1 ex., in wood of vine, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Europe, Mediterranean (HOFFMANN, 1958).

Ecology. On *Plantago* (HOFFMANN, 1958).

Mecinus fairmairei Tournier, 1873

Diagnosis. Length: 1.2-1.5 mm. The small *Mecinus* are very difficult to distinguish; the pictures may be of some help in their identification (Fig. 86, photo Guido Bonett).

Literature records. ALONSO-ZARAZAGA (2004).

Material examined. MALTA: St. Thomas Bay, Munxar, 20.iv.1991, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Italy (including Sicily), Malta (ALONSO-ZARAZAGA, 2004).

Ecology. Most probably on *Plantago*.

Mecinus pyraster (Herbst, 1795)

Diagnosis. Length: 3.0-4.5 mm. Similar to *M. circulatus* above, but usually entirely black (Fig. 87, photo by Guido Bonett).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907); SPRICK (2001, as *Mecinus pyraster* f. *andalusicus* Faust, 1890).

Material examined. MALTA: 2 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN); 1903, M.C., 1 ex., 8101 [= *Mecinus pyraeter* (Herbst), Rifle range, walls], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Marsa, Għammieri, 7.xii.1993, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 5.i.2003, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Ta' Qali, 13.ii.2000, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Wied il-Għasel, 2.iv.1996, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). GOZO: Qbajjar, 27.iii.2010, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Western Palaearctic (HOFFMANN, 1958).

Ecology. On *Plantago* (HOFFMANN, 1958).

Mecinus simus (Mulsant & Rey, 1858)

Diagnosis. Length: 2.0-2.3 mm. The short conical rostrum facilitates the recognition of this species (Fig. 88, photo Guido Bonett).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Gymnetron simum*).

Material examined. MALTA: 1 ex., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN); 1 ex., Dr. Cameron, M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Msida, Tal-Qroqq, 13.xii.1994, 1 ex., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM); Żejtun, 6.xii.1989, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Mediterranean (HOFFMANN, 1958).

Ecology. On *Plantago* (HOFFMANN, 1958).

Mecinus variabilis (Rosenhauer, 1856)

Diagnosis. Length: 1.2-1.7 mm. The picture (Fig. 89) may be of some help in separating this weevil from similar ones.

Literature records. SPRICK (2001, as *Gymnetron variabile*).

Material examined. MALTA: Mellieha Bay, near Nature Reserve, 8.v.2004, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (CMM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 13.iv.2003, 4 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Wied il-Għasel, 2.iv.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Mediterranean (HOFFMANN, 1958).

Ecology. Not exactly known (HOFFMANN, 1958).

Melaleucus spoliatus (Boheman, 1836)

Diagnosis. Length: 2.5-4.5 mm. The X-shaped elytral mark in connection with the shining black integument makes it easy to identify this weevil (Fig. 90, photo by Guido Bonett).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Baris spoliata*).

Material examined. MALTA: 3 exs., Dr. Cameron, M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); xi.1901, M.C., 1 ex., 6231 [= *Baris spoliatus*, Mellieha], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Bahrija, 20.vii.1997, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Marsaxlokk, saltmarsh, 21.xi.1993, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Miġra Ferha, 22.x.1996, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 1.v.1989/iv.2002, 6 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Xorb il-Għagin, 27.xi.1993, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Żejtun, 14.iv.2002, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Western Mediterranean (HOFFMANN, 1954).

Ecology. On Chenopodiaceae (HOFFMANN, 1954).

Melicius gracilis (Rosenhauer, 1856)

Diagnosis. Length: 2.2-3.5 mm. Elongate cylindrical black shining body, and long rostrum should facilitate the identification of this small beetle (Fig. 91, photo by Guido Bonett).

Literature records. SPRICK (2001, as *Phloepagus gracilis*).

Material examined. MALTA: Buskett, 9-12.xi.1993, 12 exs., under bark of *Fraxinus angustifolia*, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM, MNHM).

Distribution. Southwestern Europe, North Africa (FOLWACZNY, 1973).

Ecology. In dead wood of broadleaves (FOLWACZNY, 1973).

Mesites cunipes (Boheman, 1837)

Diagnosis. Length: 6.0-8.0 mm. The combination of elongate shining flattened body and long rostrum (which in females is dilated at base and then very thin), makes this species (Fig. 92, photo by Guido Bonett) easily recognisable, except from the following one.

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Mesites curvipes*).

Material examined. MALTA: viii.1901, M.C., 3 exs., 5504 [= *Mesites curvipes*, ER, Girgenti, Willow trees], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM).

Distribution. Western Palaeartic (FOLWACZNY, 1973).

Ecology. Mostly among dead wood of willows and poplars (FOLWACZNY, 1973).

Mesites pallidipennis (Boheman, 1837)

Diagnosis. Length: 4.0-7.0 mm. Very similar to the preceding species, although easily separated by its pale instead of dark brown colour.

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907).

Material examined. MALTA: vi.1903, M.C., 1 ex., 8158 [= *Mesites ? aquitanus* Fairmaire, 1859, Valletta], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH).

Distribution. Western Palaeartic (FOLWACZNY, 1973).

Ecology. Under drifted wood on sand dunes (FOLWACZNY, 1973).

Microplontus rugulosus (Herbst, 1795)

Diagnosis. Length: 2.0-2.5 mm. The peculiar arrow-shaped post-scutellar spot and the sub-rectangular shape of its body allow recognition of this common weevil (Fig. 93).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Ceuthorrhynchus rugulosus* and *Ceuthorrhynchus melanostictus* (Marsham, 1802)); ANDRES (1916, as *Ceutorhynchus concinnus* (Marsham, 1802)).

Material examined. MALTA: 1901, 1 ex., M.C., 7910 [=no data], "*Ceutorhynch. melanostictus*, (minor)", M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); [19]03, 1 ex., M.C., 8106 [=no data], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 20.iv.1991, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 24 exs., same data but 25.v.1994/11.xi.1996/15.ii.1998/28.iv.2002/16.iii.2003/15.iv.2004 (CMM), 2 exs., same data but 28.iii.2010, leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI); Ghajn Tuffieħa, 19/23.i.1996, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud & C. Farrugia (CMM); Mdina, 11.v.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Mtahleb, 5.iv.1998, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Mellieħa, Kortin, 25.i.2004, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg-Barthet (MNHM); Mellieħa, Bajda Ridge, 26.iv.2004, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg-Barthet (MNHM); Pembroke, 6.iv.1990, 1 ex., leg. A. Micallef (CMM), 2 exs., same

data but on *Glebionis coronaria* (L.) Cass. ex Spach., 26.iii.2010, leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI); Selmun, 19.iv.2005, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg-Barthet (MNHM). **GOZO:** Ramlà, 27.iii.2010, 1 ex., on *Glebionis coronaria*, leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI); Qbajjar, 27.iii.2010, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. West Palaearctic (COLONNELLI, 2004).

Ecology. On Asteraceae (COLONNELLI, 2004).

Note. This is an extremely variable and relatively polyphagous species on members of the plant genera *Anthemis*, *Artemisia*, *Chrysanthemum*, *Matricaria* (COLONNELLI, 2004), *Glebionis*, *Tripleurospermum* (*pers. rec.*). Extreme forms can be easily mistaken for different species (see the long list of synonyms in COLONNELLI (2004)), but the study of several hundreds of specimens from across most of its geographical range demonstrate not only that transition forms exist everywhere, but also that in some cases one can recognize mass variations that occurred in particular years in a selected region. WANAT & MOKRZYCKI (2005) incorrectly resurrected the name *Microplontus melanostigma* (Marsham, 1802) for the species dealt with here, giving the name of *M. rugulosus* to the central European form which is apparently restricted there to *Artemisia vulgaris* L., notwithstanding, particularly in southern Europe, that both forms are intermingled on plants different from *Artemisia*, and are clearly impossible to separate. The synonymy *Microplontus rugulosus* (Herbst, 1795) [= *M. melanostigma* (Marsham, 1802), **syn. rev.**] is thus here reinstated. Specimens from Malta also confirm the variability of *M. rugulosus*, since the body shape of most of the recently collected adults is much the same as those of the central European specimens, although their size is on average larger and the elytral markings are much more evident. The two Maltese examples in the Cameron collection are among the smallest individuals of *M. rugulosus* ever studied, and their particular shape led CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907) to wrongly cite them as *Datonychus melanostictus* (Marsham, 1802); a species that must be excluded from the Maltese fauna.

Mogulones peregrinus (Gyllenhal, 1837)

Diagnosis. Length: 3.0-4.0 mm. The huge white cross-like periscutellar patch is unique among Maltese weevils (Fig. 94, photo by Guido Bonett).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Ceuthorrhynchus peregrinus*).

Material examined. MALTA: 3 exs., Dr. Cameron, M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); v.1904, M.C., 1 ex., M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Bahrija, 12.v.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Buskett, 29.iii.2010, 4 exs., on *Borago officinalis* L., leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI, CMM); Landrijiet, 9.v.2004, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (CMM); Mellieha, 17.iv.2005, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 11.i.1997/20. iv.1996/12.i.2003, 3 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 3 exs., on *Borago officinalis* L., same data but 28.iii.2010, leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI); Żejtun, 5.vi.1989, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Żurrieq, Wied Babu, 26.iii.2010, 3 exs., on *Borago officinalis* L., leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI). **GOZO:** Qbajjar, 27.iii.2010, 2 exs., on *Borago officinalis* L., leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI, CMM).

Distribution. Mediterranean (COLONNELLI, 2004).

Ecology. On *Borago officinalis* L., occasionally found on *Cerithe major* L. (COLONNELLI, 2004).

Naupactus cervinus Boheman, 1840*

Diagnosis. Length: 7.0-8.0 mm. Long thin antennae, short rostrum, quite large size, oval elytra with two nebulous whitish patches, and denticulate inner margin of fore tibiae readily distinguish this weevil (Fig. 95, photo by Guido Bonett).

Material examined. MALTA: Salina, 23.xii.2004, 4 exs., on cultivated *Calendula officinalis* near human habitation, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Native to Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay. Introduced in Chile, Central America, USA, Europe, Africa, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii, Eastern Island (LANTERI *et al.*, 2002).

Ecology. This is the “Fuller rose beetle” or “Fuller’s rose weevil”, a polyphagous pest, particularly harmful to garden plants. It is also known as *Naupactus godmanni* (Crotch, 1867), a synonym of *N. cervinus* (LOGAN *et al.*, 2008).

Orthochaetes setiger (Beck, 1817)

Diagnosis. Length: 2.5-3.5 mm. This ferrous-red weevil can be recognised by its oval-elongate elytra with narrow somewhat raised intervals bearing erect yellowish stout setae (Fig. 96, modified from www.curci.de, photo by Eric Rouault).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907); ANDRES (1916).

Material examined. MALTA: 1 ex., *O. setiger* Beck., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN).

Distribution. Central and southern Europe (OSELLA & ZUPPA, 1994).

Ecology. In leaf litter (OSELLA & ZUPPA, 1994).

Note. The single specimen at hand is only tentatively identified as *O. setiger* since most of the body hairs are missing and these constitute a diagnostic characteristic for this species. MAGNANO & OSELLA (1973) cast doubts about the actual presence of this species in Malta, since it is mainly a central European element. In Italy, this species is not to be found already south of Latium and Molise (OSELLA & ZUPPA, 1994). Perhaps the rubbed specimen at hand belongs to the close *O. insignis* Aubé, 1863, which has a western European distribution, and is known from Sicily.

Otiorrhynchus affaber Boheman, 1843

Diagnosis. Length: 5.0-7.0 mm. The combination of brown integument, elongate body and rather small size makes it easy to recognise this species among its Maltese congeners (Fig. 97).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Otiorrhynchus affaber*).

Material examined. MALTA: x.1901, 1 ex., M.C., ER, 6909 [= no data], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH).

Distribution. Spain, central and southern Italy, Malta, North Africa (COLONNELLI, 1975).

Ecology. Unknown.

Note. This single specimen at hand differs slightly from other studied material of this species from southern Italy. More material from Malta is needed to clarify whether it truly belong to this species, or if it represents a new species to science.

Otiorrhynchus armatus Boheman, 1843*

Diagnosis. Length: 7.0-11.0 mm. Rather easily recognisable by its relatively large size, granulose pronotum and elytra, dentate femora and black shining integument (Fig. 98).

Material examined. MALTA: 26.i.2000, 1 ex., on imported olive tree, leg. C. Farrugia (CMM).

Distribution. Italy, Balkans, Middle East, now spreading in many countries of western Europe (ANONYMOUS, 2010).

Ecology. Nocturnal, polyphagous, and often injurious to cultivated plants, mainly strawberries and vine (PIRY *et al.*, 1999).

Otiorrhynchus cribricollis Gyllenhal, 1834

Diagnosis. Length: 7.0-8.0 mm. This parthenogenetic species belongs to a group of very similar ones differing from each other by minute characters, and should be recognised from the extremely close *O. moriger* below (with which it shares the converging sides of rostrum towards eyes) only by having the first and second funicular joints equal in length (Fig. 99, photo by Guido Bonett).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Otiorrhynchus cribricollis*); ANDRES (1916, as *Otiorrhynchus cribricollis*); SPRICK (2001).

Material examined. MALTA: 7 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN, CMM); Dingli Cliffs, 5.iv.1993, 1 ex., leg. Sprick (CMM). GOZO: Ramla, 18.i.1999, 4 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMI, CMM).

Distribution. Western Mediterranean, imported in North America and Australia (BEERS *et al.*, 2003).

Ecology. Polyphagous and injurious to crops, trees and garden plants (BEERS *et al.*, 2003).

Otiorrhynchus juvenus Gyllenhal, 1834

Diagnosis. Length: 5.0-6.0 mm. Similar to the preceding species, differing by the antennal scape having erect setae (Fig. 100).

Literature records. MAGNANO (1996).

Material examined. None.

Distribution. Southern France, Italy, Malta, Algeria, occasionally imported in Germany (not established), Dalmatia, Greece, Turkey, and also in Chile (MAGNANO, 1996), and Iran (GHAHARI *et al.*, 2009). The ssp. *miramarae* Schaufuss, 1882 occurs in the Balearic islands (MAGNANO, 1996).

Ecology. Often found associated with sand dune plants (HOFFMANN, 1954).

Otiorrhynchus liguricus Apfelbeck, 1897*

Diagnosis. Length: 9.0-13.0 mm. The largest of the Maltese *Otiorrhynchus*; easy to recognise by its wide, flattened elytra with markings of clustered yellowish hair-like scales (Fig. 101, photo by Guido Bonett).

Material examined. MALTA: Buskett (nursery), 6.v.1994, 2 exs., imported with plants of *Evonimus* and *Pittosporum* from Italy, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Central and southern Europe (MAGNANO, unpublished data).

Ecology. Polyphagous (ABBAZZI & MAGGINI, 2009).

Note. See ABBAZZI & MAGGINI (2009) for the synonymy: *Otiorrhynchus liguricus* Apfelbeck, 1897 [= *O. salicis* Stierlin, 1858 nec (Strøm 1788); = *O. pseudonothus* Apfelbeck, 1897; = *O. salicicola* Heyden, 1908].

Otiorrhynchus lugens (Germar, 1817)

Diagnosis. Length: 9.0-10.0 mm. This is the only black shining Maltese *Otiorrhynchus* with strongly granulate prothorax and acutely dentate femora (Fig. 102, from www.entomologiitaliani.net, photo by Maurizio Bollino).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Otiorrhynchus lugens*); ANDRES (1916, as *Otiorrhynchus lugens*).

Material examined. MALTA: 4 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN); Bahrija, 12.v.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Bidnija, 23.ii.1997, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Buskett, 20.ii.1991/19.v. 2003, 2 exs., leg. A. Seguna (CSM); Chadwick Lakes, 24.v.2003, 1 ex., leg. P. Sammut (MNHM); Dwejra, Fort Bingemma, 16.x.2003, 2 exs., in actinic moth trap, leg. A. Seguna (CSM); Haġar Qim, 22.x.1989, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Marsa, Ghammieri, 25.xi.1993/2.x.1996, 3 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM, NHMB); Mellieħa, Ġnien Ingraw, 26.x.2003, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM); Mistra Valley, 6.xi.2004, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM); Naxxar, Tas-Saġhjtjar, 10.x.2003, 1 ex., leg. A. Seguna (CSM); Qrendi, San Niklaw, 9.xii.2000, 1 ex., leg. A. Seguna (CSM); San Pawl tat-Tarġa, 27.iii.1976, 1 ex., (MNHM); Selmun, 17.xii.1989, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); White Rocks, Holiday Complex, 3.v.1995, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Wied Has-Sabtan, 21.x.1995, 3 exs, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM, NHMB); Wied Qirda, 11.xi.1984/3.viii.1988/13.xii.1989, 3 exs, leg. A. Seguna (CSM); Wied tal-Isqof, 11.iv.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Żurrieq, Wied Babu, 26.iii.2010, 3 exs, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Italy, Malta, Balkans, imported in Spain (MAGNANO, unpublished data).

Ecology. Polyphagous (ABBAZZI & MAGGINI, 2009).

Otiorrhynchus moriger Reitter, 1914

Diagnosis. Length: 5.6-6.5 mm. Bisexual species extremely similar to *O. cribricollis* above, differing by the second funicular joint clearly much longer than first (Fig. 103). Refer also to note following *O. schembrii*.

Literature records. REITTER (1914, as *Otiorrhynchus moriger*); MAGNANO (1992b).

Material examined. MALTA: 11 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN, CMM); Bahrija, 19.iii.1995/12.v.1996, 4 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Bidnija, 23.ii.1997/30.ix.1997, 3 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Birzebbugħia, Wied Has-Sabtan, 21.x.1995, 3 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Buskett, 25.i.1996/7.xi.1996, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Dingli Cliffs, 29.iii.2010, 1 ex., leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI); Ghadira, 5.x.1996, 9 exs., on *Atriplex halimus*, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Ghajn Rihana, 26.ix.2002, 7 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Gnejna, towards Karaba, 25.x.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Haġar Qim, 24.x.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Il-Marnizi, 24.ix.1989, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Il-Qortin tal-Magun, 28.vii.2002, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Imtahleb, 13.i.1999, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Luqa, 18.x.1989, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Manoel Island, 2.v.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Marsaskala, 11.x.1989, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Marsaxlokk, saltmarsh, 14.ix.1993/15.ix.1989/16.ix.1989, 4 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Mellieħa, Kortin, 29.v.2003/11.x.2003/25.x.2003/2.xii.2003/26-27.xii.2003/21.x.2004/2.vi.2005, 21 exs., mostly with U.V. light trap, leg. H. Borg Barthet (CMM, MNHM); Miġra Ferha, 22.x.1996, 4 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Naxxar, Tas-Saġhjtjar, 23.xi.2008, 1 ex., leg. A. Seguna (CSM); Qrendi, San Niklaw, 25.x.2003, 2 exs., Actinic moth trap, leg. A. Seguna (CSM); Rabat, 21.ix.2001/27.v.2003, 2 exs., leg. P. Sammut (CMM); Siġġiewi, 22.x.1997/10.v.1998/5.x.2001, 9 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 7.vii.1989/11.x.1989, 12.v.1990/25.v.1994, 7 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 9 exs, same data but 28/29.iii.2010, leg. E. Colonnelli & D. Mifsud (CCI); Verdala Palace, near Buskett, 5.iv.2002, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Wied Babu, 5.i.1998, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Wied Qannotta, 20.iii.1988, 2 exs., M.V. light, leg. A. Seguna (CSM); Wied Qirda, 19.xii.1989, 1 ex., leg. A. Seguna (CSM); Zabbar, 5.x.1994, 1 ex., leg. J. Cordina (CMM); Żejtun, 20.ix.1997, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). **GOZO:** Dwejra, 10.v.1996/16.v.1996/16.x.1997/26.iv.1998, 22 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMI, CMM, NHMB); Għasri, 20.ix.1994, 1 ex., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM); Marsalforn, Qbajjar, 25.v.2006, 1 ex., Actinic moth trap, leg. A. Seguna (CSM); Qbajjar, 3.xi.1996, 3 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Ramlia, 1.x.1995/9-15.v.1996/18.i.1999/ 29.xii.2002, 5 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Ta' Ċenc, 3.xi.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). **COMINO:** Il-Ħażina (around artificial freshwater pool), 13.vii.2002, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). **COMINOTTO:** 5.v.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Endemic to the Maltese islands (MAGNANO, 1992b).

Ecology. Nocturnal, and common across all the Maltese archipelago (*pers. obs.*).

Note. The locality of Corfu, reported by REITTER (1914) in the original description refers to *O. cribricollis* (MAGNANO, 1992a). This is such a variable species as to cast doubts about the taxonomic status of *O. schembrii*.

Otiorhynchus ovatulus Boheman, 1843

Diagnosis. Length: 4.6-5.3 mm. Recumbent vestiture of rather dense elliptical scales and hair characterise this relatively small species (Fig. 104, photo by Guido Bonett).

Literature records. MAGNANO (1993).

Material examined. GOZO: Ramla, 5.x.1995, 6 exs., in coastal sand dunes with associated vegetation, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 33 exs., same data but 9/15.v.1996/ 3.v.1997/18.i.1999/21.ii.2000/18.x.2001/30.iii.2002/29.xii.2002/25.iv.2003 (CCI, CMI, CMM, MNHM), 1 ex., same data but 27.iii.2010, leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI).

Distribution. Endemic to the island of Gozo.

Ecology. Coastal sand dune vegetation.

Otiorhynchus schembrii Magnano, 1992

Diagnosis. Length: 6.5-7.0 mm. Extremely similar to *O. moriger* above, differing only in having sides of rostrum sub-parallel (Fig. 105).

Literature records. MAGNANO (1992a).

Material examined. MALTA: St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 28/29.iii.2010, 7 exs., leg. E. Colonnelli & D. Mifsud (CCI); Wied Babu, 12.xii.1994/7.x.1995, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Endemic to the Maltese islands (MAGNANO, 1992a).

Ecology. Unknown.

Note. The only reliable difference between this species and *O. moriger* should be the shape of rostrum, which in *O. schembrii* is said to be with sub-parallel sides (MAGNANO, 1992a), whereas in *O. moriger* sides of rostrum are supposed to converge from apex toward eyes (MAGNANO, 1992b), so that they were assigned to two different species groups (MAGNANO, 1999). However, examination of numerous specimens of *O. moriger* showed that this feature is variable to such an extent to envision *O. schembrii* only as an extreme form of the former. We are not presently establishing the possible synonymy of this species until additional material is available for study. Cross-mating and molecular studies may also be useful in solving this problem.

Pachycerus segnis (Germar, 1824)

Diagnosis. Length: 7.5-12.0 mm. The nebulose pattern of this large coarsely punctured weevil facilitates its recognition (Fig. 106, from www.zin.ru, photo by Kirill Vladimirovich Makarov).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Cleonus madidus* (Olivier, 1807)).

Material examined. MALTA: 2 exs., Dr. Cameron, M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); v.1903/vi.1903/viii.1903, M.C., 4 exs., M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); viii.1901, M.C., 6 exs., 5188/9 [= *Cleonus madidus*, E.R., Malta, nr., Valletta], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM); Buskett, 20.ii.1991, 1 ex., leg. A. Seguna (CSM); Lija, 29.v.1994, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Mellieħa, Kortin, 7.vi.2004, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM); Naxxar, 1.v.2000, 1 ex., leg. A. Seguna (CSM); Rabat, 3.vi.2002/23.x.2003,

4 exs., leg. P. Sammut (CMM, MNHM); St. Thomas Bay, 14.iv.2010, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 29.iv.2002, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Wied il-Ghasel, 16.vi.1969, 1 ex. (MNHM); Żejtun, 20.v.1993/vi.2002, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Europe, central Asia (TER-MINASSIAN, 1988).

Ecology. On Asteraceae (TER-MINASSIAN, 1988).

Pachytychius hordei (Brullé, 1832)

Diagnosis. Length: 1.8-2.7 mm. It is easy to recognise this extremely variable species by its shining integument, long rostrum, pronotum strongly dilated at base and wide tarsi (Fig. 107).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Pachytychius squamosus* (Gyllenhal, 1836)).

Material examined. MALTA: v.1904, M.C., 4 exs., M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM); Ghammieri, 30.iv.1996, 2 exs., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM); Mellieħa, L-Ahrax ta' Ġewwa, 16.iv.2005, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (CMM); Santa Lucija, 13.iv.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). GOZO: Ramla, 27.iii.2010, 6 exs., leg. E. Colonnelli & D. Mifsud (CCI, CMM); Mgarr ix-Xini Valley, 19.iv.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. The subspecies *grandicollis* (Waltl, 1835) to which the Maltese material belongs, is known from the western Mediterranean eastward to Greece, whereas the nominate form occurs in the eastern Mediterranean (CALDARA, 1978).

Ecology. On Poaceae, sometimes damaging wheat (CALDARA, 1978).

Note. For the synonymy *Pachytychius hordei grandicollis* [= *P. hordei squamosus*], refer to CALDARA (2010).

Pselactus spadix (Herbst, 1795)

Diagnosis. Length: 2.7-3.8 mm. The lifted hairs on elytra, elongate pear-shaped body and shining brown integument are useful features to identify this small weevil (Fig. 108, from www.gohns.com).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Codiosoma spadix*).

Material examined. MALTA: 1 ex., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN); v.1904, M.C., 1 ex., M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Buskett, 9.xi.1993, 1 ex., under bark of *Fraxinus angustifolia*, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Fawwara, 28.ix.1997, 8 exs., under *Darniella melitensis*, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Marsaxlokk, saltmarsh, 22.iv.1990/28.iv.1990, 3 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Rabat, 2.iv.1998, 10 exs., emerged from dead branches of *Hedera helix*, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 14.i.2003, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. This polytypic species is known from Western Palaearctic, Madeira, Azores, North America, Mexico, Australia and New Zealand (FOLWACZNY, 1973).

Ecology. In dead wood (FOLWACZNY, 1973).

Pseudocleonus cinereus (Schrank, 1781)

Diagnosis. Length: 8.0-10.0 mm. Large size, grey clothing, non conical rostrum and lack of elytral humeri constitute important features to correctly identify this weevil (Fig. 109, from www.insecte.org).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Cleonus cinereus*).

Material examined. MALTA: 1903, M.C., 2 exs., M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM); 1901, M.C., 1 ex., 5404 [= *Cleonus senilis*, ER, Żebbieħ, on vines, October 1900], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Chadwick Lakes, 30.i.1977, 1 ex., leg. M.J. Ebejer (CMM); Gharghur, 11.iii.1970, 1 ex., leg. C. De Lucca (MNHM).

Distribution. Western and central Palaearctic, North Africa excluded (TER-MINASSIAN, 1988).

Ecology. On *Centaurea* (TER-MINASSIAN, 1988).

Rhamphus oxyacanthae* (Marsham, 1802)

Diagnosis. Length: 1.2-1.6 mm. The smallest of the Maltese weevils, easily identified by its downwards bent rostrum and thickened hind femora (Fig. 110, photo by Guido Bonett).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *R. pulicarius* (Herbst, 1795)).

Material examined. MALTA: 3 exs., Dr. Cameron, M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM); Birzebbugia, 9 exs., on *Pyrus amygaliformis*, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Wied id-Dis, 27.vi.1997, 6 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). GOZO: Ghasri, 28.vi.1995, 1 ex., on *Pyrus* sp., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM).

Distribution. Europe, Middle east (BAYER *et al.*, 2009).

Ecology. Leafminer of Rosaceae trees (HOFFMANN, 1958).

Note. The record of CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907) of *Rhamphus pulicarius* is incorrect and should refer to *R. oxyacanthae*.

***Rhinocyllus conicus* (Frölich, 1792)**

Diagnosis. Length: 3.0-4.2 mm. Relatively small size, short rostrum and maculate patches of slanted hairs on dorsum aid in the recognition of this species (Fig. 111, from www.zin.ru, photo by Kirill Vladimirovich Makarov).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907); SPRICK (2001).

Material examined. MALTA: 24 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMNH, CMM); Delimara, 25.x.1989, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Ghar Lapsi, 6.iii.1999, 1 ex., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM); Marsaxlokk, 22.v.1998, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); St. Thomas Bay, Munxar, 2.ii.1997/2.x.1997, 55 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM, NHMB); Ta' Qali, 13.ii.2000, 5 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM, MNHM); Wardija, 23.ii.2000, 1 ex., on *Lycium intricatum*, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Wied il-Kbir, 18.ii.2000, 7 exs., leg. A. Seguna (CMM, CSM). GOZO: Marsalforn Valley, 6.vi.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Qbajjar, 27.iii.2010, 1 ex., leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI).

Distribution. Mediterranean, Middle East (HOFFMANN, 1958). Imported in the USA and Canada for biological control of *Carduus* (ANDERSON, 2002).

Ecology. On thistles (HOFFMANN, 1958).

Rhinusa antirrhini* (Paykull, 1800)

Diagnosis. Length: 2.5-3.0 mm. Depressed hairy oval black body and somewhat dentate profemora should allow correct identification of this small weevil (Fig. 112, photo by Guido Bonett).

Material examined. MALTA: Buġibba, 11.iv.1994, 4 exs., on *Anthrimum siculum*, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Europe, North Africa (HOFFMANN, 1958).

Ecology. On *Linaria* (HOFFMANN, 1958).

Rhinusa herbarum* (H. Brisout, 1862)

Diagnosis. Length: 1.8-2.5 mm. A weevil smaller and less elongate than the preceding one, with mutic femora, reddish tibiae, and often reddish elytra (Fig. 113, photo by Guido Bonett).

Material examined. MALTA: Mtaheleb, 1.vii.1996, 1 ex., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM).

Distribution. Southern Europe, Algeria (HOFFMANN, 1958).

Ecology. On *Linaria* (HOFFMANN, 1958).

Rhinusa moroderi (Reitter, 1906)*

Diagnosis. Length: 2.0-2.4 mm. Extremely similar to the above species, slightly larger, and with elytra more convex and a trifle wider, and usually darker on basal two-thirds than on apical part.

Material examined. MALTA: Buskett, 27.vii.1996, 1 ex., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM); Marsa, Ghammieri, 21.vi.2002, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 23.v.1994, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Wied id-Dis, 27.vi.1997/13.vi.2002, 16 exs., on flowers of *Verbascum sinuatum*, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM, MNHM).

Distribution. Mediterranean (ABBAZZI & MAGGINI, 2009).

Ecology. On Scrophulariaceae (*pers. rec.*).

Rhytideres plicatus (Olivier, 1790)

Diagnosis. Length: 6.5-14.0 mm. The combination of large size, maculate elytra and longitudinally plicate pronotum make this species unmistakable (Fig. 114, from jcringenbach.free.fr).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Rhytidoderes plicatus*); ANDRES (1916, as *Rhytidoderes plicatus*); FARRUGIA (1997).

Material examined. MALTA: 23 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN, CMM); walls outside Valletta, 22.x.1901, M.C., 7 exs., abundant, 6056 [*Rhytidoderes plicatus*, M. Gatto], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM); Buskett, 20.ii.1991, 2 exs., leg. A. Seguna (CSM); Delimara, 22.xi.1989, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Marsa, Ghammieri, 22.x.2001, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Marsaxlokk, saltmarsh, 15.ix.1989, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Mellieha, Kortin, 3.x.2003/5.xi.2004, 3 exs., U.V. light trap, leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM); Msida, 7.x.1965, 1 ex., leg. G. Lanfranco (MNHM); Pembroke, 29.ix.2003, 1 ex., Actinic moth trap, leg. A. Seguna (CSM); Qrendi, San Niklaw, 25.x.2003, 2 exs., Actinic moth trap, leg. A. Seguna (CSM); Rabat, 1.x.1988/13.x.2001/4.xi.2003, 3 exs., leg. P. Sammut (MNHM); Rabat, Ta' Qali, Crafts Village, 12.x.2003, 2 exs., leg. A. Seguna (CSM); Salina, 13.x.1957 (MNHM); Siġġiewi, 28.ix.1995/5.x.2001, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Sliema, 20.x.1965, 1 ex., leg. G. Lanfranco (MNHM); St. Thomas Bay, 11.x.1989/22.x.1996, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Wied il-Kbir, 21.xii.1984, 1 ex., leg. A. Seguna (CSM), 2 exs., same data but 30.i.1988 (CSM); Żebbuġ, 7.x.1994, 2 exs., leg. M. Psaila (CMM); Żejtun, 28.x.1989, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). GOZO: Ghasri, x.1994, 1 ex., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM).

Distribution. Mediterranean (HOFFMANN, 1954).

Ecology. On *Diplotaxis* and *Reseda* (HOFFMANN, 1954).

Sharpia rubida (Rosenhauer, 1856)*

Diagnosis. Length: 2.0-3.0 mm. Elongate body, long rostrum, scaled dorsum with appressed white hair-like scales facilitates the identification of this small weevil (Fig. 115, from galerie-insecte.org).

Material examined. MALTA: St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 23.v.1994, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Southern Europe, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Iraq, Egypt, Turkmenia, Uzbekistan, Emirates, Chad (MAGNANO *et al.*, 2009).

Ecology. Breeding on *Atractylis humilis* L. in southern France (HOFFMANN, 1958).

Sibinia arenariae Stephens, 1831

Diagnosis. Length: 1.8-2.3 mm. The widely oval densely scaled body and the basal elytral dark patch are only shared with *S. primita*, from which this species differs by its larger size (Fig. 116, photo by Guido Bonett).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, also as *Sibinia primita* (Herbst, 1795)).

Material examined. MALTA: 12 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN, CMM); ii.1902, M.C., 1 ex., “*primita* Herbs.”, M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); vi.1902, M.C., 1 ex., 7443 [= *Sibinia arenariae*, Marsa], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Marsaxlokk, saltmarsh, 27.ii.1994, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. England, France, Mediterranean (CALDARA, 1985).

Ecology. On *Spergularia* and *Spergula* (CALDARA, 1985).

Note. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907) recorded *S. arenariae* from Marsa. They also recorded *S. primita* from Buskett but no Maltese material of the latter could be found in the historic material of Cameron. As indicated in the material examined above, the single specimen from the Cameron collection bearing the label ‘*primita*’, is actually *S. arenariae*. Thus CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO’S (1907) record of *S. primita* is incorrect and should refer to *S. arenariae*.

Sibinia femoralis Germar, 1824*

Diagnosis. Length: 1.6-3.1 mm. The reddish tibiae and the lack of the periscutellar patch characterise this species among its Maltese congeners (Fig. 117, from www.jcringenbach.free.fr).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Sibinia attalica* Gyllenhal, 1836).

Material examined. MALTA: 3 exs., of which one specimen labelled as ‘*Sibinia attalica* Gyll. ?’ G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN, CMM); 1 ex., Dr. Cameron, 8117 [= Mellieha], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); St. Thomas Bay, 20.iv.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). **GOZO:** Ramla, 27.iii.2010, 19 exs., on *Silene* sp., leg. E. Colonnelli & D. Mifsud (CCI, CMM); Qbajjar, 27.iii.2010, 1 ex., leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI).

Distribution. Central Asia, Western Palaearctic (CALDARA, 1985).

Ecology. On *Silene* (CALDARA, 1985).

Note. The record of CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907) of *Sibinia attalica* is incorrect and examination of the single specimen of the Walker material proved it to belong to *S. femoralis*.

Sibinia primita (Herbst, 1795)

Diagnosis. Length: 1.4-1.8 mm. Extremely similar to *S. arenariae*, differing mainly by its smaller size (Fig. 118, from www.claude.schott.free.fr).

Literature records. ANDRES (1916, as *Sibinis primita*).

Material examined. None.

Distribution. Western Palaearctic (CALDARA, 1985).

Ecology. On *Spergularia*, *Daphne* and *Limoniastrum* (CALDARA, 1985).

Note. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO’S (1907) record of *Sibinia primita* was found to belong to *S. arenariae* (refer to note following *S. arenariae*). Although Andres’ collection was unavailable for study (if it still does exist), we cannot exclude the presence of this species in Malta, according to its know distribution.

Sitona cinnamomeus Allard, 1863

Diagnosis. Length: 4.3-5.7 mm. The digitate yellowish scales on posterior third of lateral intervals of elytra, characterise this species (Fig. 119).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Sitona flavescens* (Marshall, 1802) v. *cinnamomeus*).

Material examined. MALTA: 1901, M.C., 1 ex., 5337 [= 14/8/01, *Sitones lineatus* var, ER, Marsa, Id. Mr. Gatto], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); 1 ex., Dr. Cameron, 7502 [= 17 June, *S. v. cinnamomea*, L'Imtahleb, MC], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); vi.1902, M.C., 1 ex., 7329 [= June, 1902, *Sitones v. cinnamomea*, ER, Ġnejna], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); vi.1902, M.C., 1 ex., 7330 [= June, 1902, *S. v. cinnamomea*, ER, Ġnejna, MC], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH).

Distribution. Western Mediterranean (VELÁZQUEZ DE CASTRO, 2009), Azores (BORGES & VIEIRA, 2010), Madeira (MACHADO, 2008).

Ecology. Unknown, perhaps on *Trifolium* (DIECKMANN, 1987).

Sitona discoideus Gyllenhal, 1834

Diagnosis. Length: 3.6-5.0 mm. Its head (including eyes), much narrower than fore margin of pronotum, and deeply sulcate rostrum and frons, makes the recognition of this weevil straightforward (Fig. 120, from www.agresearch.co.nz).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Sitona humeralis* Stephens, 1831 v. *discoideus*); ANDRES (1916, as *Sitona humeralis*); SPRICK (2001).

Material examined. MALTA: 8 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN); Bahrija, 20.iv.2002, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Bidnija, 8.ix.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Buskett, 7.xi.1995, 1 ex., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM); Fomm ir-Rih, 26.iii.1995, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Haġar Qim, 22.x.1989, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud; Mellieħa, L-Ahrax ta' Ġewwa, 16.iv.2005, 2 exs., leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM); Mellieħa, near Nature Reserve, 14.iv.2004/8.v.2004, 3 exs., leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM); Mellieħa, Mellieħa Hill, 27.iii.2004/17.iv.2004, 3 exs., leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM); Mellieħa, Selmun near castle, 19.iv.2005, 17 exs., leg. H. Borg Barthet (CMM, MNHM); Mellieħa Bay, near Mellieħa Holiday Centre, 8.i.2005, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM); Naxxar, Tas-Saġħjar, 30.ix.2003/2.x.2003, 2 exs., Actinic moth trap, leg. A. Seguna (CSM); St. Thomas Bay, 6.ix.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Wied Has-Sabtan, 14.iv.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Wied il-Għasel, 21.xi.1989, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Żejtun, 12.v.1989/25. iv.1998, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). **GOZO:** Dwejra, 16.v.1996/26.xii.2002, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Għasri, 15.x.1994, 2 exs., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM); Qbajjar, 26.xii.2002; 3 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Ramla, 18.iv.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Western Mediterranean and Macaronesia, introduced in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa (DIECKMANN, 1980; *pers. rec.*).

Ecology. On *Medicago sativa* L, often injurious to alfalfa (DIECKMANN, 1980).

Sitona lineatus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Diagnosis. Length: 3.5-4.8 mm. This extremely variable species can be recognised by its fore coxae much approaching anterior margin of prothorax, moderately protruding eyes and pronotum widest at the posterior half (Fig. 121, modified from www.naturamediterraneo.com).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, also as *Sitona tibialis* (Herbst, 1795)).

Material examined. MALTA: 11 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN, CMM); 1 ex., Dr. Cameron, 7501 [= 17 June, *Sitona lineatus*, L'Imtahleb, MC], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); 1903, M.C., 1 ex., *Sitones tibialis defloratus*, 8118 [= *Sitones tibialis*, Mellieha, Desbrochers], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); viii.1901, M.C., *S. lineatus*, 8129 [= *Sitones lineatus*, (D.d.L)], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); xi.1901, M.C., 1 ex., M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); v.1904, M.C., 2 exs., M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Bahrija, 27.vi.1993, 2 exs., on *Polygonum salicifolium*, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Bidnija, NW Mosta, 1.iv.2002, 1 ex., leg. Schuh & Mifsud (CMM); Ghadira, 23.v.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Gharghur, 8.xii.1993, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Marsaxlokk, saltmarsh, 28.iv.1990/2.vi.1994/18.ii.1996/4.v.1997/15.viii.2003/, 15 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Mellieha, Kortin, 15.v.2005, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM); Mellieha, Selmun, 23.iv.2005, 2 exs., leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM); Mellieha Bay, near Mellieha Holiday Centre, 25.iii.2005, 2 exs., leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM); Siggiewi, 10.v.1998, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 25.v.1994/6.ix.1996, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Wied Has-Sabtana, 26.v.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). GOZO: Ghasri, 16.v.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Qbajjar, 26.xii.2002, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Ramla, 9.v.1996/8.xii.2002, 3 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Palaearctic, including Canaries and Madeira, and imported in North America (DIECKMANN, 1980; MACHADO & OROMÍ, 2000; MACHADO, 2008).

Ecology. On several Fabaceae, sometimes injurious (DIECKMANN, 1980).

Note. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO's (1907) record of *Sitona striatellus* Gyllenhal, 1834 (as *Sitona tibialis*), is incorrect and should be attributed to *S. lineatus*.

Sitona macularius (Marshall, 1802)

Diagnosis. Length: 3.0-4.9 mm. Easy to recognise this species by its protruding eyes, sub-quadrate prothorax and erect setae on each elytral interval alternately blackish and white (Fig. 122, photo by Guido Bonetti).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Sitona crinitus* (Herbst, 1795) and *Sitona seriesetosus* Fåhraeus, 1840); ANDRES (1916, as *Sitona crinitus*).

Material examined. MALTA: 42 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN, CMM); 2 exs., *S. seriesetosus*, Dr. Cameron, M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); 1901, M.C., 5 exs., 5421a [= *S. crinitus* (deleted) *fallax*, M. Gatto], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM); x.1901, M.C., 1 ex., 5422a [= *S. fallax*, M. Gatto], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Miġra Ferħa, 30.x.1995, 1 ex., on *Tamarix* sp., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Mistra, 4.ii.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 12.v.1990/28.iv.2002, 3 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). GOZO: Ramla, 28.i.1997, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 1 ex., same data but, 27.iii.2010, leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI); Qbajjar, 27.iii.2010, 1 ex., leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI).

Distribution. Palaearctic, including Canaries and Madeira, and imported in North America (DIECKMANN, 1980; MACHADO & OROMÍ, 2000; MACHADO, 2008).

Ecology. On several Fabaceae (DIECKMANN, 1980).

Sitona virgatus Fåhraeus, 1840

Diagnosis. Length: 3.5-5.0 mm. Rather protruding eyes and black longitudinal stripes on pronotum and elytra should allow recognition of this weevil (Fig. 123, photo by Guido Bonetti).

Literature records. REITTER (1894, as *Sitones melitensis* Reitter, 1894); REITTER (1903, as *Sitones virgatus* v. *melitensis*); CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907).

Material examined. MALTA: Ġnejna, v.1903, M.C., 1 ex., *Sitones virgatus*, M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); 1903, M.C., 1 ex., M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); xi.1901, M.C., 1 ex., 6202 [= *Sitones*, Ġnejna], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Karaba, 13.i.1999, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Mellieħa - Selmun, Mistra Valley, 7.iv.2004, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (CMM). **GOZO:** Ghammar, 2.xi.2003, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (CMM); Għasri, 24.i.1999, 1 ex., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM).

Distribution. Western Mediterranean (VELÁZQUEZ DE CASTRO, 2009).

Ecology. Unknown, surely on Fabaceae.

Smicronyx albosquamosus (Wollaston, 1854)*

Diagnosis. Length: 1.7-2.5 mm. This species is extremely similar to *S. jungermanniae*, differing only by its claws much more unequal in length and its usually much denser vestiture.

Material examined. MALTA: Mellieħa, Kortin, 10.ix.2005/8.vi.2006, 2 exs., leg. H. Borg Barthet (CMM, MNHM); Mellieħa, between Irdum Ghawsec and Irdum Ta' Ciantar, 26.iii.2010, 5 exs., on *Cuscuta epithimum* (L.) L., leg. E. Colonnelli & D. Mifsud (CCI, CMM); Wied Babu, 15.ix.1995, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Madeira, Canaries, Spain, France, Italy, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya (TEMPÈRE & PÉRICART, 1989).

Ecology. On *Cuscuta* (TEMPÈRE & PÉRICART, 1989).

Smicronyx brevicornis F. Solari, 1952*

Diagnosis. Length: 1.2-1.8 mm. The short funiculus of antennae and the granulate pronotum characterise this species from the other congeners (Fig. 124).

Material examined. MALTA: Buskett, 5.vi.1994/25.i.1996, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Mellieħa, between Irdum Ghawsec and Irdum Ta' Ciantar, 26.iii.2010, 1 ex., on *Cuscuta epithimum* (L.) L. leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI); Wied Babu, 15.ix.1995, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). **GOZO:** Dwejra, 19.iv.1990, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 2 exs., same data but 19.vii.1996, leg. C. Farrugia (CMM).

Distribution. Southern Europe (ABBAZZI & MAGGINI, 2009).

Ecology. On *Cuscuta* (HOFFMANN, 1958).

Smicronyx cyaneus (Gyllenhal, 1836)

Diagnosis. Length: 2.5-4.5 mm. The only Maltese *Smicronyx* with shining blue integument (Fig. 125, from www.galerie-insecte.org).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907); SPRICK (2001).

Material examined. MALTA: 1 ex., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN); x.1901, M.C., 1 ex., 6135 [= *Smicronyx cyaneus*, ER, Gbir]; M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Bidnija, 13.i.1999/1.iv.2002, 8 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Buskett, 7.xi.1995, 1 ex., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM); Haġar Qim, 22.x.1989, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Pellegrin, 4.ii.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Ramla tal-Imġiebaħ, 11.iii.1990/23.ii.2000, 4 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Mellieħa, Kortin, 2003, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (CMM). **GOZO:** Għasri, 30.vi.1995, 1 ex., under stone, leg. C. Farrugia (CMM).

Distribution. Southern Europe, North Africa (HOFFMANN, 1958).

Ecology. On *Orobanche* (HOFFMANN, 1958).

Smicronyx jungermanniae (Reich, 1797)

Diagnosis. Length: 1.2-2.0 mm. This species is very similar to *S. albosquamosus*, but its claws are less unequal in length, and the vestiture is usually less dense (Fig. 126, photo by Guido Bonett).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907).

Material examined. MALTA: 1 ex., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN); ix.1901, M.C., 1 ex., 5779 [= *Smicronyx jungermanniae*, ER, Marsaxlokk], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Delimara, 13.vii.1997, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Għar Lapsi, 24.iii.1991, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Mellieħa, Kortin, 26.vii.2004, 2 exs., U.V. light trap, leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM); Żurrieq, Wied Babu, 26.iii.2010, 3 exs., on *Cuscuta* sp.; leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI). **COMINO:** Il-Hażina, 13.viii.2002, 3 exs., around man-made freshwater pool, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Europe, Mediterranean (HOFFMANN, 1958).

Ecology. On *Cuscuta* (HOFFMANN, 1958).

Smicronyx rufipennis Tournier, 1874*

Diagnosis. Length: 1.2-1.9 mm. The only Maltese *Smicronyx* with partly reddish elytra (Fig. 127, photo by Guido Bonett).

Material examined. MALTA: viii.1901, M.C., 8 exs., 5529 [= ? *Smicronyx*, St. Paul's Bay], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH, CMM); Ġirgenti, 8.x.1996, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Mellieħa, 29.vi.2002, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM); Mellieħa, L-Aħrax ta' Ġewwa, 14.iv.2005, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (CMM); Mellieħa, Kortin, 16.vii.2004/8. vi.2006, 2 exs., U.V. light trap, leg. H. Borg Barthet (CMM, MNHM); Mellieħa, between Irdum Għawsec and Irdum Ta' Ciantar, 26.iii.2010, 16 exs., on *Cuscuta epithimum* (L.) L., leg. E. Colonnelli & D. Mifsud (CCI, CMM); Mtahleb, 2.v.1997, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Rabat, 23.vi.2002, 1 ex., leg. P. Sammut (CMM); Wied il-Għasel, 26.ix.1992/2.iv.1996, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud; Xemxija, 10.ii.1995, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Żurrieq, Wied Babu, 26.iii.2010, 5 exs., on *Cuscuta* sp., leg. E. Colonnelli & D. Mifsud (CCI, CMM). **GOZO:** Dwejra, 16.v.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 1 ex., same data but 19.vii.1996, leg. C. Farrugia (CMM); Qbajjar, 27.iii.2010, 2 exs., on *Cuscuta* sp., leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI). **COMINO:** Il-Hażina, 13.viii.2002, 29 exs., around man-made freshwater pool, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Northern Africa, Arabian Peninsula, Sudan, Camerun, Congo (MAGNANO *et al.*, 2009). New for Europe.

Ecology. Almost surely on Cuscutaceae (MAGNANO *et al.*, 2009).

Stenocarus cardui (Herbst, 1784)

Diagnosis. Length: 3.0-3.5 mm. This weevil can be identified (apart from the following species) by its plump body shape with flattened dorsum and brown elytra having two white and one blackish spots (Fig. 128, photo by Guido Bonett).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Coeliodes cardui*).

Material examined. MALTA: 2 exs., Dr. Cameron, M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); 1903, M.C., 1 ex., M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Msida, Tal-Qroqq, 25.xi.1994, 1 ex., leg. C. Farrugia (CMM); St. Thomas Bay, Munxar, 28.iv.2002/5.i.2003/iii.2003, 3 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Żejtun, 7.xii.1989/20-30.xi.1997, 3 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. West Palaearctic (COLONNELLI, 2004).

Ecology. On *Papaver*, occasionally found over wintering under *Carduus* rosettes (COLONNELLI, 2004).

Stenocarus ruficornis (Stephens, 1831)*

Diagnosis. Length: 2.5-3.3 mm. Very similar to the preceding species, differing only by its pronotal cusps not reaching sides of pronotum.

Material examined. MALTA: Chadwick Lakes, 19.v.2003, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Fgura, 30.iv.2002, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. West Palaearctic (COLONNELLI, 2004).

Ecology. On *Papaver*, occasionally on *Glaucium* (COLONNELLI, 2004).

Strophomorpha porcellus (Schoenherr, 1832)

Diagnosis. Length: 5.0-7.5 mm. This extremely variable parthenogenetic species can be recognised by its short conical rostrum and much protruding eyes (Fig. 129, photo by Guido Bonett).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907).

Material examined. MALTA: 1 ex., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMNH); x.1901, 1 ex., 6104 [= *Thylacites beloni*, ER, Bingemma, stone], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); xi.1901, 1 ex., 6208 [= *Thylacites beloni*, ER, Ġnejna], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Rabat, Fort Bingemma, 30.x.2004, 1 ex., 400w M.V. light, leg. A. Seguna (CSM); Fomm ir-Riĥ, 26.iii.1995, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Bahrija, 12.v.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). **GOZO:** Ramla, 23.x.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Qattara, 8.vi.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Southern Europe, Mediterranean, Middle East, southern part of central Asia (PELLETIER, 1999).

Ecology. Polyphagous (PELLETIER, 1999).

Styphloderes exsculptus (Boheman, 1843)*

Diagnosis. Length: 2.5-4.5 mm. The peculiar shape, reddish integument and very large elytral striae readily distinguish this species (Fig. 130, from www.flickr.com).

Material examined. MALTA: Ċirkewwa, 6.vi.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Marsaxlokk, 17.iii.1984, 2 exs., (CMI); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 12.i.1999, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). **GOZO:** Ramla, 21.ii.2000, 1 ex., associated with base of coastal sand dune plants, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Western Mediterranean (HOFFMANN, 1954).

Ecology. Under debris along coasts (HOFFMANN, 1954).

Torneuma maltense Magnano & Mifsud, 2001

Diagnosis. Length: 2.2-3.2 mm. This blind weevil can be distinguished from the following one by its shorter pronotum and elytra (Fig. 131, from STÜBEN, 2007).

Literature records. MAGNANO & MIFSUD (2001); STÜBEN (2007).

Material examined. 16 type specimens all collected from Bidnija, Buskett, Maqluba, Mtahleb, Wardija, Wied Babu and Wied Qirda in Malta and San Blas in Gozo.

Distribution. Endemic to the Maltese islands (STÜBEN, 2007).

Ecology. Mediterranean maquis, in soil between 10-30 cm depth in association with roots of *Pistacia lentiscus*, *Ceratonia siliqua*, *Olea europaea*, *Laurus nobilis*, *Salix pedicellata* and *Quercus ilex* (MAGNANO & MIFSUD, 2001).

Torneuma strictum Magnano & Mifsud, 2001

Diagnosis. Length: 1.9-2.4 mm. Clearly longer pronotum and elytra differentiate this species from the preceding one (Fig. 132, from STÜBEN, 2007).

Literature records. MAGNANO & MIFSUD (2001); STÜBEN (2007).

Material examined. 14 type specimens all collected from Bidnija, Buskett, Mellieha, San Thomas Bay and Wardija in Malta.

Distribution. Endemic to the Maltese islands (STÜBEN, 2007).

Ecology. Mediterranean maquis, generally in soil between 10-30 cm depth associated with roots of *Olea europaea*, *Tetraclinis articulata* and *Quercus ilex* (MAGNANO & MIFSUD, 2001).

Trachyphloeus laticollis Boheman, 1843

Diagnosis. Length: 2.2-3.1 mm. Very similar to the following species, differing by its rostrum widening toward apex (Fig. 133).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907).

Material examined. MALTA: St. Julian's Bay, viii.1901, M.C., 1 ex., 5528 [= *Trachyphloeus laticollis* var. ER, St. Paul's Bay], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); St. Paul's Bay, viii.1901, M.C., 1 ex., 5528 [= *Trachyphloeus laticollis* var. ER, St. Paul's Bay], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Il-Marbat, 23.v.1990, 23.v.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Mediterranean (BOROVEC, 1989).

Ecology. Adults are generally found through sifting of leaf litter or under stones in dry habitats throughout the year from sea level up to an elevation of 1,500 meters (OSELLA & RITI, 1995).

Note. From the above data it can be seen that there is a discrepancy for the locality datum of one of the specimens from the historical material. The locality record of this species indicated by CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907) is that of St. Paul's Bay, and mostly likely the label for St. Julian's Bay is erroneous.

Trachyphloeus melitensis Borovec & Osella, 1993

Diagnosis. Length: 2.5-3.2 mm. Clearly distinguished from the preceding species by its parallel-sided rostrum (Fig. 134).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Trachyphloeus* n. sp.); BOROVEC & OSELLA (1993).

Material examined. MALTA: 14 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN, CBC, CMM); x.1901, M.C., *Trachyphloeus* n. sp. ?, 7902 [= data not found], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Mellieha Bay, nr. Mellieha Holiday Centre, 5.xii.2004, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthelet (CMM).

Distribution. Southern Sicily, Lampedusa, Pantelleria and Malta (BOROVEC & OSELLA, 1993; ABBAZZI & MAGGINI, 2009).

Ecology. Mostly found by sifting leaf litter at the base of *Thymus capitatus* (L.) Hoffmanns & Link (BOROVEC & OSELLA, 1993).

Note. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907) recorded this species from Floriana. ANDRES's (1916) record of *Trachyphlaeus* [sic!] sp. is likely to be attributed to this species.

Trichosirocalus centrimacula (A. Schultze, 1899)*

Diagnosis. Length: 2.5-2.8 mm. The reddish hairy subquadrate body and long rostrum distinguish this weevil immediately (Fig. 135, photo by Guido Bonett).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Ceuthorrhynchidius troglodytes* (Fabricius, 1787)).

Material examined. MALTA: 1 ex., Dr. Cameron, 8103 [= Rifle Range, walls], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH).

Distribution. Mediterranean (COLONNELLI, 2004).

Ecology. On *Leucanthemum flosculosum* (L.) P. Giraud (COLONNELLI, 2004). Since the mentioned host plant does not exist in Malta, it is likely that this weevil can feed also on *Leucanthemum vulgare* Lam., which is the only member of this genus present in Malta (MIFSUD, 2010).

Note. The record of CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907) of *Trichosirocalus troglodytes* is most likely incorrect and should refer to *T. centrimacula*. The single specimen found in the Cameron collection from Malta ascribed to this genus was collected from Rifle range. This is the same locality provided for *T. troglodytes* by Cameron and Caruana Gatto in their 1907 list of Coleoptera of the Maltese islands.

Tychius argentatus Chevrolat, 1859*

Diagnosis. Length: 1.8-2.7 mm. Readily distinguished by its silvery scales (Fig. 136, photo by Guido Bonett).

Material examined. MALTA: Buskett, 29.iii.2010, 1 ex., leg. E. Colonnelli (CMM); Chadwick Lakes, 26.ii.1997, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Fiddien, 19.iii.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Mistra, 4.ii.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Żejtun, 20.iii.2010, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). **GOZO:** Ramla, 28.i.1997, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM), 9 exs., same data but 27.iii.2010, leg. E. Colonnelli & D. Mifsud (CCI, CMM, MNHM).

Distribution. Mediterranean (CALDARA, 1990).

Ecology. On *Lotus* (CALDARA, 1990).

Tychius bicolor C. Brisout, 1862*

Diagnosis. Length: 1.7-2.3 mm. Shorter pronotum, wider scales and usually bi-coloured elytra should allow recognition of this species from the similar *T. stephensi* (Fig. 137).

Material examined. MALTA: 3 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMNH, CMM); Dingli Cliffs, 31.iii.2002, 1 ex., leg. Schuh & Lang (CMM); Marsaxlokk, saltmarsh, 14.v.1994, 12 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Mellieha Bay, 3.iii.2002, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Miġra Ferha, 13.i.1999/3.iii.2003, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 20.iv.1991/13.iv.2003, 5 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM, MNHM), 1 ex., same data but on *Lotus* sp., 28.iii.2010, leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI); Żejtun, 5.iv.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). **GOZO:** Ghasri, 16.v.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Western Palaearctic, eastward to Afghanistan (CALDARA, 1990).

Ecology. On *Melilotus* and *Astragalus* (CALDARA, 1990).

Tychius grenieri C. Brisout, 1861

Diagnosis. Length: 2.2-3.0 mm. Distinguished by the presence of oval and narrowly elongate scales of two colour types, whitish and brown, forming patches and striae (Fig. 138).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907).

Material examined. MALTA: 2 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN, CMM); 1 ex., Dr. Cameron, M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH).

Distribution. Mediterranean, Middle East (CALDARA, 1990).

Ecology. On *Astragalus* (CALDARA, 1990).

Tychius meliloti Stephens, 1831

Diagnosis. Length: 1.7-2.6 mm. Subulate rostrum, prominent eyes and partly dark legs distinguish this species from the close *T. bicolor* (Fig. 139).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907).

Material examined. MALTA: 7 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN, CMM); 2 exs., Dr. Cameron, M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (CMM); vi.1902, M.C., 5 exs., 5410 [= *Tychius meliloti* (Steph.), M. Gatto], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); vi.1902, M.C., 1 ex., 7436 [= *Tychius tomentosus*, ER, Ta' Baldu], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Buskett, 25.i.1996/2.vii.1996/3.xii.1997, 3 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Marsaskala, saltmarsh, 1.vi.1990, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Marsaxlokk, saltmarsh, 27.ii.1994, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Mtahleb, 7.viii.1997, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Żejtun, 20.v.1989, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Palaearctic (CALDARA, 1990).

Ecology. On *Melilotus* (CALDARA, 1990).

Tychius pauperculus Tournier, 1873*

Diagnosis. Length: 2.8-3.3 mm. Comparatively large size, elongate body, dense vestiture and prominent eyes make this weevil unmistakable (Fig. 140).

Material examined. MALTA: Mistra, 4.ii.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Mellieħa, between Irdum Ghawsec and Irdum Ta' Ciantar, 26.iii.2010, 1 ex., on *Lotus ornithopodioides* L., leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI); Żurrieq, Wied Babu, 26.iii.2010, 4 exs., on *Lotus ornithopodioides* L., leg. E. Colonnelli & D. Mifsud (CCI, CMM, CRI).

Distribution. Algeria and Tunisia (CALDARA, 1990). New record for Malta and thus for the European fauna.

Ecology. On *Lotus ornithopodioides* L.

Tychius pusillus Germar, 1842*

Diagnosis. Length: 1.2-1.8 mm. The smallest of the Maltese *Tychius* with slightly curved rostrum and dark elytra and pronotum (Fig. 141).

Material examined. MALTA: Wied il-Ghasel, 2.iv.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Wied Has-Sabtan, 4.iv.1996, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Central and southern Europe, North Africa (CALDARA, 1990).

Ecology. On *Trifolium* (CALDARA, 1990).

Tychius stephensi Schoenherr, 1836

Diagnosis. Length: 1.8-2.5 mm. Similar to *T. pusillus*, but larger, more robust and with denser vestiture (Fig. 142).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Tychius tomentosus* (Herbst, 1795)).

Material examined. MALTA: vi.1902, M.C., 1 ex., 7436 [= *Tychius tomentosus*, ER, Ta' Baldu], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH).

Distribution. Western Palaearctic, North Africa excluded, and imported in North America (CALDARA, 1990).

Ecology. On *Trifolium* (CALDARA, 1990).

ERIRHINIDAE

Procas armillatus (Fabricius, 1801)

Diagnosis. Length: 4.8-8.0 mm. Dark velvety suberect vestiture, long rostrum with antenna inserted near its apex and rather large size distinguish this weevil at a glance (Fig. 143, photo by Guido Bonett).

Literature records. THOMPSON (2006).

Material examined. MALTA: Ta' Qali, 13.ii.2000, 1 ex., under bark of *Eucalyptus* sp., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 19.i.2003, 1 ex., floating in a small freshwater pond, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Żejtun, 30.xi.1997, 1 ex., on roof of private house, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Wied Qirda, 19.xii.1989, 1 ex., leg. A. Seguna (CSM).

Distribution. Canaries, Madeira, Balearic islands, Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily, Malta, Greece, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia (THOMPSON, 2006), Abruzzo and Molise in mainland Italy (ABBAZZI & MAGGINI, 2009). The record for the Azores by THOMPSON (2006) is not confirmed by BORGES & VIEIRA (2010).

Ecology. Unknown.

RAYMONDIONYMIDAE

Alaocyba melitensis Magnano & Mifsud, 1998

Diagnosis. Length: 1.3 mm. A blind weevil, readily identified by its very small size, honey-red colour, and rather flattened body (Fig. 144, photo by Guido Bonett).

Literature records. MAGNANO & MIFSUD (1998).

Material examined. 55 type specimens all collected from Buskett in Malta.

Distribution. Endemic to Malta.

Ecology. Sifting 20-40 cm deep soil under *Quercus ilex* L. and *Ficus carica* L. trees (MAGNANO & MIFSUD, 1998).

DRYOPHTHORIDAE

Rhynchophorus ferrugineus (Olivier, 1790)

Diagnosis. Length: 22.0-32.6 mm. The largest weevil from the Maltese islands, easily identified by its size and almost completely ferrous-red colour with variable dark markings (Fig. 145).

Literature records. MIZZI *et al.* (2009).

Material examined. More than 500 specimens from all over Malta (MIZZI *et al.*, 2009).

Distribution. Native to south-east Asia, is now spreading in many countries across Arabian Peninsula, Middle East, Mediterranean and southern Europe (MIZZI *et al.*, 2009).

Ecology. This weevil, commonly referred to as the “red palm weevil” is extremely injurious to palms (MIZZI *et al.*, 2009).

***Sitophilus granarius* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

Diagnosis. Length: 2.5-3.5 mm. This species is rather easy to separate from its congeners by the shining integument (Fig. 146).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Calandra granaria*).

Material examined. MALTA: 6 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN); 1901, M.C., 1 ex., 5426 [= *Calandra granaria*, M. Gatto], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Salina, 19.vii.1989, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Subcosmopolitan (HOFFMANN, 1954).

Ecology. Pest of stored grains (HOFFMANN, 1954).

***Sitophilus oryzae* (Linnaeus, 1763)**

Diagnosis. Length: 3.4-3.8 mm. Extremely similar to the following species from which it is possible to distinguish only by the examination of the aedeagus.

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Calandra oryzae*).

Material examined. MALTA: Ballut, Wardija area, l/o San Pawl il-Bahar, 23.ii.2000, 1 ex., in leaf litter under *Quercus ilex*, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Żejtun, 7.vii.1989/21.ix.1989, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Subcosmopolitan (TEMPÈRE & PÉRICART, 1989).

Ecology. Pest of stored grains (TEMPÈRE & PÉRICART, 1989).

Sitophilus zeamais* Motschulsky, 1855

Diagnosis. Length: 2.5-3.1 mm. Extremely close to the preceding species, distinguished by its aedeagus with sulcate dorsum instead of smooth one, and spiculum ventrale with acute cusps instead of blunt ones (Fig. 147, from www.jcringenbach.free.fr).

Material examined. MALTA: 7 exs., G.C. Champion coll., B.M. 1927-409 (BMHN); Rabat, 14.xii.2002, 7 exs., leg. P. Sammut (MNHM); St. Thomas Bay, Tal-Munxar, 28.iii.2010, 1 ex., leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI); Wardija, Ballut tal-Imġiebah, 1.iv.2002, 1 ex., leg. Schuh & Mifsud (CMM); Żejtun, 9.xii.1989, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM). GOZO: Munxar, 6.xii.2003, 1 ex., leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM).

Distribution. Subcosmopolitan (TEMPÈRE & PÉRICART, 1989).

Ecology. Pest of stored grains (TEMPÈRE & PÉRICART, 1989).

Sphenophorus parumpunctatus* (Gyllenhal, 1837)

Diagnosis. Length: 9.0-15.0 mm. Identified at a glance by its large size, black integument, punctate dorsum and peculiar shape (Fig. 148, modified from www.eol.org).

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Sphenophorus piceus* (Pallas, 1771) and *S. abbreviatus* (Fabricius, 1787)).

Material examined. MALTA: MALTA: 2 exs., Dr. Cameron, M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Gnejna, vi.1902, M.C., 1 ex., *S. piceus*, M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); 1901, M.C., 1 ex., 5406 [= *Sphenopterus piceus*, M. Gatto], M. Cameron Coll., B.M.

1936-555 (BMNH); vi.1902, M.C., 1 ex., 7461 [= *Sphenopterus abbreviatus*, ? (locality), June 1902], M. Cameron Coll., B.M. 1936-555 (BMNH); Fiddien, 27.vi.1989, 1 ex., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Ġhajn Rihana, 26.vi.1989/20.viii.1989, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM); Wied Qannotta, 11.xi.1984, 1 ex., leg. A. Seguna (CSM), 1 ex., same data but 23.vi.1989, leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Mediterranean (PESARINI, 1964).

Ecology. On Cyperaceae (HOFFMANN, 1954).

Note. According to the examined historical material, the citations of *Sphenophorus piceus* and *S. abbreviatus* by CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907) were both based on misidentifications and actually refer to *S. parumpunctatus*.

SCOLYTIDAE

Coccotrypes dactyliperda (Fabricius, 1801)

Literature records. MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK (2009).

Material examined. MALTA: Marsa and Żejtun (MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK, 2009); Mellieħa, Kortin, 2 exs., 16.viii.2009, UV lights, leg. H. Borg Barthet (CMM, MNHM).

Crypturgus cylindricollis Eggers, 1940

Literature records. MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK (2009).

Material examined. MALTA: Mistra (MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK, 2009).

Crypturgus numidicus Ferrari, 1867

Literature records. MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK (2009).

Material examined. MALTA: Buskett and Rabat (MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK, 2009).

Dactylotrypes longicollis (Wollaston, 1864)*

Diagnosis. Length: 1.3-2.1 mm. Among the Maltese bark-beetles this species can be only confused with *Coccotrypes dactyliperda*, from which it differs by fore tibiae with 8-9 teeth instead of only 4-5 (Fig. 149 & 150, photos by Milos Knížek).

Material examined. MALTA: St. Thomas Bay, 29.vii.2010, 2 exs., leg. D. Mifsud (CMM).

Distribution. Native to the Canaries and Madeira (MACHADO & OROMÍ, 2000; MACHADO, 2008), this species is now spreading into many countries, being cited from Spain, France, Italy, Croatia and Slovakia in Europe, and in North Africa (KIRKERNDALKL & FACCOLI, 2010).

Ecology. Breeds inside *Dracaena draco* L. and *Phoenix canariensis* Hort. ex Chabaud (PFEFFER, 1995).

Hylesinus varius (Linnaeus, 1758)

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Hylesinus fraxini* (Panzer, 1799)); CILIA (1974); MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK (2009).

Material examined. MALTA: Girgenti and Buskett (CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO, 1907; CILIA, 1975).

Hypocryphalus scabricollis (Eichhoff, 1878)

Literature records. MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK (2009).

Material examined. MALTA: Buskett, Migra Ferha, Żejtun, Fawwara, St. Thomas Bay and Floriana (MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK, 2009); Mellieħa, Kortin, 16.viii.2009, 1 ex., UV lights, leg. H. Borg Barthet (MNHM).

Hypotenemus eruditus Westwoof, 1836

Literature records. MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK (2009).

Material examined. MALTA: Bahrija, St. Thomas Bay and Żejtun (MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK, 2009).

Hypotenemus leprieurii (Perris, 1866)

Literature records. MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK (2009).

Material examined. MALTA: Bahrija, Ġirgenti, Fomm ir-Rih and St. Thomas Bay. **GOZO:** Dwejra, Għasri and Ramla (MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK, 2009).

Hylurgus micklitzii Wachtl, 1881

Literature records. MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK (2009).

Material examined. MALTA: Buskett (MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK, 2009); Mellieħa, Kortin, 16/23.viii.2009, 3 exs., UV light trap, leg. H. Borg Barthet (CMM, MNHM).

Hypoborus ficus Erichson, 1836

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907); CILIA (1974); MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK (2009).

Material examined. MALTA: Marsaxlokk, Manuel Island, Valletta, Żejtun, Buskett, Selmun, Ġirgenti, Wied Has-Sabtan, Dingli and St. Thomas Bay. **GOZO:** Għasri (CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO, 1907; CILIA, 1975; MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK, 2009).

Kissophagus hederæ Schmitt, 1843

Literature records. MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK (2009).

Material examined. MALTA: Buskett (MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK, 2009).

Liparthrum mori (Aubé, 1862)

Literature records. MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK (2009).

Material examined. MALTA: Marsa, Ġirgenti and Wied tal-Isqof (MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK, 2009).

Orthotomicus erosus (Wollaston, 1857)

Literature records. MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK (2009).

Material examined. MALTA: Floriana, Rabat and Buskett (MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK, 2009).

Phloeosinus thujae (Perris, 1855)

Literature records. MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK (2009).

Material examined. MALTA: Buskett (MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK, 2009).

Phloeotribus scarabaeoides (Bernard, 1788)

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907); CILIA (1974); MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK (2009).

Material examined. MALTA: Marsaxlokk, Wied Has-Sabtan, Wied il-Ghasel, Fiddien and Żejtun (MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK, 2009).

Pityogenes calcaratus (Eichhoff, 1878)

Literature records. MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK (2009).

Material examined. MALTA: Buskett, Żejtun, Rabat and Wied tal-Isqof (MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK, 2009).

Scolytus amygdali Guérin-Méneville, 1847

Literature records. MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK (2009).

Material examined. MALTA: Żejtun, Siġġiewi, Balzan, Dingli and Rabat (MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK, 2009). **GOZO:** Wied ir-Rihan, 27.iii.2010, 1 ex., leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI).

Scolytus ensifer Eichhoff, 1881*

Diagnosis. Length: 2.0-3.2 mm. Distinguished from all other mid-sized Maltese *Scolytus* by the large protruding tubercle on abdominal segment 2 (Fig. 151 & 152, from www.forestryimages.org/browse/subthumb.cfm?sub=19177).

Material examined. MALTA: Buskett, 29.iii.2010, 1 ex., dead, leg. E. Colonnelli (CCI).

Distribution. Central and southern Europe, Caucasus (PFEFFER, 1995).

Ecology. On *Ulmus* and *Zerkova* (PFEFFER, 1995).

Scolytus mali (Bechstein, 1805)

Literature records. CILIA (1974).

Material examined. MALTA: Wied il-Faham CILIA (1974).

Scolytus rugulosus (P.W.F. Müller, 1818)

Literature records. CILIA (1975); MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK (2009).

Material examined. MALTA: Wied Incita, Wied is-Sewda, Rabat and Fiddien (CILIA, 1974; MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK, 2009).

Scolytus sulcifrons Rey, 1892

Literature records. CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Scolytus scolytus* (Fabricius, 1775)); MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK (2009).

Material examined. MALTA: no locality datum available (MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK, 2009).

***Thamnurgus characiae* Rosenhauer, 1878**

Literature records. MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK (2009).

Material examined. MALTA: Buskett, Mtahleb, St. Thomas Bay. GOZO: Dwejra and Ramla (MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK, 2009).

***Xyleborinus saxesenii* (Ratzeburg, 1837)**

Literature records. MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK (2009).

Material examined. MALTA: Msida and Żejtun (MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK, 2009).

***Xyleborus ferrugineus* (Fabricius, 1801)**

Literature records. MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK (2009).

Material examined. MALTA: Żebbuġ (MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK, 2009).

***Xyleborus volvulus* (Fabricius, 1775)**

Literature records. MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK (2009).

Material examined. MALTA: Żebbuġ (MIFSUD & KNÍŽEK, 2009).

SPECIES INCORRECTLY RECORDED FOR THE MALTESE FAUNA***Acalles ptinoides* (Marsham, 1802)**

Refer to note following *Echinodera* sp. near *variegata*.

***Barypeithes mollicomus* (Ahrens, 1812)**

A single specimen labeled “Malta” was found in the Champion collection, and although CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907, as *Barypithes mollicomus*) have recorded this species from Malta, we are excluding it from the Maltese fauna, since all congeners are generally montane species inhabiting wooded cold areas. Surely this is definitely a mistaken locality label datum since the southernmost range from which this central European species is known is Emilia in northern Italy. MAGNANO & OSELLA (1973) also excluded *B. mollicomus* from the Maltese list.

***Ceratapion penetrans* (Germar, 1817)**

Refer to note following *Ceratapion onopordi*.

***Datonychus melanostictus* (Herbst, 1795)**

Refer to note following *Microplontus rugulosus*.

***Hypera pastinacae* (Rossi, 1790)**

In Cameron’s historical material from Malta, one specimen of this species was found with the following data: ER, 7600 [= *Hypera pastinacae*, ER, Corfu], clearly indicating that this material was not collected from Malta. Examination of another specimen collected from Mellieħa and recorded as such by CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907) was found to be attributable to *Hypera* sp. near *tenuirostris* (refer to material examined following *H.* sp. near *tenuirostris*). Considering the above information, this species is thus excluded from the Maltese fauna.

***Limobius borealis* (Paykull, 1792)**

Refer to note following *L. mixtus*.

***Phyllobius crassus* Motschulsky, 1860**

DESBROCHERS DES LOGES (1873) described *Phyllobius crassior* from Siberia, indicating also its similarity to *P. gyratus* Gyllenhal, 1834, also from Siberia. According to PESARINI (1981), the first is a synonym of *P. crassus*, and the second a synonym of *P. altaicus* Gebler, 1833. The same author (DESBROCHERS DES LOGES, 1900) described another *Phyllobius crassior* from "Malta", again pointing out that this taxon was closely related and very similar to *P. gyratus*, clearly unaware that Malta is a Siberian locality some 85 km northwest of Irkutsk, and overlooking that he himself had already given the same name to a Siberian *Phyllobius* (DESBROCHERS DES LOGES, 1873). These types of errors were common all across the inaccurate and unfortunately long lasting entomological works of this French author and insect seller. Comparing both descriptions, it is evident that they refer to the same Siberian *P. crassus*, as correctly indicated by PESARINI (1981). It was LUIGIONI (1929), TONNA-BARTHET (1931) and PORTA (1932) who incorrectly included this species among the Maltese fauna whereas CILIA (1989) commented on the doubtful occurrence of this species in Malta.

***Rhamphus pulicarius* (Herbst, 1795)**

Refer to note following *Rhamphus oxyacanthae*.

***Sibinia attalica* Gyllenhal, 1836**

Refer to note following *S. femoralis*.

***Sitona striatellus* Gyllenhal, 1834 (= *S. tibialis* (Herbst, 1795))**

Refer to note following *S. lineatus*.

***Sphenophorus abbreviatus* (Fabricius, 1787)**

Refer to note following *S. parumpunctatus*.

***Sphenophorus piceus* (Pallas, 1771)**

Refer to note following *S. parumpunctatus*.

***Trichosirocalus troglodytes* (Fabricius, 1787)**

Refer to note following *Trichosirocalus centrimacula*.

DISCUSSION

As a result of this work, weevils, bark and ambrosia beetles recorded from Malta number 182 species, namely: 4 Anthribidae, 1 Rhynchitidae, 22 Apionidae, 5 Nanophyidae, 3 Brachyceridae, 115 Curculionidae, 1 Erihrinidae, 1 Raymondionymidae, 5 Dryophthoridae, and 25 Scolytidae. This figure, although surely not definitive, should represent some 90% of the species actually living (or which used to live) in the archipelago.

The Republic of Malta (with Malta and Gozo as the two main inhabited islands and a number of smaller islands) with a total surface area of 316 square kilometers, constitutes one of the most densely populated countries in the world. Moreover the archipelago consists of lowlying level islands

which on one hand precludes the presence of several taxa usually related with the upper level of hills or mountains, and on the other suggests that loss of natural habitats, particularly Mediterranean sclerophyllous forests, has been presumably very high shortly after human settlement which took place as early as some 7,000 year ago. Considering all this, “only” 182 curculionids is not to be considered such a low number.

Of course species whose presence is seemingly due to introduction by man in connection with agriculture or commerce is quite high. In recent years, we have witnessed the arrival in Malta of *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (red palm weevil, established), *Otiorhynchus armatus* (not established), *Otiorhynchus liguricus* (not established), *Xyleborus ferrugineus* (not established), *Xyleborus volvulus* (not established), and surely older introductions account for the occurrence in Malta, at least, of *Araecerus fasciculatus*, *Naupactus cervinus*, *Pselactus spadix*, *Sitophilus granarius*, *S. zeamais*, *S. oryzae*, *Coccotrypes dactyliperda*, *Hypotenemus eruditus*, *Hypocryphalus scabricollis*, and *Xyleborinus saxesenii*. In table 1 the above mentioned taxa are either included as cosmopolitan (COS) or introduced (INT) species. Other alien species will surely arrive and possibly establish themselves in Malta and within this category one needs to mention two exotic pest species which are already established in Sicily (ABBAZZI & MAGGINI, 2009) but thus far not reported from Malta: the central American *Scyphophorus acupunctatus* Gyllenhal, 1838 injurious to *Agave* in gardens, and the Australian *Gonipterus scutellatus* Gyllenhal, 1833 severely damaging *Eucalyptus* trees.

Excluding the above species from our biogeographical analysis, plus two of the ones currently impossible to name, *Hypera* sp. near *tenuirostris* and *Amaurorhinus* sp. near *paganettii*, we can provide some general considerations for the remaining 165 Maltese curculionids. *Echinodera* sp. near *variegata* is on the contrary included in the analysis, since it most probably represents a species new to science closely related to a Sicilian one, and belonging to a group of entities occurring mainly in the western part of the Mediterranean.

Faunistic elements with a widespread range usually indicate either euryoecious insects able to quickly colonise new habitats, or those species presumably accidentally introduced in remote ages and the establishment of which was indirectly favoured by human activities, like several taxa associated with pastures and meadows. If we consider (Table 1) the curculionids belonging to the different chorological categories abbreviated as ASE (Asia and Europe), CAE (central Asia and Europe), CAM (central Asia and Mediterranean), CEM (central Asia, Europe and Mediterranean), EUM (Europe and Mediterranean), HOL (Holarctic), PAL (Palaeartic), TEM (Turano-European-Mediterranean), TUM (Turano-Mediterranean), and WPA (western Palaeartic), and combine all the usually euryoecious taxa included in the types of widespread distribution mentioned above, we have a total of 75 species (45.45%), among which there are several Apionidae, Sitonini, Lixini, Mecinini, and Tychiini, precisely related with meadows and associated nitrophilous flora. In addition there is a quite remarkable number of wood-borers, particularly of shrubs and even trees, the latter quite scarce in Maltese natural habitats although some widely cultivated in gardens. Interesting is the presence in this assemblage of two thermophilous stenoecious species with a presently relict, even if widespread, distribution namely *Sharpia rubida* and *Procas armillatus*.

Another group of curculionids are the European ones, belonging to the chorological categories abbreviated as EUR (European), SEU (southern European), WEU (western European). They comprise 19 species (11.52%) composed of insects of diverse ecological niches, some even wingless, the absolute majority of which occur in southern European countries.

Table 1. Chorological categories of Maltese Curculionoidea (abbreviations follow ABBAZZI & MAGGINI, 2009).

ANTHRIBIDAE		CURCULIONIDAE	
<i>Araecerus fasciculatus</i>	COS	<i>Amaurorhinus bewickianus</i>	MED
<i>Bruchela cana</i>	SEU	<i>Amaurorhinus</i> sp. nr. <i>paganettii</i>	?
<i>Cercomorphus duvalii</i>	WME	<i>Anthonomus amygdali</i>	MED
<i>Noxius curtirostris</i>	MED	<i>Asproparthenis maculicollis</i>	ITA
RHYNCHITIDAE		<i>Aulacobaris coeruleascens</i>	EUM
<i>Nelasiorhynchites praeustus</i>	EUM	<i>Brachypera crinita</i>	WME
APIONIDAE		<i>Brachypera fallax</i>	NAF
<i>Apion haematodes</i>	MED	<i>Brachypera lunata</i>	TUM
<i>Aspidapion aeneum</i>	WPA	<i>Brachypera parvithorax</i>	NAF
<i>Aspidapion radiolus</i>	PAL	<i>Brachypera zoilus</i>	PAL
<i>Catapion pubescens</i>	WPA	<i>Ceutorhynchus leprieuri</i>	WEU
<i>Ceratapion damryi</i>	WME	<i>Ceutorhynchus melitensis</i>	ITA
<i>Ceratapion gibbirostre</i>	CEM	<i>Ceutorhynchus pallidactylus</i>	COS
<i>Ceratapion onopordi</i>	CAE	<i>Charagmus gressorius</i>	CEM
<i>Ceratapion robusticorne</i>	WME	<i>Charagmus intermedius</i>	SEU
<i>Diplapion detritum</i>	EUM	<i>Charagmus variegatus</i>	WME
<i>Eutrichapion vorax</i>	PAL	<i>Chiloneus hoffmanni</i>	END
<i>Holotrichapion pisi</i>	PAL	<i>Choerorhinus squalidus</i>	MED
<i>Kalcapion semivittatum</i>	EUM	<i>Coelositona ocellatus</i>	MED
<i>Malvapion malvae</i>	PAL	<i>Coelositona puberulus</i>	WPA
<i>Omphalapion dispar</i>	EUM	<i>Coniatus tamarisci</i>	MED
<i>Perapion hydrolapathi</i>	EUM	<i>Coniocleonus excoriatus</i>	MED
<i>Perapion violaceum</i>	PAL	<i>Coniocleonus pseudobliquus</i>	CME
<i>Protapion apricans</i>	PAL	<i>Conorhynchus brevirostris</i>	MED
<i>Protapion dentipes</i>	MED	<i>Conorhynchus mendicus</i>	WME
<i>Protapion interjectum</i>	EUM	<i>Cosmobaris alboseriata</i>	EME
<i>Pseudapion rufirostre</i>	PAL	<i>Cosmobaris scolopacea</i>	CAE
<i>Taeniapion rufescens</i>	MED	<i>Cycloderes belonis</i>	SIC
<i>Taeniapion rufulum</i>	EUR	<i>Derelomus chamaeropsis</i>	WME
NANOPHYIDAE		<i>Dichromacalles diocletianus</i>	SEU
<i>Corimalia centromaculata</i>	SEU	<i>Donus philantus</i>	WME
<i>Corimalia pallida</i>	EUM	<i>Echinodera</i> sp. nr. <i>variegata</i>	END?
<i>Corimalia tamarisci</i>	TUM	<i>Eremobaris picturata</i>	ASE
<i>Nanophyes hemisphaericus</i>	CEM	<i>Gronops lunatus</i>	SEU
<i>Nanophyes nitidulus</i>	EUM	<i>Hypera jucunda</i>	NAF
BRACHYCERIDAE		<i>Hypera melancholica</i>	WPA
<i>Brachycerus albidentatus</i>	WME	<i>Hypera nigrirostris</i>	EUM
<i>Brachycerus muricatus</i>	MED	<i>Hypera postica</i>	HOL
<i>Brachycerus undatus</i>	MED	<i>Hypera</i> sp. nr. <i>tenuirostris</i>	?
		<i>Hypurus bertrandi</i>	ASE
		<i>Larinus cynarae</i>	MED
		<i>Larinus flavescens</i>	SEU
		<i>Larinus scolymi</i>	SEU

Table 1. Chorological categories of Maltese Curculionoidea (cont.).

<i>Larinus ursus</i>	MED	<i>Sibinia primita</i>	EUM
<i>Leptolepurus meridionalis</i>	MED	<i>Sitona cinnamomeus</i>	SEU
<i>Limobius mixtus</i>	WME	<i>Sitona discoideus</i>	WME
<i>Lixus anguinus</i>	WME	<i>Sitona lineatus</i>	PAL
<i>Lixus brevirostris</i>	WME	<i>Sitona macularius</i>	PAL
<i>Lixus juncii</i>	PAL	<i>Sitona virgatus</i>	WME
<i>Lixus pulverulentus</i>	CEM	<i>Smicronyx albosquamosus</i>	WME
<i>Lixus punctiventris</i>	SEU	<i>Smicronyx brevicornis</i>	MED
<i>Lixus vilis</i>	TEM	<i>Smicronyx cyaneus</i>	SEU
<i>Malvaevora timida</i>	MED	<i>Smicronyx jungermanniae</i>	CEM
<i>Mecinus circulatus</i>	EUM	<i>Smicronyx rufipennis</i>	NAF
<i>Mecinus fairmairei</i>	ITA	<i>Stenocarax cardui</i>	WPA
<i>Mecinus pyraister</i>	TEM	<i>Stenocarax ruficornis</i>	WPA
<i>Mecinus simus</i>	MED	<i>Strophomorphus porcellus</i>	WPA
<i>Mecinus variabilis</i>	SEU	<i>Styphloderes exsculptus</i>	WME
<i>Melaleucus spoliatus</i>	WME	<i>Torneuma maltense</i>	END
<i>Melicus gracilis</i>	EUM	<i>Torneuma strictum</i>	END
<i>Mesites cunipes</i>	TUM	<i>Trachyphloeus laticollis</i>	WME
<i>Mesites pallidipennis</i>	TUM	<i>Trachyphloeus melitensis</i>	SIC
<i>Microplontus rugulosus</i>	WPA	<i>Trichosirocalus centrimacula</i>	MED
<i>Mogulones peregrinus</i>	MED	<i>Tychius argentatus</i>	MED
<i>Naupactus cervinus</i>	COS	<i>Tychius bicolor</i>	TUM
<i>Orthochaetes setiger</i>	EUR	<i>Tychius grenieri</i>	MED
<i>Otiorhynchus affaber</i>	WME	<i>Tychius meliloti</i>	CAM
<i>Otiorhynchus armatus</i>	INT	<i>Tychius pauperculus</i>	NAF
<i>Otiorhynchus cribricollis</i>	SEU	<i>Tychius pusillus</i>	CEM
<i>Otiorhynchus juvenus</i>	WME	<i>Tychius stephensi</i>	WPA
<i>Otiorhynchus liguricus</i>	INT		
<i>Otiorhynchus lugens</i>	SEU	ERIRHINIDAE	
<i>Otiorhynchus moriger</i>	END	<i>Procas armillatus</i>	EUM
<i>Otiorhynchus ovatulus</i>	END		
<i>Otiorhynchus schembrii</i>	END	RAYMONDIONYMIDAE	
<i>Pachycerus segnis</i>	CAM	<i>Alaocyba melitensis</i>	END
<i>Pachytychius hordei</i>	MED		
<i>Pselactus spadix</i>	COS	DRYOPHTHORIDAE	
<i>Pseudocleonus cinereus</i>	ASE	<i>Rhynchophorus ferrugineus</i>	INT
<i>Rhamphus oxyacanthae</i>	EUR	<i>Sitophilus granarius</i>	COS
<i>Rhinocyllus conicus</i>	CEM	<i>Sitophilus oryzae</i>	COS
<i>Rhinusa antirrhini</i>	EUM	<i>Sitophilus zeamais</i>	COS
<i>Rhinusa herbarum</i>	SEU	<i>Sphenophorus parumpunctatus</i>	MED
<i>Rhinusa moroderi</i>	MED		
<i>Rhytideres plicatus</i>	MED	SCOLYTIDAE	
<i>Sharpia rubida</i>	TEM	<i>Coccotrypes dactyliperda</i>	COS
<i>Sibinia arenariae</i>	TUM	<i>Crypturgus cylindricollis</i>	EME
<i>Sibinia femoralis</i>	CEM	<i>Crypturgus numidicus</i>	EME

Table 1. Chorological categories of Maltese Curculionoidea (cont.).

<i>Dactylotrypes longicollis</i>	EUM	<i>Phloeotribus scarabaeoides</i>	WPA
<i>Hylesinus varius</i>	PAL	<i>Pityogenes calcaratus</i>	EUM
<i>Hylurgus micklitzi</i>	EUM	<i>Scolytus amygdali</i>	EUM
<i>Hypoborus ficus</i>	EUM	<i>Scolytus ensifer</i>	EUR
<i>Hypocryphalus scabricollis</i>	INT	<i>Scolytus mali</i>	HOL
<i>Hypothenemus eruditus</i>	COS	<i>Scolytus rugulosus</i>	HOL
<i>Hypothenemus leprieurii</i>	MED	<i>Scolytus sulcifrons</i>	WPA
<i>Kissophagus hederiae</i>	EUM	<i>Thamnurgus characiae</i>	WME
<i>Liparthrum mori</i>	EUM	<i>Xyleborinus saxesenii</i>	COS
<i>Orthotomicus erosus</i>	HOL	<i>Xyleborus ferrugineus</i>	COS
<i>Phloeosinus thujae</i>	EUM	<i>Xyleborus volvulus</i>	COS

Widespread Mediterranean elements of the chorological category MED (Mediterranean) are 28 (16.97%), also species of various ecology, and some wingless taxa like *Brachycerus* spp. and *Leptolepurus meridionalis*.

Members of the chorological categories WME (western Mediterranean) and EME (eastern Mediterranean) have a more limited distribution in the Mediterranean. The western Mediterranean elements are 21 (12.72%): they are thermophilous species for a number of which Malta is the easternmost known locality like the flightless *Otiiorhynchus affaber*, *O. juvenis*, *Brachycerus albidentatus* and the winged *Cercomorphus duvalii*, *Ceratapion robusticorne* and *Melaleucus spoliatus*. Very interesting is the presence of 3 species (1.82%) having mostly an eastern Mediterranean range. For *Cosmobaris alboseriata* Malta is the westernmost locality known thus far.

A few taxa have a mainly North African distribution, abbreviated as NAF (North African). They are represented by 5 species (3.03%), and four among them, *Brachypera fallax*, *B. parvithorax*, *Smicronyx rufipennis* and *Tychius pauperculus* are not known to occur in nearby Sicily, and Malta being the only known European locality for the latter three species.

Some curculionids have an Italian subendemic distribution, sometimes extending to northern Balkans. Combining the categories ITA (Italian) and APD (Apennines and northern Balkans) we have 4 species (2.42%). It is to be noted that both *Mecinus fairmairei* and *Coniocleonus pseudobliquus*, although occurring in Italy, are not mentioned in the ABBAZZI & MAGGINI (2009) Italian checklist.

Two weevils, *Cycloderes belonis* and *Trachyphloeus melitensis* (1.22%) occur only in Malta and Sicily (abbreviation SIC). The former is a parthenogenetic species, and both are flightless.

The last chorological category considered is that of the endemic species (END) not known to occur outside Malta. Assuming that the microphtalmous *Echinodera* sp. near *variegata* is truly an endemic weevil, they are represented by eight species (4.85%), all wingless, three of which are blind soil-dwellers. A weevil present in Malta but not in Sicily or mainland Italy is *Limobius mixtus*, a species with an unusual distribution: Atlantic coasts of France and Belgium, North Africa and Malta.

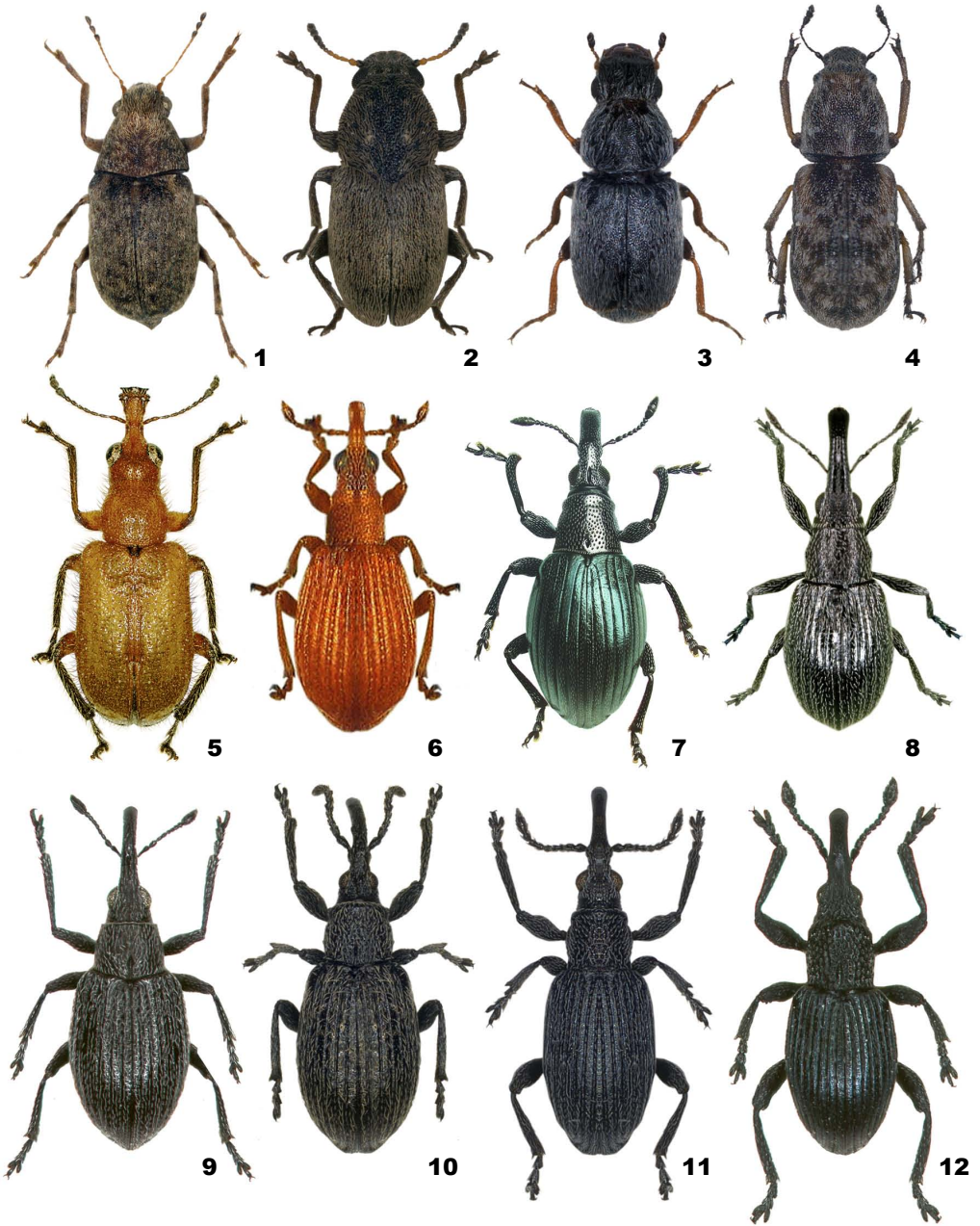
Analysing the above percentages, it is evident that the number of the widespread species is the highest (45.45%), followed by the Mediterranean (*sensu lato*) (31.51%), European (11.52%), endemics (4.85%), North African (3.03%), Italian (2.42%), Sicilian (1.22%). These findings are well in accordance on one hand with the geographical position of the Maltese archipelago, almost at the centre of the Mediterranean basin, and on the other with the history of its settlement by man.

As for the possibly endangered species in the Maltese archipelago, we can point out that a few are associated with sand dunes, which, as noted in the introduction, are being over-exploited mainly due to touristic “development”. A small but true sand dune is today found only in Ramla, Gozo, whereas in the other islands there are just remnants possibly unable to sustain a permanent population of related weevils. Indeed in Gozo lives the endemic *Otiorhynchus ovatulus*, and Ramla is also the only Maltese locality for *Brachypera lunata* and *Leptolepurus meridionalis*. The remaining endemic species (although some having localized distributions), do not seem to be facing extinction, of course assuming that their habitats are not destroyed, which does not appear likely at present.

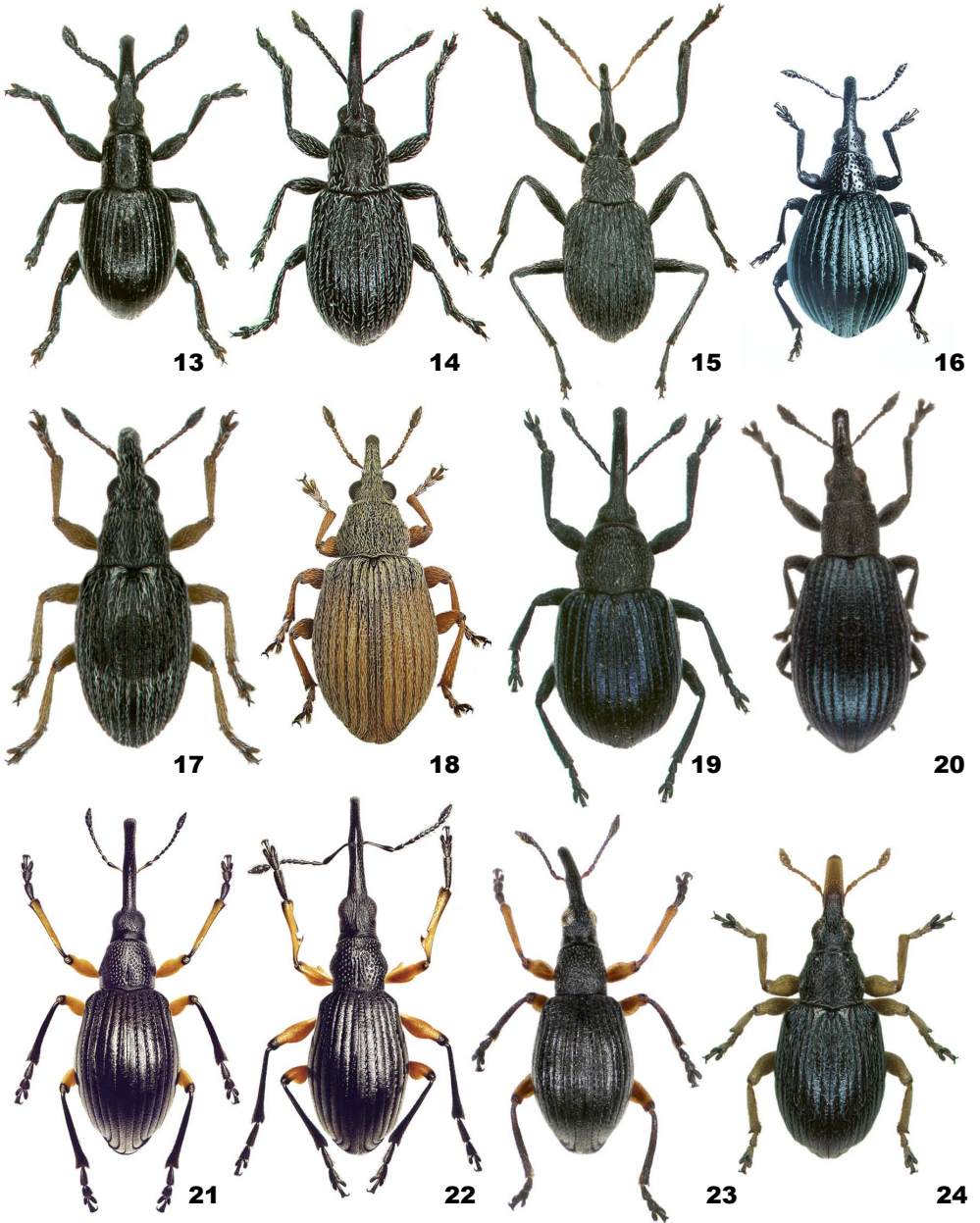
Some other curculionids have not been found in recent times. We can mention *Cercomorphus duvalii*, *Apion haematodes*, *Aspidapion aeneum*, *Catapion pubescens*, *Ceratapion onopordi*, *Ceratapion robusticorne*, *Eutrichapion vorax*, *Holotrichapion pisi*, *Omphalapion dispar*, *Protapion apricans*, *Nanophyes hemisphaericus*, *Charagmus intermedius*, *Coelositona ocellatus*, *Cycloderes belonis*, *Gronops lunatus*, *Hypera jucunda*, *Hypera nigrirostris*, *Mesites cunipes*, *Mesites pallidipennis*, *Orthochaetes setiger*, *Otiorhynchus affaber*, *Sibinia primita*, *Sitona cinnamomeus*, *Trichosirocalus centrimacula*, *Tychius grenieri*, *Hylesinus varius* and *Scolytus sulcifrons*. Some of these are actually very difficult to collect because they are elusive and require specialized methods of searching and are probably not so vulnerable, like *Mesites cunipes*, *Hylesinus varius* and *Scolytus sulcifrons*. For some others the currently dramatic status of their natural habitats points to their extinction in Malta. The list also includes species introduced with cultivations which did not become established, like *Catapion pubescens*, *Eutrichapion vorax*, *Holotrichapion pisi*, *Protapion apricans*, *Charagmus intermedius*, *Hypera nigrirostris* and *Sitona cinnamomeus*, species normally common on cultivated Fabaceae across their whole range. This can also apply to *Hypera melancholica*, not collected again in Malta since the nineteen seventies. Particular cases are those of *Aspidapion aeneum*, a very common species in Europe on Malvaceae, and of *Ceratapion onopordi*, also common on many thistles across all its widespread range. Although their host plant are easy to find all across the Maltese islands, they are only known from very old and isolated records.

Other species not found for at least 35 years are *Scolytus mali* and *Asproparthenis maculicollis*. Whereas the former is probably only rarely met with because of its nocturnal flying period and infrequent massive hatchings, the suitable habitats of the latter are nowadays so reduced that one can expect a rapid extinction of *A. maculicollis*.

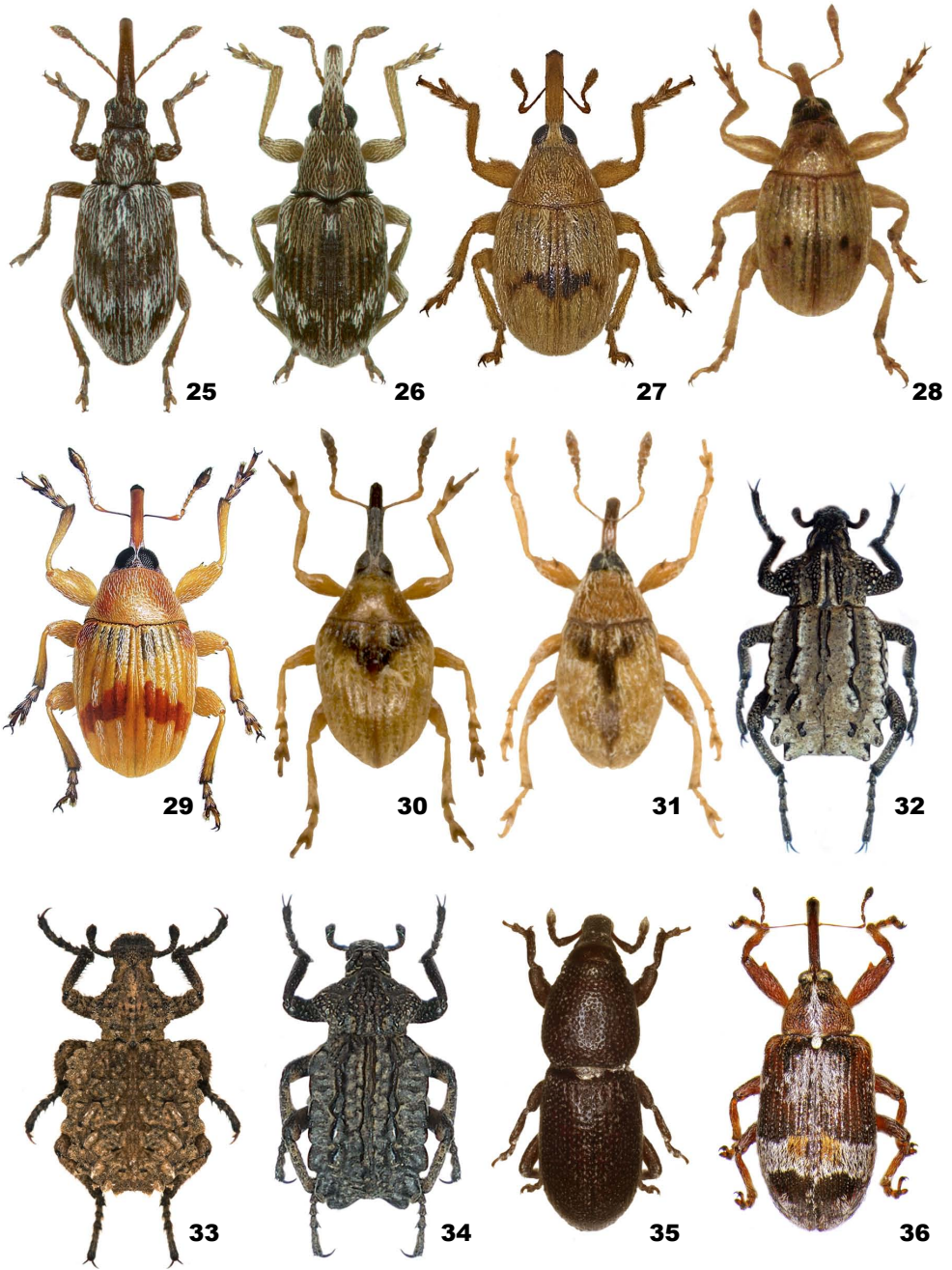
On the other hand, it seems that in Malta there is still the possibility to discover unknown species, such as *Amaurorhinus*, *Echinodera* and *Hypera* in addition to two other taxa whose identification is still problematic, *Ceratapion damryi* and *Otiorhynchus affaber*.



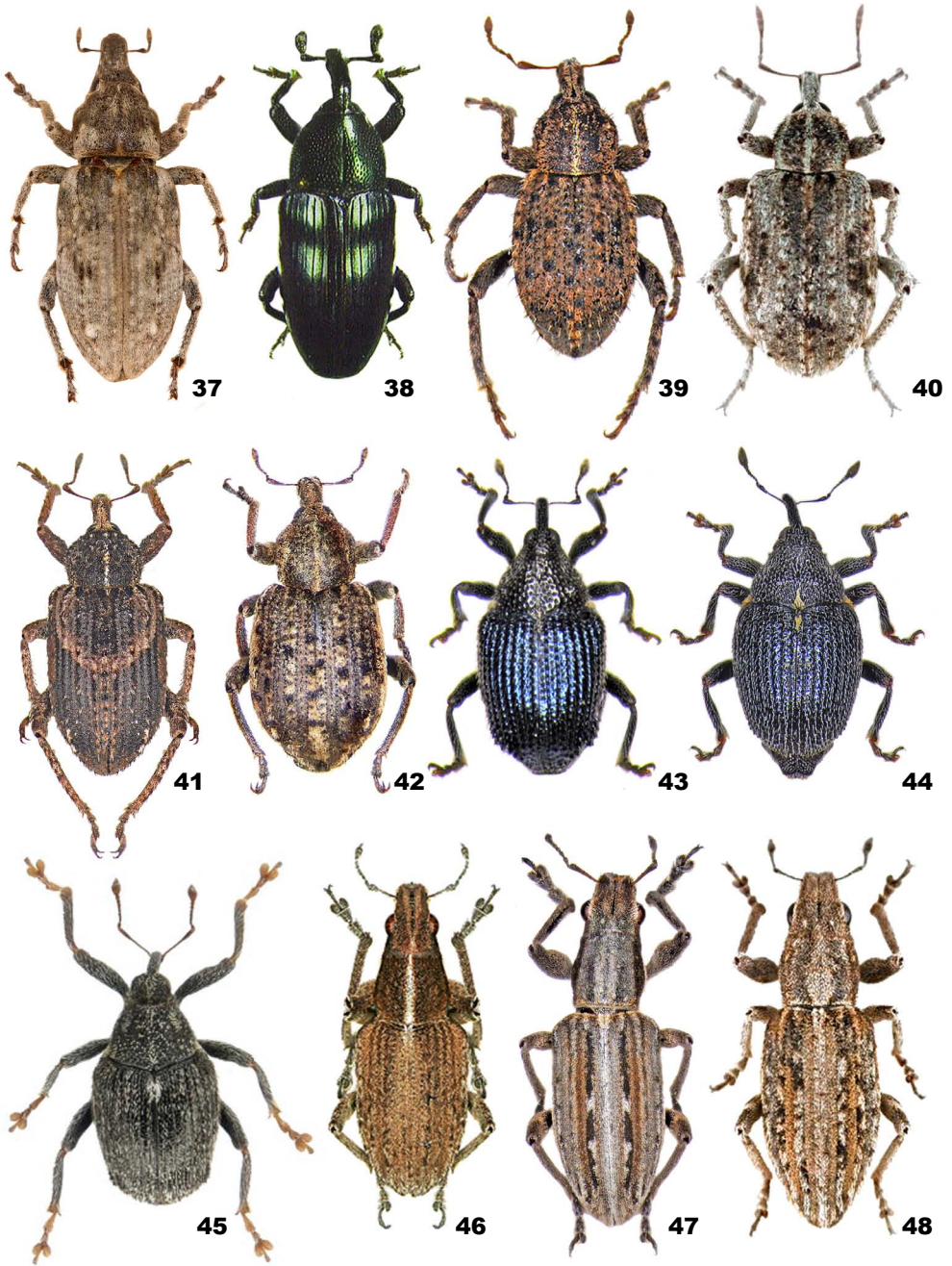
Figures 1-4: ANTHRIBIDAE. 1: *Araecerus fasciculatus*; 2: *Bruchela cana*; 3: *Cercomorphus duvalii*; 4: *Noxius curtirostris*. Figure 5: RHYNCHITIDAE, *Nelasiorhynchites praeustus*. Figures 6-26: APIONIDAE. 6: *Apion haematodes*; 7: *Aspidapion aeneum*; 8: *Aspidapion radiolus*; 9: *Catapion pubescens*; 10: *Ceratapion damryi*; 11: *C. gibbirostre*; 12: *C. onopordi*.



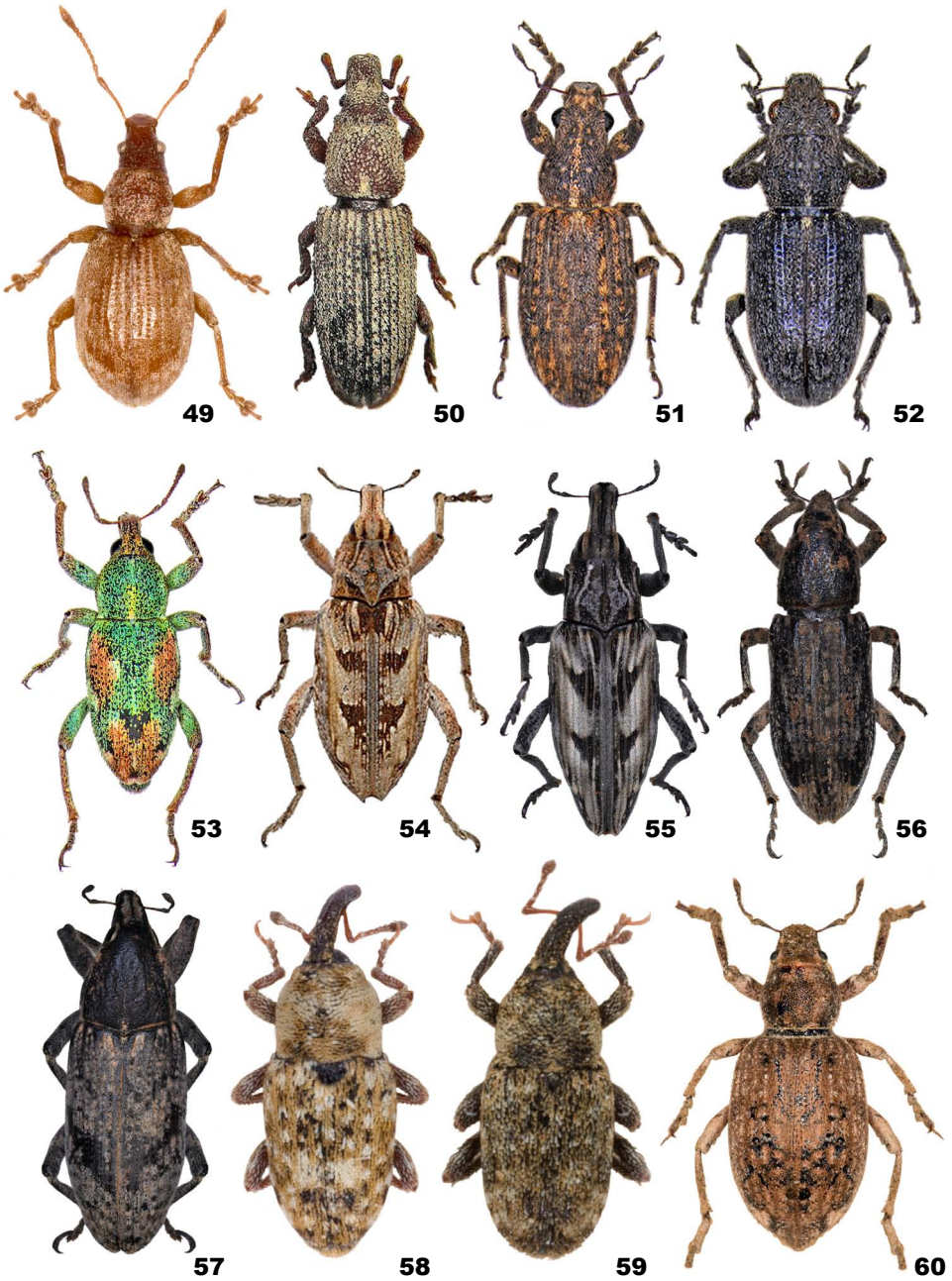
13: *Ceratapion robusticorne*; 14: *Diplapion detritum*; 15: *Eutrichapion vorax*; 16: *Holotrichapion pisi*; 17: *Kalcapion semivittatum*; 18: *Malvapion malvae*; 19: *Omphalapion dispar*; 20: *Perapion violaceum*; 21: *Protapion apricans*; 22: *P. dentipes*; 23: *P. interjectum*; 24: *Pseudapion rufirostre*.



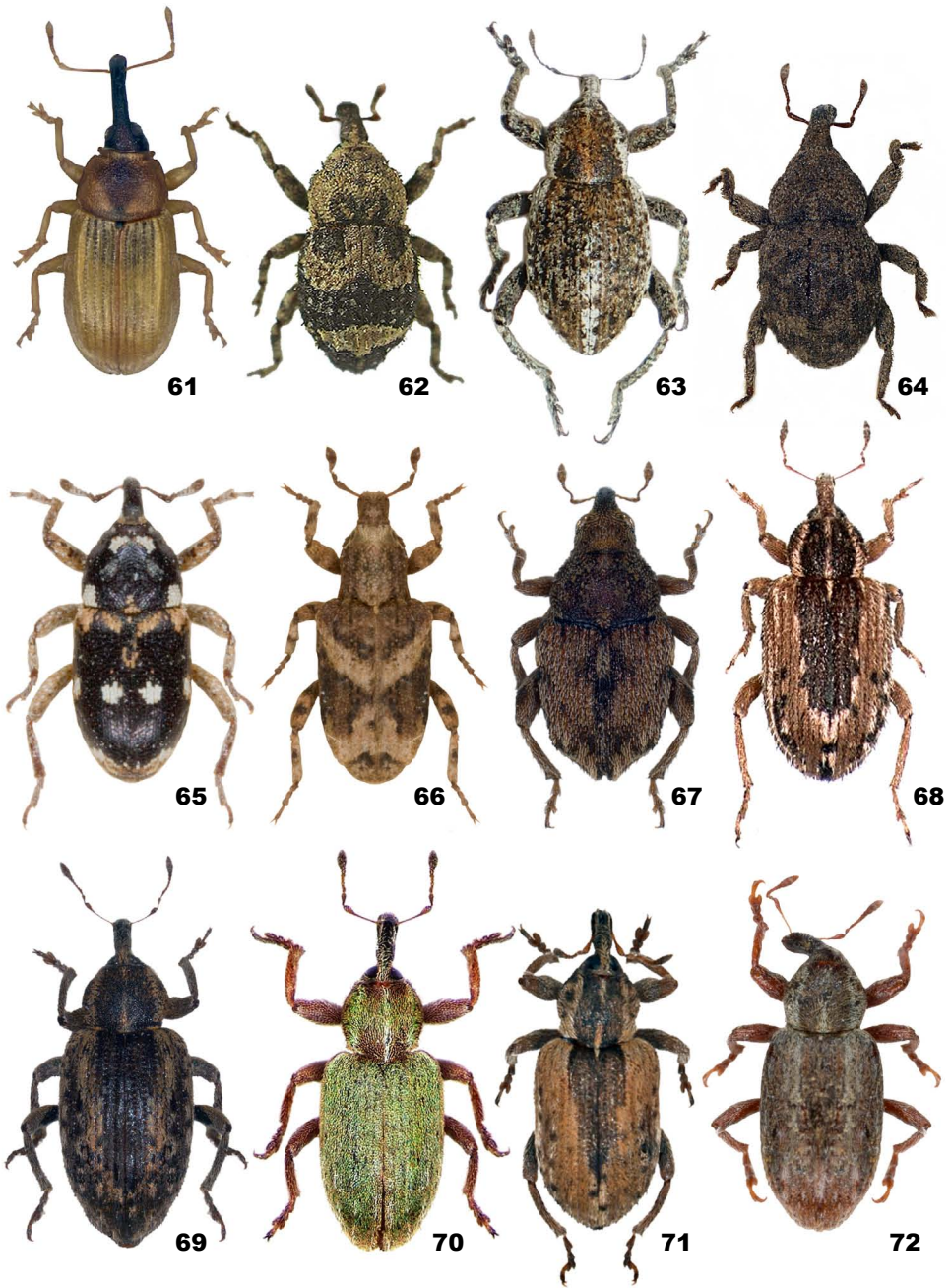
25: *Taeniapion rufescens*; 26: *T. rufulum*. **Figures 27-31: NANOPHYIDAE.** 27: *Corimalia centromaculata*; 28: *C. pallida*; 29: *C. tamarisci*; 30: *Nanophyes hemisphaericus*; 31: *N. nitidulus*. **Figures 32-34: BRACHYCERIDAE.** 32: *Brachycerus albidentatus*; 33: *B. muricatus*; 34: *B. undatus*. **Figures 35-76: CURCULIONIDAE.** 35: *Amaurorhinus bewickianus*; 36: *Anthonomus amygdali*.



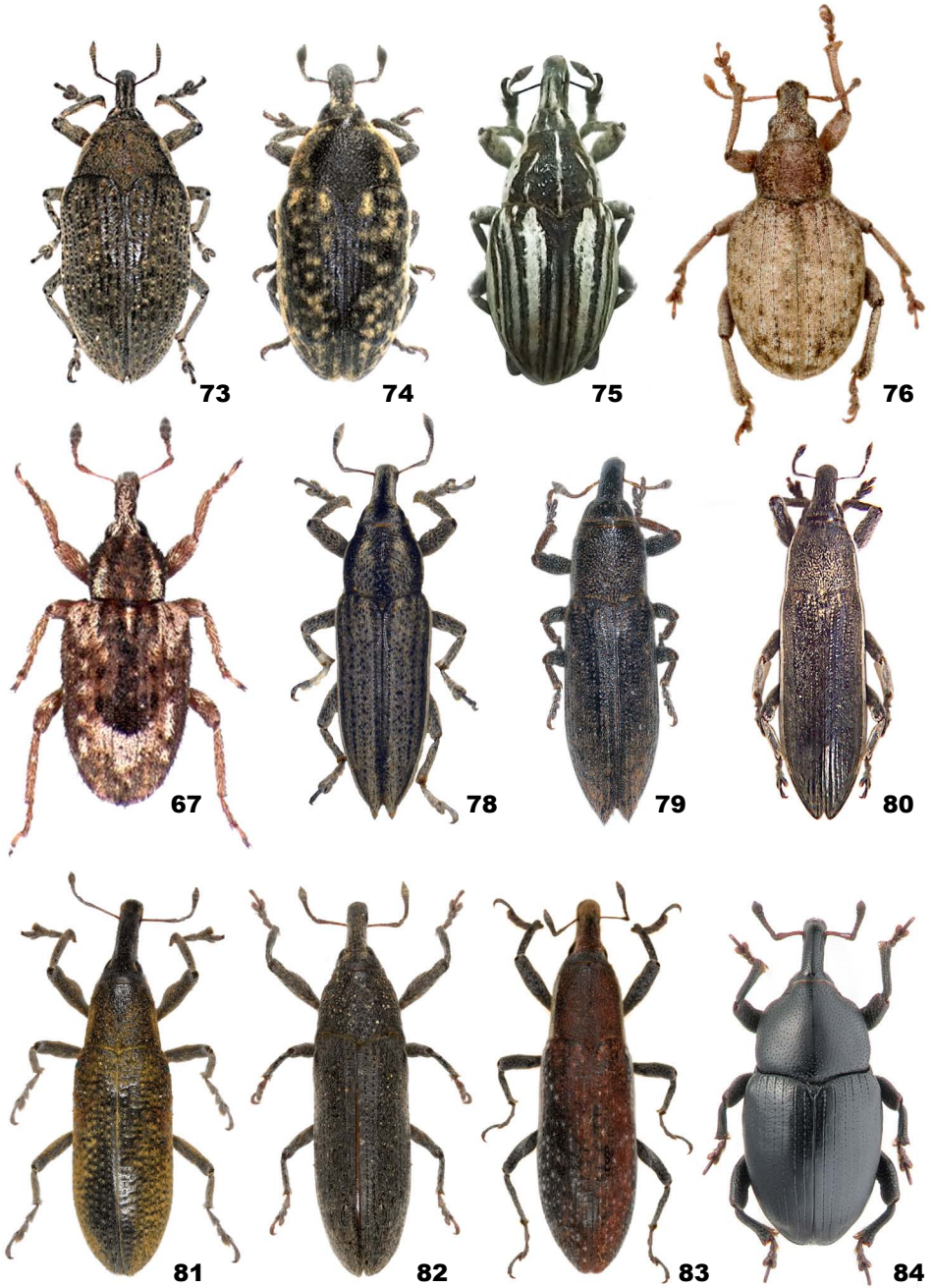
37: *Asproparthenis maculicollis*; 38: *Aulacobaris coeruleascens*; 39: *Brachypera crinita*; 40: *B. parvithorax*; 41: *B. lunata*; 42: *B. zoilus*; 43: *Ceutorhynchus leprieuri*; 44: *C. melitensis*; 45: *C. pallidactylus*; 46: *Charagmus gressorius*; 47: *C. intermedius*; 48: *C. variegatus*.



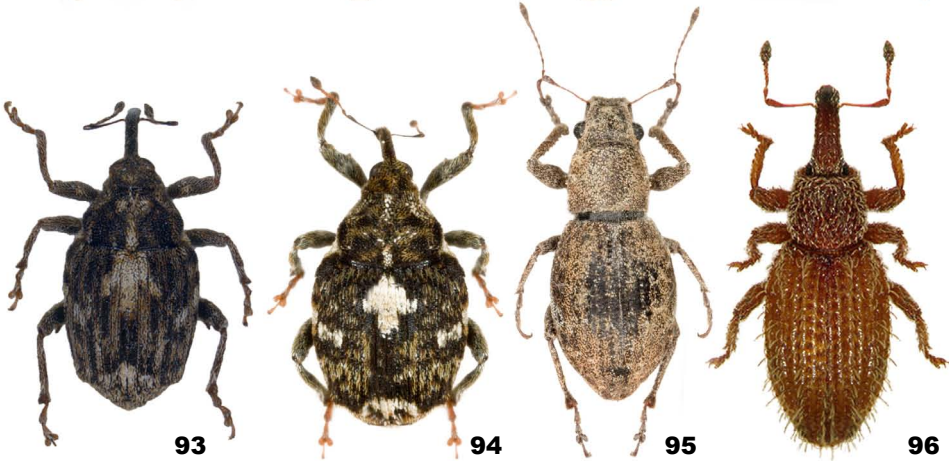
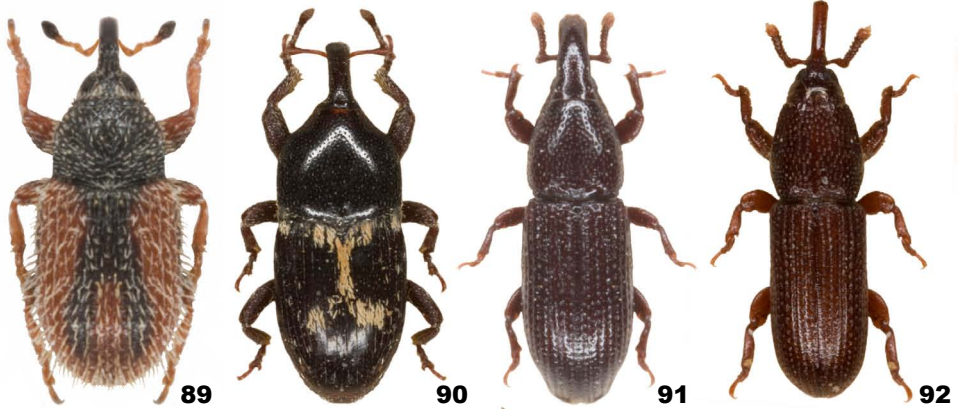
49: *Chiloneus hoffmanni*; 50: *Choerorhinus squalidus*; 51: *Coelositona ocellatus*; 52: *C. puberulus*; 53: *Coniatus tamarisci*; 54: *Coniocleonus excoriatus*; 55: *C. pseudobliquus*; 56: *Conorhynchus brevisrostris*; 57: *C. mendicus*; 58: *Cosmobaris alboseriata*; 59: *C. scolopacea*; 60: *Cycloderes belonis*.



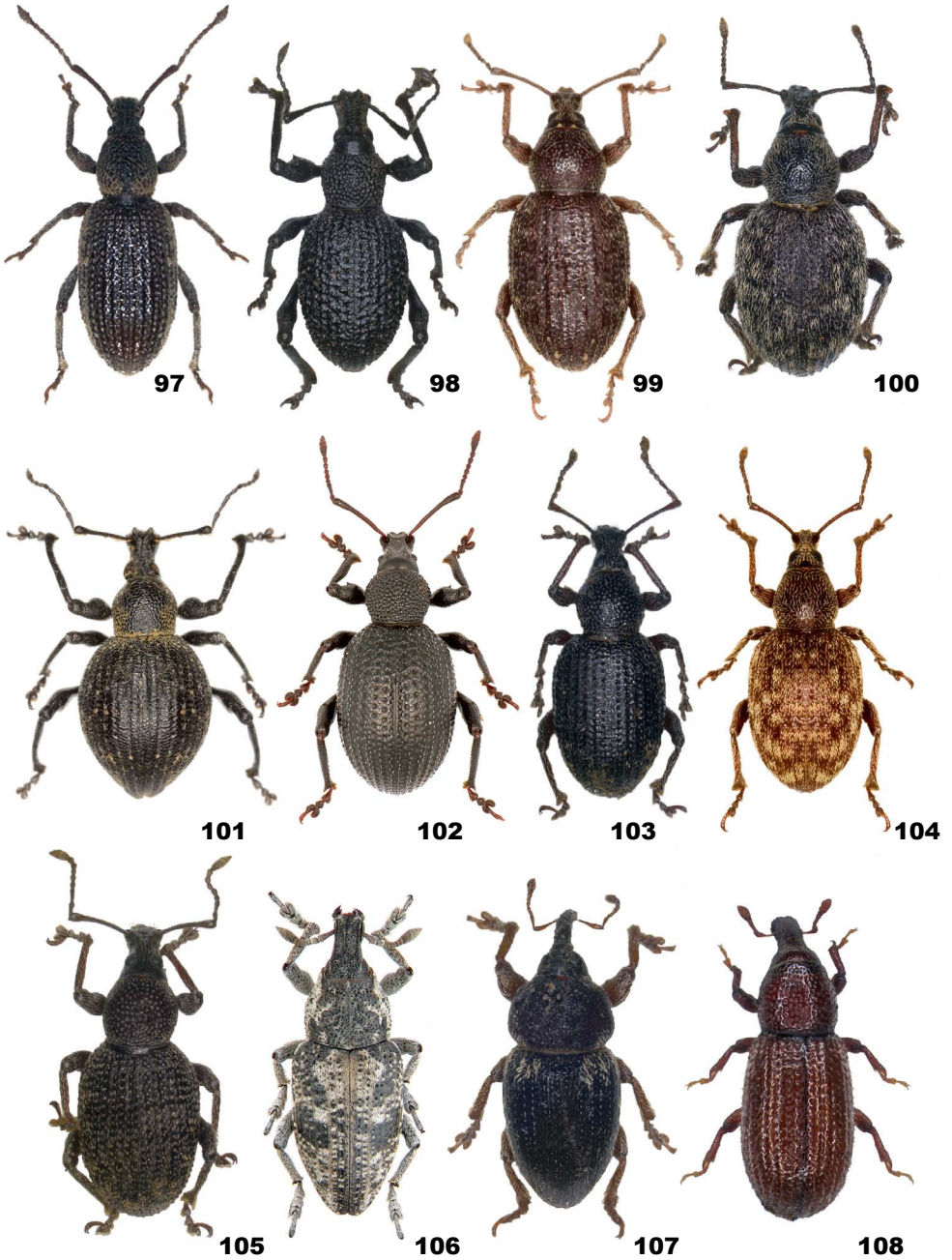
61: *Derelomus chamaeropsis*; 62: *Dichromacalles diocletianus*; 63: *Donus philantus*; 64: *Echinodera* sp. near *E. variegata*; 65: *Eremobaris picturata*; 66: *Gronops lunatus*; 67: *Hypurus bertrandi*; 68: *Hypera jucunda*; 69: *H. melancholica*; 70: *H. nigrirostris*; 71: *H. postica*; 72: *H.* sp. near *H. tenuirostris*.



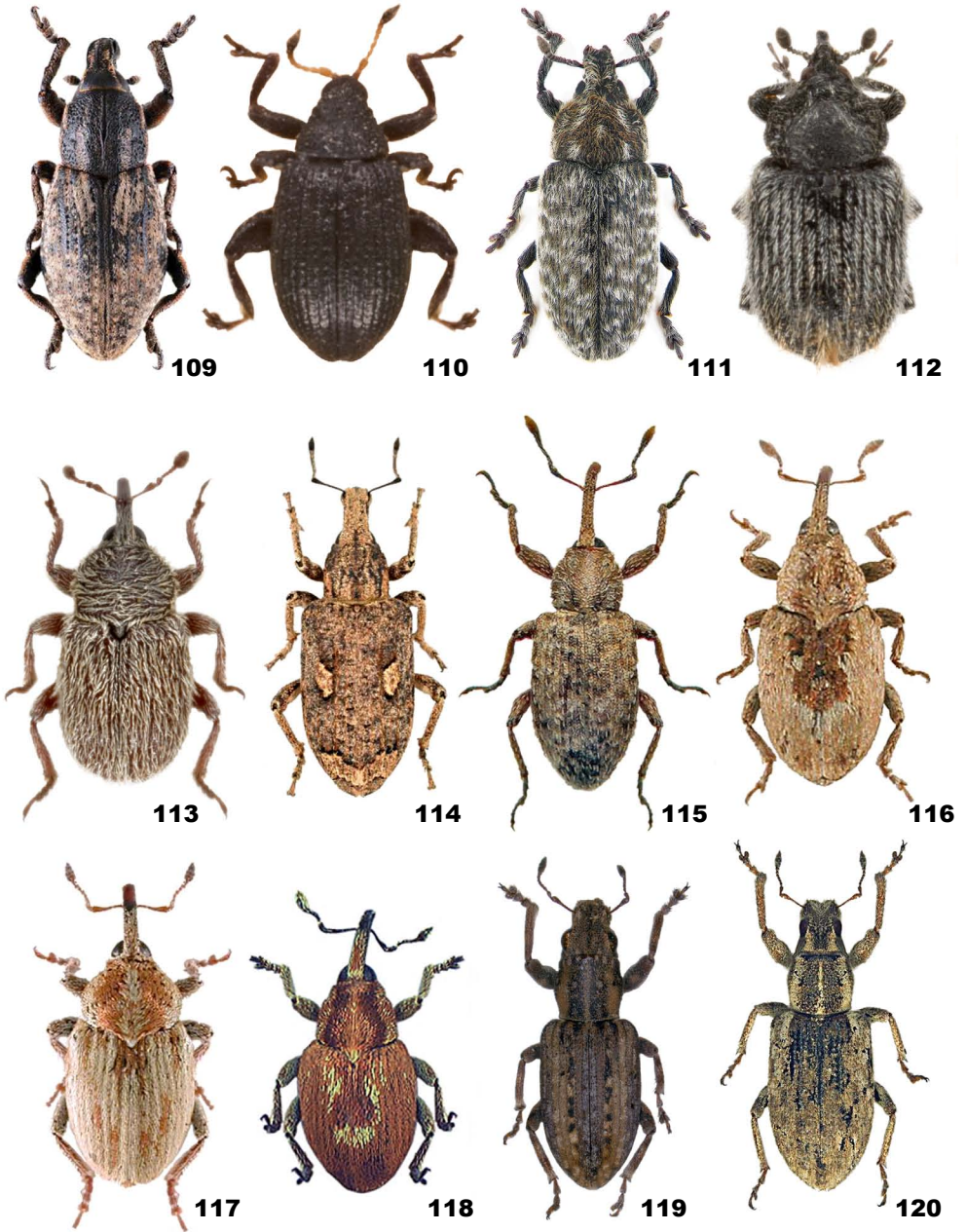
73: *Larinus cynarae*; 74: *L. flavescens*; 75: *L. ursus*; 76: *Leptolepurus meridionalis*; 77: *Limobius mixtus*; 78: *Lixus anguinus*; 79: *L. brevirostris*; 80: *L. juncii*; 81: *L. pulverulentus*; 82: *L. punctiventris*; 83: *L. vilis*; 84: *Malvaevora timida*.



85: *Mecinus circulatus*; 86: *M. fairmairei*; 87: *M. pyraster*; 88: *M. simus*; 89: *M. variabilis*; 90: *Melaleucus spoliatus*; 91: *Melicius gracilis*; 92: *Mesites cunipes*; 93: *Microplontus rugulosus*; 94: *Mogulones peregrinus*; 95: *Naupactus cervinus*; 96: *Orthochaetes setiger*.



97: *Otiorhynchus affaber*; 98: *O. armatus*; 99: *O. cribricollis*; 100: *O. juvenicus*; 101: *O. liguricus*; 102: *O. lugens*; 103: *O. moriger*; 104: *O. ovatulus*; 105: *O. schembrii*; 106: *Pachycerus segnis*; 107: *Pachytychius hordei*; 108: *Pselactus spadix*.



109: *Pseudocleonus cinereus*; 110: *Rhamphus oxyacanthae*; 111: *Rhinocyllus conicus*; 112: *Rhinusa antirrhini*; 113: *R. herbarum*; 114: *Rhytideres plicatus*; 115: *Sharpia rubida*; 116: *Sibinia arenariae*; 117: *S. femoralis*; 118: *S. primita*; 119: *Sitona cinnamomeus*; 120: *S. discoideus*.



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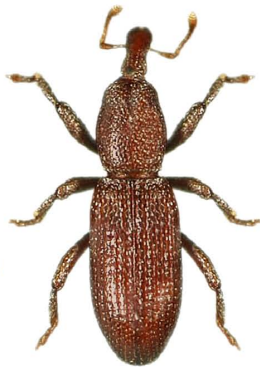
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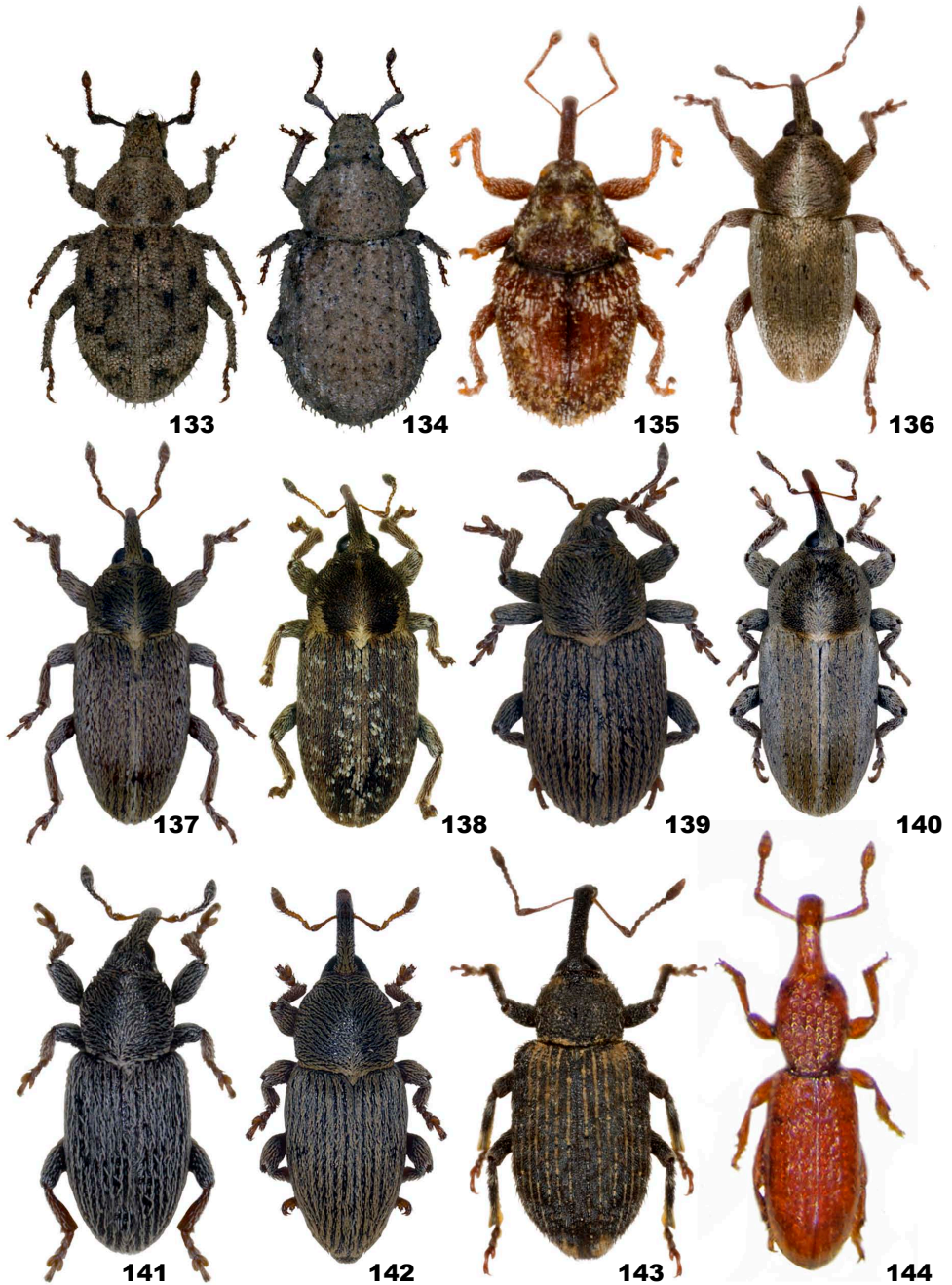


131

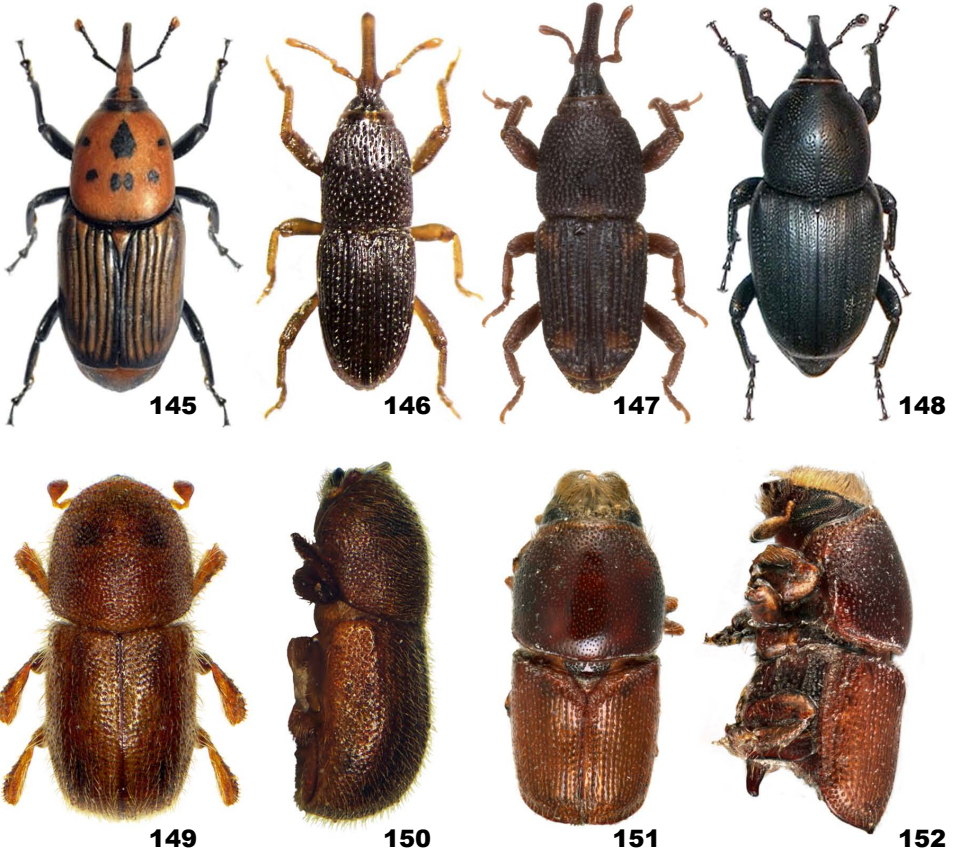


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121: *Sitona lineatus*; 122: *S. macularius*; 123: *S. virgatus*; 124: *Smicronyx brevicornis*; 125: *S. cyaneus*; 126: *S. jungermanniae*; 127: *S. rufipennis*; 128: *Stenocarus cardui*; 129: *Strophomorpha porcellus*; 130: *Styphloderes exsculptus*; 131: *Torneuma maltense*; 132: *T. strictum*.



133: *Trachyphloeus laticollis*; 134: *T. melitensis*; 135: *Trichosirocalus centrimacula*; 136: *Tychius argentatus*; 137: *T. bicolor*; 138: *T. grenieri*; 139: *T. meliloti*; 140: *T. pauperculus*; 141: *T. pusillus*; 142: *T. stephensi*. **Figure 143:** ERIRHINIDAE, *Procas armillatus*. **Figure 144:** RAYMONDIONYMIDAE, *Alaocyba melitensis*.



Figures 145-148: DRYOPHTHORIDAE. 145: *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*; 146: *Sitophilus granarius*; 147: *S. zeamais*; 148: *Sphenophorus parumpunctatus*. **Figures 149-152: SCOLYTIDAE.** 149, 150: dorsal and lateral view of *Dactylotrypes longicollis*; 151, 152: dorsal and lateral view of *Scolytus ensifer*.

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APPENDIX I - Checklist of the Curculionoidea of Malta with families and subfamilies arranged taxonomically (after ABBAZZI & MAGGINI, 2009) and tribes, genera and species listed alphabetically.

ANTHRIBIDAE Billberg, 1820

Anthribinae Billberg, 1820

Zygaenodini Lacordaire, 1866

1. *Noxius curtirostris* (Mulsant & Rey, 1861)

Choraginae Kirby, 1819

Araecerini Lacordaire, 1866

2. *Araecerus fasciculatus* (De Geer, 1775)

Urodontinae C.G. Thomson, 1859

Urodontini C.G. Thomson, 1859

3. *Bruchela cana* (Küster, 1848)
4. *Cercomorphus duvalii* Perris, 1864

RHYNCHITIDAE Gistel, 1848

Rhynchitinae Gistel, 1848

Rhynchitini Gistel, 1848

5. *Nelasioryhynchites praeustus* (Boheman, 1845)

APIONIDAE Schoenherr, 1823

Apioninae Schoenherr, 1823

Apionini Schoenherr, 1823

6. *Apion haematodes* Kirby, 1808

Aplemonini Kissinger, 1968

7. *Perapion hydrolapathi* (Marsham, 1802)
8. *Perapion violaceum* (Kirby, 1808)

Aspidapiini Alonso-Zarazaga, 1991

9. *Aspidapion aeneum* (Fabricius, 1775)
10. *Aspidapion radiolus* (Marsham, 1802)

Ceratapiini Alonso-Zarazaga, 1991

11. *Ceratapion damryi* (Desbrochers, [1894])
12. *Ceratapion gibbirostre* (Gyllenhal, 1813)
13. *Ceratapion onopordi* (Kirby, 1808)
14. *Ceratapion robusticorne* (Desbrochers, 1866)
15. *Diplapion detritum* (Mulsant & Rey, 1858)
16. *Omphalapion dispar* (Germar, 1817)

Kalcapiiini Alonso-Zarazaga, 1991

17. *Kalcapion semivittatum* (Gyllenhal, 1833)
18. *Taeniapion rufescens* (Gyllenhal, 1833)
19. *Taeniapion rufulum* (Wencker, 1864)

Malvapiini Alonso-Zarazaga, 1991

20. *Malvapion malvae* (Fabricius, 1775)
21. *Pseudapion rufirostre* (Fabricius, 1775)

Oxystomatini Alonso-Zarazaga, 1991

22. *Catapion pubescens* (Kirby, 1811)
23. *Eutrichapion vorax* (Herbst, 1797)
24. *Holotrichapion pisi* (Fabricius, 1801)

Piezotrachelini Voss, 1959

25. *Protapion apricans* (Herbst, 1797)
26. *Protapion dentipes* (Gerstäcker, 1854)
27. *Protapion interjectum* (Desbrochers, 1895)

NANOPHYIDAE Gistel, 1848

Nanophyinae Gistel, 1848

Corimaliini Alonso-Zarazaga, 1989

28. *Corimalia centromaculata* (Costa, 1863)
29. *Corimalia pallida* (Olivier, 1807)
30. *Corimalia tamarisci* (Gyllenhal, 1838)

Nanophyini Gistel, 1848

31. *Nanophyes hemisphaericus* (Olivier, 1807)
32. *Nanophyes nitidulus* Gyllenhal, 1838

BRACHYCERIDAE Billberg, 1820

Brachycerinae Billberg, 1820

Brachycerini Billberg, 1820

33. *Brachycerus albidentatus* Gyllenhal, 1840
34. *Brachycerus muricatus* Olivier, 1790
35. *Brachycerus undatus* (Fabricius, 1798)

CURCULIONIDAE Latreille, 1802

Entiminae Schoenherr, 1823

Alophini LeConte, 1874

36. *Rhytideres plicatus* (Olivier, 1790)

Brachyderini Schoenherr, 1826

37. *Strophomorphus porcellus* (Schoenherr, 1832)

Cneorhinini Lacordaire, 1863

38. *Leptolepurus meridionalis* (Jacquelin du Val, 1854)

Naupactini Gistel, 1848

39. *Naupactus cervinus* Boheman, 1840

Otiiorhynchini Schoenherr, 1826

40. *Otiiorhynchus affaber* Boheman, 1843
41. *Otiiorhynchus armatus* Boheman, 1843*
42. *Otiiorhynchus cribricollis* Gyllenhal, 1834
43. *Otiiorhynchus juvencus* Gyllenhal, 1834
44. *Otiiorhynchus liguricus* Apfelbeck, 1897*
45. *Otiiorhynchus lugens* (Germar, 1817)
46. *Otiiorhynchus moriger* Reitter, 1914
47. *Otiiorhynchus ovatulus* Boheman, 1843
48. *Otiiorhynchus schembrii* Magnano, 1992

Sciaphilini Sharp, 1891

49. *Chiloneus hoffmanni* (González, 1970)

Sitonini Gistel, 1848

50. *Charagmus gressorius* (Fabricius, 1792)
51. *Charagmus intermedius* (Küster, 1847)
52. *Charagmus variegatus* (Fåhraeus, 1840)
53. *Coelositona ocellatus* (Küster, 1849)

54. *Coelositona puberulus* (Reitter, 1903)
55. *Sitona cinnamomeus* Allard, 1863
56. *Sitona discoideus* Gyllenhal, 1834
57. *Sitona lineatus* (Linnaeus, 1758)
58. *Sitona macularius* (Marsham, 1802)
59. *Sitona virgatus* Fähræus, 1840

Tanymecini Lacordaire, 1863

60. *Cycloderes belonis* (Desbrochers, 1872)

Trachyphloeini Gistel, 1848

61. *Trachyphloeus laticollis* Boheman, 1843
62. *Trachyphloeus melitensis* Borovec & Osella, 1993

Lixinae Schoenherr, 1823

Cleonini Schoenherr, 1826

63. *Asproparthenis maculicollis* (Chevrolat, 1873)
64. *Coniocleonus excoriatus* (Gyllenhal, 1834)
65. *Coniocleonus pseudobliquus* (G. Müller, 1921)
66. *Conorhynchus brevirostris* (Gyllenhal, 1834)
67. *Conorhynchus mendicus* (Gyllenhal, 1834)
68. *Pachycerus segnis* (Germar, 1824)
69. *Pseudocleonus cinereus* (Schrank, 1781)

Lixini Schoenherr, 1823

70. *Larinus cynarae* (Fabricius, 1787)
71. *Larinus flavescens* Germar, 1824
72. *Larinus scolymi* (Olivier, 1807)
73. *Larinus ursus* (Fabricius, 1792)
74. *Lixus anguinus* (Linnaeus, 1767)
75. *Lixus brevirostris* Boheman, 1836
76. *Lixus juncii* Boheman, 1836
77. *Lixus pulverulentus* (Scopoli, 1763)
78. *Lixus punctiventris* Boheman, 1836
79. *Lixus vilis* (Rossi, 1790)
80. *Rhinocyllus conicus* (Frölich, 1792)

Cyclominae Schoenherr, 1826

Hipporhinini Lacordaire, 1863

81. *Gronops lunatus* (Fabricius, 1775)

Phytonominae Gistel, 1848

Phytonomini Gistel, 1848

82. *Coniatus tamarisci* (Fabricius, 1787)
83. *Brachypera crinita* (Boheman, 1834)
84. *Brachypera fallax* (Capiomont, 1867)
85. *Brachypera lunata* (Wollaston, 1854)
86. *Brachypera parvithorax* (Desbrochers, 1896)
87. *Brachypera zoilus* (Scopoli, 1763)
88. *Donus philantus* (Olivier, 1790)
89. *Hypera jucunda* (Capiomont, 1868)
90. *Hypera melancholica* (Fabricius, 1792)
91. *Hypera nigrirostris* (Fabricius, 1775)
92. *Hypera postica* (Gyllenhal, 1813)

93. *Hypera* sp. near *tenuirostris* (Petri, 1901)

94. *Limobius mixtus* (Boheman, 1834)

Molytinae Schoenherr, 1823

Molytini Schoenherr, 1823

95. *Styphloderes exsculptus* (Boheman, 1843)

Cryptorhynchinae Schoenherr, 1825

Cryptorhynchini Schoenherr, 1825

96. *Dichromacalles diocletianus* (Germar, 1817)

97. *Echinodera* sp. near *variegata* (Boheman, 1837)

Torneumatini Bedel, 1884

98. *Torneuma maltense* Magnano & Mifsud, 2001

99. *Torneuma strictum* Magnano & Mifsud, 2001

Cossoninae Schoenherr, 1825

Choerorhinini Folwaczny, 1973

100. *Choerorhinus squalidus* Fairmaire, 1858

Cossonini Schoenherr, 1825

101. *Mesites cunipes* (Boheman, 1837)

102. *Mesites pallidipennis* (Boheman, 1837)

Dryotribini LeConte, 1876

103. *Amaurorhinus bewickianus* (Wollaston, 1860)

104. *Amaurorhinus* sp. near *paganettii* (Ganglbauer, 1903)

Onycholipini Wollaston, 1873

105. *Pselactus spadix* (Herbst, 1795)

Rhyncolini Gistel, 1856

106. *Melicius gracilis* (Rosenhauer, 1856)

Ceutorhynchinae Gistel, 1848

Ceutorhynchini Gistel, 1848

107. *Ceutorhynchus leprieuri* C. Brisout, 1881

108. *Ceutorhynchus melitensis* Schultze, 1900

109. *Ceutorhynchus pallidactylus* (Marsham, 1802)

110. *Microplontus rugulosus* (Herbst, 1795)

111. *Mogulones peregrinus* (Gyllenhal, 1837)

112. *Stenocarus cardui* (Herbst, 1784)

113. *Stenocarus ruficornis* (Stephens, 1831)

114. *Trichosirocalus centrimacula* (Schultze, 1899)

Hypurini Schultze, 1902

115. *Hypurus bertrandi* (Perris, 1852)

Baridinae Schoenherr, 1836

Baridini Schoenherr, 1836

116. *Aulacobaris coerulescens* (Scopoli, 1763)

117. *Cosmobaris alboseriata* (Reitter, 1908)

118. *Cosmobaris scolopacea* (Germar, 1824)

119. *Eremobaris picturata* (Ménétries, 1849)

120. *Malvaevora timida* (Rossi, 1792)

121. *Melaleucus spoliatus* (Boheman, 1836)

Curculioninae Latreille, 1802

Anthonomini C.G. Thomson, 1859

122. *Anthonomus amygdali* Hustache, 1930

- Derelomini Lacordaire, 1866
 123. *Derelomus chamaeropsis* (Fabricius, 1792)
- Mecinini Gistel, 1848
 124. *Mecinus circulatus* (Marsham, 1802)
 125. *Mecinus fairmairei* Tournier, 1873
 126. *Mecinus pyraaster* (Herbst, 1795)
 127. *Mecinus simus* (Mulsant & Rey, 1858)
 128. *Mecinus variabilis* (Rosenhauer, 1856)
 129. *Rhinusa antirrhini* (Paykull, 1800)
 130. *Rhinusa herbarum* (H. Brisout, 1862)
 131. *Rhinusa moroderi* (Reitter, 1906)
- Rhamphini Rafinesque, 1815
 132. *Rhamphus oxyacanthae* (Marsham, 1802)
- Smicronychini Seidlitz, 1891
 133. *Sharpia rubida* (Rosenhauer, 1856)
 134. *Smicronyx albosquamosus* (Wollaston, 1854)
 135. *Smicronyx brevicornis* F. Solari, 1874
 136. *Smicronyx cyaneus* (Gyllenhal, 1836)
 137. *Smicronyx jungermanniae* (Reich, 1797)
 138. *Smicronyx rufipennis* Tournier, 1874
- Storeini Lacordaire, 1863
 139. *Pachytychius hordei* (Brullé, 1832)
- Styphlini Jekel, 1861
 140. *Orthochaetes setiger* (Beck, 1817)
- Tychiini Gistel, 1848
 141. *Sibinia arenariae* Stephens, 1831
 142. *Sibinia femoralis* Germar, 1824
 143. *Sibinia primita* (Herbst, 1795)
 144. *Tychius argentatus* Chevrolat, 1859
 145. *Tychius bicolor* C. Brisout, 1862
 146. *Tychius grenieri* C. Brisout, 1861
 147. *Tychius meliloti* Stephens, 1831
 148. *Tychius pauperculus* Tournier, 1873
 149. *Tychius pusillus* Germar, 1842
 150. *Tychius stephensi* Schoenherr, 1836

ERIRHINIDAE Schoenherr, 1825

Eirrhiniinae Schoenherr, 1825

- Eirrhinini Schoenherr, 1825
 151. *Procas armillatus* (Fabricius, 1801)

RAYMONDIONYMIDAE Reitter, 1913

Raymondionyminae Reitter, 1913

- Raymondionymini Reitter, 1913
 152. *Alaocyba melitensis* Magnano & Mifsud, 1998

DRYOPHTHORIDAE Schoenherr, 1825

Rhynchophorinae Schoenherr, 1833

- Litosomini Lacordaire, 1866
 153. *Sitophilus granarius* (Linnaeus, 1758)

154. *Sitophilus oryzae* (Linnaeus, 1763)
 155. *Sitophilus zeamais* Motschulsky, 1855
 Rhyncophorini Schoenherr, 1833
 156. *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Olivier, 1790)
 Sphenophorini Lacordaire, 1866
 157. *Sphenophorus parumpunctatus* (Gyllenhal, 1837)

SCOLYTIDAE Latreille, 1804

Scolytinae Latreille, 1804

- Cryphalini Lindemann, 1876
 158. *Hypocryphalus scabricollis* (Eichhoff, 1878)
 159. *Hypothenemus eruditus* Westwood, 1836
 160. *Hypothenemus leprieurii* (Perris, 1866)
 Crypturgini LeConte, 1876
 161. *Crypturgus cylindricollis* Eggers, 1940
 162. *Crypturgus numidicus* Ferrari, 1867
 Dryocoetini Lindemann, 1876
 163. *Coccotrypes dactyliperda* (Fabricius, 1801)
 164. *Dactylotrypes longicollis* (Wollaston, 1864)
 165. *Thammurgus characiae* Rosenhauer, 1878
 Hylesinini Erichson, 1836
 166. *Hylesinus varius* (Fabricius, 1775)
 167. *Kissophagus hederæ* Schmitt, 1843
 Hypoborini Nüsslin, 1911
 168. *Hypoborus ficus* Erichson, 1836
 169. *Liparthrum mori* (Aubé, 1862)
 Ipini Bedel, 1888
 170. *Orthotomicus erosus* (Wollaston, 1857)
 171. *Pityogenes calcaratus* (Eichhoff, 1878)
 Phloeosinini Nüsslin, 1912
 172. *Phloeosinus thujæ* (Perris, 1855)
 Phloeotribini Chapuis, 1869
 173. *Phloeotribus scarabaeoides* (Bernard, 1788)
 Scolytini Latreille, 1804
 174. *Scolytus amygdali* Guérin-Méneville, 1847
 175. *Scolytus ensifer* Eichhoff, 1881
 176. *Scolytus mali* (Bechstein, 1805)
 177. *Scolytus rugulosus* (P.W.J. Müller, 1818)
 178. *Scolytus sulcifrons* Rey, 1892
 Tomicini C. G. Thomson, 1869
 179. *Hylurgus micklitzi* Wachtl, 1881
 Xyleborini LeConte, 1876
 180. *Xyleborinus saxesenii* (Ratzeburg, 1837)
 181. *Xyleborus ferrugineus* (Fabricius, 1801)*
 182. *Xyleborus volvulus* (Fabricius, 1775)*

* Introduced and intercepted species whose establishment in Malta is not confirmed.