

A new genus and species of Aphodiini (Coleoptera: Aphodiidae) inhabiting burrows of small mammals in Lebanon's mountains

by Stefano Ziani

Abstract. *Grandinaphodius inferorum* n. gen. n. sp. is described from Lebanon (type locality: Faraya, Jounie prov.), found at the entrance to the burrows of small mammals. Data on the ecology and biology are provided, and drawings of epipharynx, labium, male genitalia and dorsal habitus of both male and female are given. Based on the study of its holotype, the new combination *Euorodalus elephantinus* (Petrovitz, 1967) is proposed.

Kurzfassung. *Grandinaphodius inferorum* n. gen. n. sp. wird aus dem Libanon beschrieben (Typus-Fundort: Faraya, Provinz Jounie). Die Art wurde an Öffnungen von Kleinsäugerbauten gefunden. Daten zur Ökologie und Biologie werden mitgeteilt, und der Epipharynx, das Labium, die männlichen Genitalien und der dorsale Habitus von Männchen und Weibchen werden mit Zeichnungen dargestellt. Auf Grundlage der Untersuchung des Holotypus wird die neue Kombination *Euorodalus elephantinus* (Petrovitz, 1967) vorgeschlagen.

Key words. New combination, morphology, systematics, biology, ecology, Middle East.

The new species described here has shows a combination of external morphological features, sexual secondary dimorphism, epipharynx and male genitalia characters previously unknown in the Aphodiini, and this has persuaded me to describe a new genus. In this, I follow the taxonomic and nomenclatural criteria recently set out by DELLACASA et al. (2001) in their monographic work on the Aphodiinae.

The spelling of place names is in accordance with the "Map of Lebanon 2001", published by GEOproject, Reading (England).

Grandinaphodius n. gen.

Type species. *Grandinaphodius inferorum* n. sp.

Etymology. From the Latin "*grando*, *grandinis*", hail, and *Aphodius*. The name refers both to the wrinkled surface of the elytra in the type species, with striae strongly crenulate, and to the hailstorm during which the first specimen was collected. The gender is masculine.

Description. Genus of Aphodiini with small body size (the following crude division of the Aphodiini, in terms of their body size is here adopted: body length 5 mm or less = small; body length 6 to 11 mm = medium; body length 12 mm or more = large), oval-elongate, convex.