ISSN 1211-8788 *Acta Musei Moraviae, Scientiae biologicae*
104(1): 35–44, 2019

On the *Leptusa* fauna of the Caucasus region II. A new species and additional records from Georgia, and three new synonymies (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Aleocharinae)

Volker Assing

Gabelsbergerstr. 2, D-30163 Hannover, Germany; e-mail: vassing.hann@t-online.de

Assing V. 2019: On the *Leptusa* fauna of the Caucasus region II. A new species and additional records from Georgia, and three new synonymies (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Aleocharinae). *Acta Musei Moraviae, Scientiae biologicae* **104(1):** 35–44. – *Leptusa* (*Stictopisalia*) *shavshetica* sp. nov. (Southwest Georgia: Adjara: Shavsheti Range), is described, illustrated, and distinguished from similar species. Three synonymies are proposed: *Leptusa* (*Roubaliusa*) *trapezuntis* Pace, 1983 = *L. giresunensis* Sert, Turan et Kabalak, 2019, syn. nov.; *Leptusa* (*Neopisalia*) *microphthalma* Reitter, 1887 = *L. circassica* Bernhauer, 1935, syn. nov.; *Leptusa* (*Stictopisalia*) *subcaucasica* Pace, 1983 = *L. pseudocaucasica* Pace, 1983, syn. nov. Additional records of six species of *Leptusa* Kraatz, 1858 are reported from Georgia. The distributions of three species are mapped. The Caucasian *Leptusa* fauna currently includes 38 valid species in five subgenera.

Keywords. Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Staphylininae, Aleocharinae, *Leptusa*, taxonomy, new species, new synonymies, new records, endemism, Caucasus, Georgia

Introduction

According to a recent review (Assing 2017), the speciose genus *Leptusa* Kraatz, 1858 was represented in the Caucasus region including Northeast Turkey (from Ordu to the border with Georgia), Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and the Russian part of the Greater Caucasus by 39 species in five subgenera, one in the nominal subgenus, two in *Dysleptusa* Pace, 1982, 28 in *Neopisalia* Scheerpeltz, 1966, two in *Roubaliusa* Scheerpeltz, 1966, and six in *Stictopisalia* Scheerpeltz, 1966. With one exception, the distributions of all the species are confined to the Caucasus region, where two species are rather widespread and the remainder more or less regionally or locally endemic. Two species, one of *Neopisalia* and one of *Stictopisalia,* were originally described based exclusively on females and were consequently of doubtful identity. Four species were described only in the past decade (Assing 2011, 2017), suggesting that additional species remain to be discovered. Very recently, Sert *et al.* (2019) described a new species of the subgenus *Roubaliusa* from Giresun, Northeast Turkey.

The present study presents the results of three field trips conducted to Georgia in the meantime, two by Volker Brachat (Geretsried) and Heinrich Meybohm (Großhansdorf) in spring 2018 and 2019, and one by Michael Schülke (Berlin) and the author in summer 2019. The material collected during these field trips not only included additional records of rare and locally endemic species, but also an undescribed species from Southwest Georgia. In addition, the identities of the three remaining doubtful species of the Caucasian fauna are addressed.

Material and methods

The material treated in this study is deposited in the following collections:

MNB . . . . . Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin (incl. coll. Schülke; J. Frisch, M. Schülke)
NHMW . . . . . Naturhistorisches Museum Wien (H. Schillhammer)
NMP . . . . . National Museum of Natural History, Prague (J. Hájek)
cAss . . . . . author´s private collection

The morphological studies were conducted using Stemi SV 11 and Discovery V12 microscopes (Zeiss), as well as a Jenalab compound microscope (Carl Zeiss Jena). The images were created using digital cameras (Axiocam ERc 5s, Nikon Coolpix 990), and Labscope and Picolay stacking software. The maps were created using MapCreator 2.0 (primap) software.

The measurements are given in mm. Body length was measured from the anterior margin of the labrum to the posterior margin of the abdominal tergite VIII, the length of the forebody from the anterior margin of the labrum to the posterior margin of the elytra, head length from the anterior margin of the clypeus to the posterior constriction of the head, elytral length at the suture from the apex of the scutellum to the posterior margin of the elytra, and the length of the median lobe of the aedeagus from the apex of the ventral process to the base of the aedeagal capsule. The "parameral" side of the aedeagus (i.e., the side where the sperm duct enters) is referred to as the ventral, the opposite side as the dorsal aspect.

Results

Leptusa (*Roubaliusa*) *trapezuntis* Pace, 1989

Leptusa (*Roubaliusa*) *trapezuntis* Pace, 1989: 61 ff.
Leptusa (*Roubaliusa*) *giresunensis* Sert *et al.*, 2019: 35 ff.; **syn. nov.**

Comment. With only nine species described up to 2009, *Roubaliusa* is one of the smaller subgenera of *Leptusa* (Pace 1989, Assing 2009b). The species have moderately restricted, mostly allo- and rarely parapatric distributions. Except for North Iran, from where five species have been recorded, the distributions of individual species are separated by pronounced gaps: *Leptusa epirensis* Pace, 1989 is known only from the Timfi Oros (Greece: Ipiros), *L. salonichia* Bernhauer, 1914 from Northeast Greece and South Bulgaria, *L. trapezuntis* from Northeast Turkey, and *L. storkani* Roubal, 1917 from the western part of the Greater Caucasus. The distributions of the latter two species are mapped in Assing (2017). Sympatric distribution patterns are unknown in the subgenus.

Leptusa trapezuntis was originally described based on type material from Gürgentepe, Ordu province, Northeast Anatolia (Pace 1989). It was subsequently reported from three additional localities in Ordu, three in Giresun, and one in Gümüşhane provinces, Northeast Turkey (Assing 2003, 2007, 2009a).

Sert *et al.* (2019) described *L. giresunensis* based on specimens from two localities in Giresun province, i.e., more or less in the middle of the range of *L. trapezuntis*. Instead

of comparing these specimens with actual material of *L. trapezuntis*, they compared them only with the drawings provided by Pace (1989), which they copied [sic] in their description together with – again copies of – illustrations of *L. flagrifera* Assing, 2009 from North Iran. A comparison of their illustrations with material from the whole range of *L. trapezuntis* (in cAss) revealed no differences whatsoever suggesting that the type material of *L. giresunensis* should represent a distinct species. The different shape of the spermatheca illustrated in Pace (1989) and copied by Sert *et al.* (2019) – a character of generally little or no significance in *Leptusa* taxonomy – may be explained by artefacts resulting from inadequate preparation. Alternatively, keeping in mind the external similarity of many *Leptusa* species and the fact that in Northeast Anatolia two or more *Leptusa* species may be found syntopically, the possibility that Pace (1989) figured the spermatheca of a different species cannot be ruled out entirely. In any case, the identical male sexual characters are evidence that *L. trapezuntis* and *L. giresunensis* refer to the same species; hence the synonymy proposed above.

Leptusa (*Dysleptusa*) *fuliginosa* (Aubé, 1850)

Material examined. Georgia: Racha: 1♂, 1♀, Likheti, 42°05′32″N, 43°13′35″E, 800 m, 27.V.2018, leg. Brachat & Meybohm (cAss). **Kakheti:** 2♂♂, 2♀♀, Shuamta, 41°54′38″N, 45°24′26″E, 1000 m, beech forest, litter sifted, 10.V.2019, leg. Brachat & Meybohm (cAss); 1♂, 1♀, Gombori-Pass, 41°51′43″N, 45°17′59″E, 1440 m, deciduous forest, litter sifted, 12.V.2019, leg. Brachat & Meybohm (cAss). **Adjara:** 1♂, Gobroneti, 41°40′16″N, 42°02′37″E, 1280 m, 24.V.2018, leg. Brachat & Meybohm (cAss). **Guria:** 1♀, NE Bakhmaro, 41°53′10″N, 42°21′40″E, 1640 m, secondary forest with rhododendron, laurel, and *Carpinus*, litter sifted, 14.V.2019, leg. Brachat & Meybohm (cAss).

Comment. *Leptusa fuliginosa* is one of the most widespread of the Caucasian species.

Leptusa (*Neopisalia*) *venusta* (Hochhuth, 1849)

Material examined. Georgia: Racha: 2♂♂, 2♀♀, Likheti, 42°05′32″N, 43°13′35″E, 800 m, 27.V.2018, leg. Brachat & Meybohm; 1♂, 1♀, Abari, 42°36′48″N, 43°15′44″E, 760 m, 27.V.2018, leg. Brachat & Meybohm; 2♂♂, 3♀♀, E Shovi, 42°41′16″N, 43°41′55″E, 1720 m, 28.V.2018, leg. Brachat & Meybohm; 1♂, 1♀, E Shovi, 42°41′29″N, 43°41′40″E, 1700 m, 28.V.2018, leg. Brachat & Meybohm; 3♂♂, 2♀♀, W Glola, 42°42′16″N, 43°35′41″E, 1170 m, 28.V.2018, leg. Brachat & Meybohm; 3♀♀, Ghebi, 42°45′09″N, 43°32′11″E, 1310 m, 29.V.2018, leg. Brachat & Meybohm. **Kakheti:** 1♂, Shuamta, 41°54′38″N, 45°24′26″E, 1000 m, beech forest, litter sifted, 10.V.2019, leg. Brachat & Meybohm; 1♀, Birkiani, 42°13′24″N, 45°19′15″E, 760 m, grassy road margin (under stones) and deciduous forest, litter sifted, 11.V.2019, leg. Brachat & Meybohm; 1♂, Gombori-Pass, 41°51′43″N, 45°17′59″E, 1440 m, deciduous forest, litter sifted, 12.V.2019, leg. Brachat & Meybohm. **Adjara:** 1♀, Shavsheti Range, SW Khulo, 41°35′04″N, 42°15′08″E, 610 m, mixed forest margin with rhododendron and fern undergrowth, sifted, 13.VII.2019, leg. Assing; 1♂, 1♀, Meskheti Range, NW Khulo, 41°42′46″N, 42°19′52″E, 920 m, stream valley with predominant walnut and hazelnut, moist litter near stream sifted, 14.VII.2019, leg. Assing; 1♂, N Chvana, 41°42′45″N, 42°10′52″E, 850 m, 25.V.2018, leg. Brachat & Meybohm; 1♀, E Chakvistavi, 41°40′38″N, 41°52′38″E, 380 m, dry forest litter sifted, 19.V.2019, leg. Brachat & Meybohm; 1♀, E Chakvistavi, 41°40′34″N, 41°52′49″E, 360 m, road margin, deciduous forest margin, litter sifted, 20.V.2019, leg. Brachat & Meybohm; 1♀, Gomismta, 41°50′21″N, 42°08′34″E, 1520 m, secondary forest with laurel, rhodondron, and *Carpinus*, litter sifted, 22.V.2019, leg. Brachat & Meybohm; 4 exs., Meskheti Range, NE Khulo, 41°42′17″N, 42°21′49″E, 1120 m, E-slope with predominant *Corylus*, mostly *Corylus* litter sifted, 12.VII.2019, leg. Schülke. **Guria:** 1♀, NE Bakhmaro, 41°53′10″N, 42°21′40″E, 1640 m,

secondary forest with rhododendron, laurel, and *Carpinus*, litter sifted, 15.V.2019, leg. Brachat & Meybohm; 1♂, 1♀, Kvaghba–Zoti, 41°55′05″N, 42°24′18″E, 530 m, flood plain forest (alder), litter sifted, 16.V.2019, leg. Brachat & Meybohm. **Imereti:** 1♀, 2 exs., Meskheti Range, SE Sairme, 41°52′07″N, 42°46′53″E, 1820 m, degraded forest with predominant spruce, mushrooms, spruce bark, and litter of spruce, *Acer*, and *Sambucus* sifted, 20.VII.2019, leg. Assing & Schülke; 1♂, 1♀, S Sairme, 41°51′26″N, 42°47′23″E, 1930 m, 19.V.2018, leg. Brachat & Meybohm; 1 ex., NW Baghdati, 42°08′52″N, 42°45′43″E, 120 m, oak forest, bark of dead oak trees sifted, 24.VII.2019, leg. Schülke. **Samtskhe-Javakheti:** 1♀, 1 ex., Trialeti Range, S Bakuriani, 41°42′21″N, 43°30′08″E, 2090 m, birch trees at tree line, litter and grass sifted, 6.VII.2019, leg. Assing & Schülke; Trialeti Range, S Bakuriani, 41°43′11″N, 43°29′41″E, 1870 m, forest with predominant alder, litter near small stream sifted, 7.VII.2019, leg. Assing; 3♂♂, 6♀♀, 5 exs., Trialeti Range, N Bakuriani, E Tsaghveri, 41°47′22″N, 43°32′29″E, 1170 m, mixed forest margin, litter on scree sifted, 8.VII.2019, leg. Assing & Schülke; 1♂, 1♀, 1 ex., Trialeti Range, SW Bakuriani, 41°43′54″N, 43°30′10″E, 1820 m, moist mixed forest (alder, pine), litter sifted, 10.VII.2019, leg. Assing & Schülke. Material in deposited in MNB and cAss.

Comment. *Leptusa venusta* is the most common of the Caucasian species of the genus. Its distribution is mapped in Assing (2017).

Leptusa (*Neopisalia*) *microphthalma* Reitter, 1887

Leptusa microphthalma Reitter, 1887: 260 f.
Leptusa circassica Bernhauer, 1935: 128; **syn. nov.**

Type material examined. Holotype ♀: "♂, ♀ nec ♂ Pace / Cirkassien, v. Rost gkft. / [word illegible]?, von Rost as *caucasica* Epp. / *Leptusa caucasica circassica* / *circassica* Bernh. Typus / Dr. M. Bernhauer donavit 10.XI.1942 / Typus *Leptusa circassica* Dr. Bernhauer / *Leptusa microphthalma* Reitter, det. V. Assing 2019" (NHMW).

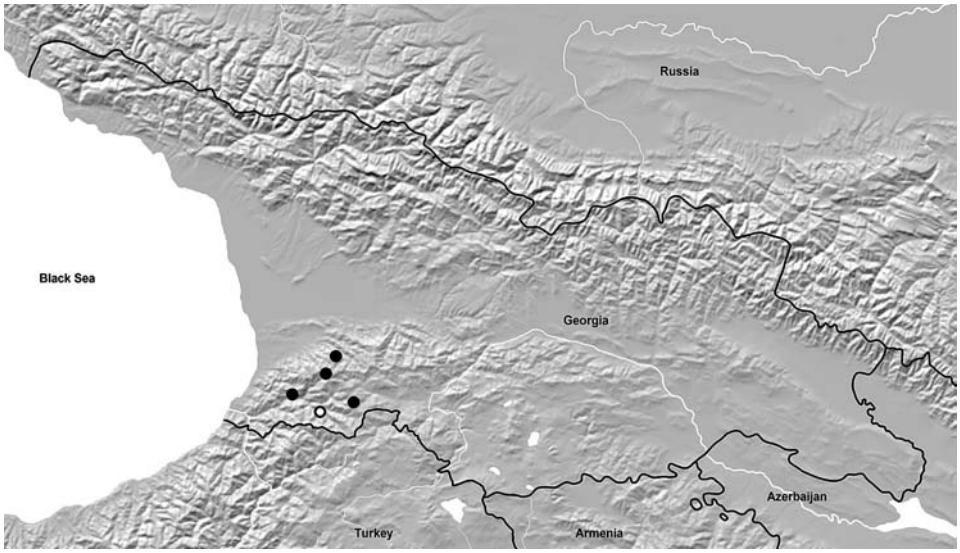
Comment. In the original description of *Leptusa circassica*, which is based on "ein einzelnes Stück" from "Circassien", Bernhauer (1935) compared the species with *L. merkli* Bernhauer, 1900 from Turkey, a species now assigned to the subgenus *Stictopisalia*. Pace (1989) illustrated the spermatheca of the holotype and assigned *L. circassica* to *Neopisalia*. The species has never been recorded again since the original description.

An examination of the holotype revealed that it is identical to *L. microphthalma*, a name made available nearly 50 years prior to *L. circassica* and consequently the senior synonym. *Leptusa microphthalma* is one of the more common species in the West Caucasus; for a distribution map see Assing (2017).

Leptusa (*Neopisalia*) *xanthopyga* Eppelsheim, 1880

Material examined. Georgia: Racha: 1♂, Racha, Likheti, 42°05′32″N, 43°13′35″E, 800 m, 27.V.2018, leg. Brachat & Meybohm (cAss). **Imereti:** 2 exs. [identified by M. Schülke], NW Baghdati, 42°08′52″N, 42°45′43″E, 120 m, oak forest, bark of dead oak trees sifted, 24.VII.2019, leg. Schülke (MNB).

Comment. This species is rather widespread, but rare in the western Caucasus region; for a distribution map see Assing (2017). The above specimen from Likheti represents the first record from the Racha region.



Map 1. Distributions of *Leptusa shavshetica* (white circle) and *L. triangulata* (black circles).

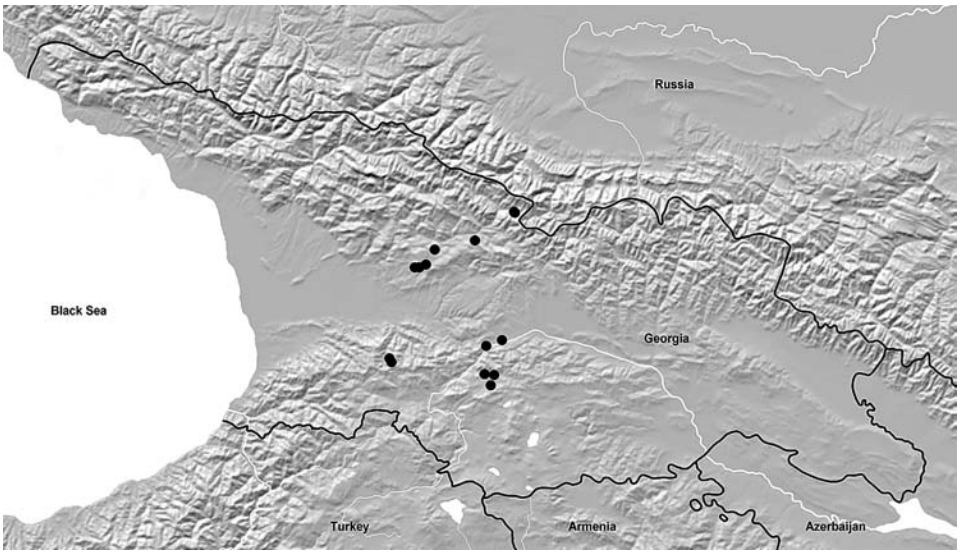
Leptusa (*Neopisalia*) *triangulata* Assing, 2017 (Map 1)

Material examined. Georgia: Adjara: 4♂♂, 4♀♀, 6 exs., Meskheti Range, NNW Khulo, 41°47′19″N, 42°17′25″E, 2010 m, mixed beech and spruce forest, forest margin, beech litter, mushroom, and debris in ditch with *Tussilago* sifted, 14.VII.2019, leg. Assing & Schülke (cAss, MNB); 1♂, Gobroneti, 41°40′16″N, 42¦°02′37″E, 1280 m, 24.V.2018, leg. Brachat & Meybohm (cAss). **Guria:** 3♂♂, 1♀, NE Bakhmaro, 41°53′10″N, 42°21′40″E, 1640 m, secondary forest with rhododendron, laurel, and *Carpinus*, litter sifted, 14.V.2019, leg. Brachat & Meybohm (cAss); 8♂♂, 3♀♀, same data, but 15.V.2019, leg. Brachat & Meybohm (cAss).

Comment. This species was previously known from the type locality near Danisparauli, Adjara region. The above records expand the known range farther to the west and northwest in the Meskheti Range. The currently known distribution is illustrated in Map 1.

Leptusa (*Stictopisalia*) *artviniensis* Pace, 1982

Material examined. Georgia: Adjara: 3♂♂, Meskheti Range, NNW Khulo, 41°47′19″N, 42°17′25″E, 2010 m, mixed beech and spruce forest, forest margin, beech litter, mushroom, and debris in ditch with *Tussilago* sifted, 14.VII.2019, leg. Assing (cAss); 1 ex. [det. M. Schülke], Shavsheti Range, SE Batumi, Machakhela National Park, 41°28′47″N, 41°51′31″E, 700 m, stream valley with alder and rhododendron, litter sifted, 17.VII.2019, leg. Schülke (MNB); 3♂♂, 6♀♀, Gobroneti, 41°40′16″N, 42¦°02′37″E, 1280 m, 24.V.2018, leg. Brachat & Meybohm (cAss); 2♂♂, 1♀, Naghvarevi, 41°44′13″N, 42°13′49″E, 1090 m 25.V.2018, leg. Brachat & Meybohm (cAss).



Map 2. Distribution of *Leptusa caucasica*.

Comment. The distribution is confined to Northeast Turkey (Rize and Artvin provinces) and the Adjara region in Southwest Georgia. For previous records and a map see Assing (2017).

Leptusa (*Stictopisalia*) *caucasica* Eppelsheim, 1878 (Map 2)

Material examined. Georgia: Racha: 8♂♂, 8♀♀, E Shovi, 42°41′16″N, 43°41′55″E, 1720 m, 28.V.2018, leg. Brachat & Meybohm (cAss); 1♂, E Shovi, 42°41′29″N, 43°41′40″E, 1700 m, 28.V.2018, leg. Brachat & Meybohm (cAss). **Guria:** 4♂♂, 2♀♀, NE Bakhmaro, 41°53′10″N, 42°21′40″E, 1640 m, secondary forest with rhododendron, laurel, and *Carpinus*, litter sifted, 15.V.2019, leg. Brachat & Meybohm (cAss). **Imereti:** 1♂, S Sairme, 41°51′37″N, 42°46′59″E, 1890 m, 19.V.2018, leg. Brachat & Meybohm (cAss); 3♀♀, S Sairme, 41°52′47″N, 42°46′02″E, 1420 m, 20.V.2018, leg. Brachat & Meybohm (cAss). **Samtskhe-Javakheti:** 1♂, Trialeti Range, NW Bakuriani, 41°47′39″N, 43°28′20″E, 1190 m, stream valley with mixed forest, litter and dead wood near stream sifted, 8.VII.2019, leg. Assing (cAss); 2♂♂, Trialeti Range, N Bakuriani, E Tsaghveri, 41°47′25″N, 43°32′27″E, 1150 m, stream valley with mixed forest, litter near stream sifted, 8.VII.2019, leg. Schülke (MNB).

Comment. The currently known distribution, which includes parts of both the Greater and the Lesser Caucasus, is illustrated in Map 2.

Leptusa (*Stictopisalia*) *subcaucasica* Pace, 1983

Leptusa (*Stictopisalia*) *subcaucasica* Pace, 1983a: 71 f.
Leptusa (*Stictopisalia*) *pseudocaucasica* Pace, 1983b: 286 f.; **syn. nov.**

Type material examined. *L. subcaucasica*: Holotype ♀: "Caucas.occ., Circassien, Leder.Reitter / *Lept. caucasica* Epp., det. Kaiser / ex coll. O. Kaiser / ex coll. Scheerpeltz / Holotypus *Leptusa* (*Synpisalia*) *subcaucasica* mihi, det. R. Pace 1979 / *Leptusa subcaucasica* Pace, det. V. Assing 2019" (NHMW). Paratypes: 1♀: "Caucas.occ., Circassien, Leder.Reitter / *Leptusa caucasica* / Collectio Kaufmann / Paratypus *Leptusa* (*Synpisalia*) *subcaucasica* mihi, det. R. Pace 1979 / *Leptusa subcaucasica* Pace, det. V. Assing 2019" (NHMW); 1♀: "Caucas.occ., Circassien, Leder.Reitter / Bernh. det. / *caucas*. / coll. Schuster / ex coll. Scheerpeltz / Paratypus *Leptusa* (*Synpisalia*) *caucasica* mihi, det. R. Pace 1979 / *Leptusa subcaucasica* Pace, det. V. Assing 2019" (NHMW).
L. pseudocaucasica: Holotype ♂: "CAUCASUS, Krasnaja Poljana, R. Rous lgt. 6.1970. / Holotypus *Leptusa* (*Synpisalia*) *pseudocaucasica* m., det. R. Pace 1978 / *Leptusa subcaucasica* Pace, det. V. Assing 2019" (NMP). Paratype ♂: "Caucasus occ., Krasnaja Poljana [in Kyrillic], Roubal V.II.1910 [sic] / *caucasica* / Paratypus *Leptusa* (*Synpisalia*) *pseudocaucasica* m., det. R. Pace 1978 / *Leptusa subcaucasica* Pace, det. V. Assing 2019" (NMP).

Comment. In the original description of *Leptusa subcaucasica*, which is based on three females from "Caucasus occ. Circassien", Pace (1983a) compared the species with *L. caucasica*, a species distributed in Georgia (Assing 2017). The species has never been recorded since.

Similarly, Pace (1983b) only refers to *L. caucasica* in the original description of *L. pseudocaucasica*, which is based on three males from "Krasnaja Poljana" (type locality), two males and one female from the same locality (but different collector), one male from "Agrba", and one male from "Abkhazija". According to Pace (1989), both species are distinguished by the breadth of the pronotum and slight differences in the shape of the spermatheca.

An examination of the type material of *L. subcaucasica* and *L. pseudocaucasica* revealed that the specimens are externally identical, that the width of the pronotum is variable even in the three type specimens, and that the spermatheca of the holotype (which Pace evidently illustrated) is somewhat malformed. Since it seems highly unlikely that a species from the West Caucasus should never have been found again in the past decades and in view of the fact that both *L. subcaucasica* and *L. pseudocaucasica* were described from the same region, there is no doubt that these names refer to the same species.

Both names were made available in 1983, but in different articles. While September is indicated as the publication month in the issue including *L. subcaucasica*, the date given on the cover of the volume containing the description of *L. pseudocaucasica* is "20.XII.1983", so that, according to the Code, *L. subcaucasica* takes priority over *L. pseudocaucasica*.

***Leptusa* (*Stictopisalia*) *shavshetica* sp. nov.** (Figs 1–8, Map 1)

Type material. Holotype ♂: "GEORGIA [22] – Adjara, SW Khulo, 41°34′38″N, 42°14′59″E, 1110 m, forest margin, sifted, 13.VII.2019, V. Assing / Holotypus ♂ *Leptusa shavshetica* sp. n. det. V. Assing 2019" (cAss). Paratypes: 2♀♀: same data as holotype (cAss).

Description. Habitus as in Fig. 1. Body length 2.5–2.9 mm; length of forebody 1.1–1.3 mm. Coloration: body yellowish-brown to pale-reddish; legs yellow; antennae pale-reddish.

Head of suborbicular shape, approximately as long as broad; punctation fine and moderately dense, very sparse or absent in median dorsal portion; integument with pronounced microsculpture. Eyes (Fig. 2) small, composed of approximately 10 ommatidia with pigmentation, and approximately one-fourth to one-third as long as postocular region in dorsal view. Antenna 0.8–0.9 mm long; antennomeres IV approximately as long as broad and V–X of gradually increasing width and increasingly transverse, preapical antennomeres more than twice as broad as long.

Pronotum approximately 1.3 times as broad as long and 1.2 times as broad as head; maximal width in anterior half; posterior angles obtusely marked; punctation dense and fine, similar to that of head; interstices with pronounced microsculpture.

Elytra short, little more than half as long as pronotum; punctation weakly granulose, more distinct than that of head and pronotum; interstices with shallow microsculpture. Hind wings completely reduced.

Abdomen distinctly broader than forebody; punctation dense and fine, somewhat sparser on posterior than on anterior tergites; interstices with microsculpture; posterior margin of tergite VII with narrow rudiment of a palisade fringe; posterior margin of tergite VIII weakly concave in the middle, without sexual dimorphism.

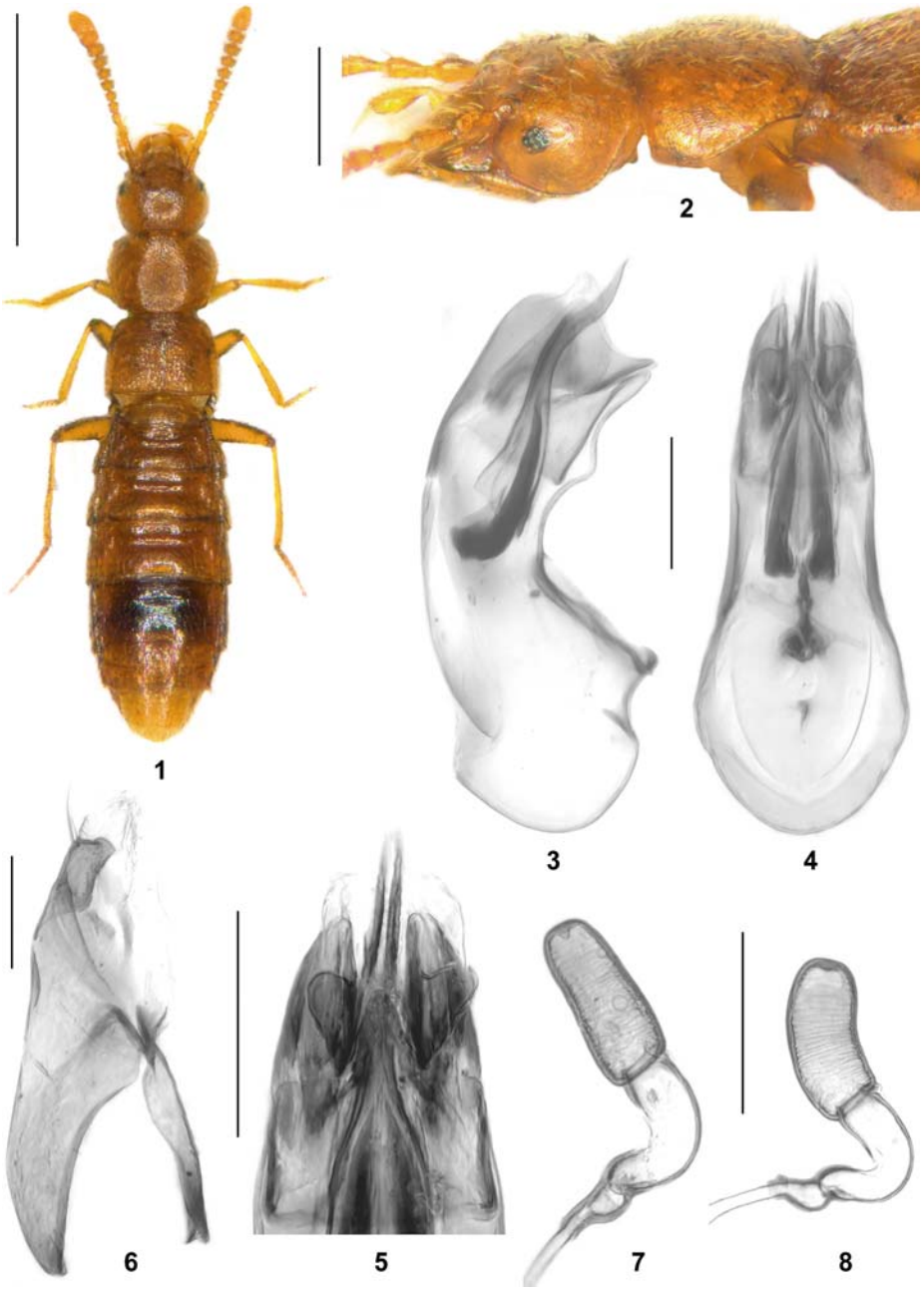
♂: tergites VII and VIII unmodified; sternite VIII with strongly convex posterior margin; median lobe of aedeagus 0.37 mm long and shaped as in Figs 3–5; paramere (Fig. 6) slightly longer than median lobe, apical lobe short and stout.

♀: posterior margin of sternite VIII of similar shape as that of male; spermatheca (Figs 7–8) of somewhat variable shape, with conspicuously long and slender distal portion.

Comparative notes. *Leptusa shavshetica* is distinguished from other species of the genus particularly by the morphology of the aedeagus. The latter is most similar to that of *L. subcaucasica*, a species with a distribution confined to the environs of Krasnaya Polyana and western Abkhazia in the southwestern parts of the Greater Caucasus (Pace 1989). The new species differs from *L. subcaucasica* by significantly paler coloration, smaller eyes with fewer ommatidia (*L. subcaucasica*: eyes composed of >20 ommatidia), much shorter and less massive antennae, much finer punctation of the head and elytra, the shapes of the internal flagellum, the apical internal structure, and a long basal sclerotized structure in the internal sac of the aedeagus, by the shape of the ventral process of the aedeagus (more strongly sinuate in lateral view and apically broader and less acute in ventral view, and by the significantly longer distal portion of the spermatheca. For illustrations of the sexual characters of *L. pseudocaucasica* see figures 380–383 in Pace (1989).

Distribution and natural history. The type locality is situated in the Churukhistskali river valley to the southwest of Khulo, Shavsheti Range, Adjara region, Southwest Georgia (Map 1). The type specimens were sifted from leaf litter and roots on a north slope with walnut and hazelnut, and with undergrowth composed of ferns, herbs, and grass, at an altitude of 1110 m.

Etymology. The specific epithet is an adjective derived from Shavsheti, the name of the mountain range where the type locality is situated.



Figs 1–8. *Leptusa shavshetica*. 1 – habitus; 2 – head and pronotum in lateral view; 3–4 – median lobe of aedeagus in lateral and in ventral view; 5 – apex of median lobe in ventral view; 6 – paramere; 7–8 – spermatheca. Scale bars: 1: 1.0 mm; 2: 0.2 mm; 3–8: 0.1 mm.

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to the colleagues listed in the material section for the loan of material, as well as to Volker Brachat (Geretsried) and Heinrich Meybohm (Großhansdorf) for the generous gift of Staphylinidae collected during their field trips to Georgia. Jiři Hájek (NMP) provided a photocopy of the cover of volume 41 of Acta Entomologica Musei Nationalis Pragae. The comments and suggestions of two anonymous reviewers are much appreciated.

References

Assing V. 2003: The Turkish species of *Leptusa* Kraatz in the F. Schubert collection (Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien) (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae). *Koleopterologische Rundschau* **73:** 75–82.

Assing V. 2007: Three new species, three new synonyms, and additional records of *Leptusa* from Turkey (Insecta: Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Aleocharinae). *Entomological Problems* **37:** 7–19.

Assing V. 2009a: On the *Leptusa* species of Turkey. VII. Notes on distribution, a new species, a new synonymy, and additional records (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Aleocharinae). *Linzer Biologische Beiträge* **41 (1):** 427–436.

Assing V. 2009b: New species, new synonymies, and additional records of *Leptusa* from Turkey and Iran (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Aleocharinae). *Linzer Biologische Beiträge* **41 (2):** 1285–1305.

Assing V. 2011: New species and additional records of *Leptusa* from the Caucasus region and the Himalaya (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Aleocharinae). *Linzer Biologische Beiträge* **43 (1):** 253–265.

Assing V. 2017: On the *Leptusa* fauna of the Caucasus region (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Aleocharinae). *Linzer Biologische Beiträge* **49 (2):** 1049–1074.

Bernhauer M. 1935: Neuheiten der paläarktischen Staphylinidenfauna. II. Neue *Leptusa*-Arten. *Koleopterologische Rundschau* **21 (3–4):** 123–129.

Pace R. 1983a: Risultati dello studio delle specie del genere *Leptusa* Kraatz della collezione Scheerpeltz al Naturistorisches Museum di Vienna (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae). *Annalen des Naturhistorischen Museums in Wien* **85B:** 53–102.

Pace R. 1983b: *Leptusa* Kraatz nuove o poco note del Museo Nazionale di Praga (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae). *Acta Entomologica Musei Nationalis Pragae* **41:** 277–298.

Pace R. 1989: Monografia del genere *Leptusa* Kraatz (Coleoptera Staphylinidae). *Memorie del Museo Civico di Storia Naturale di Verona (II° Serie), Sezione Scienze della Vita (A: Biologica)* **8:** 1–307.

Reitter E. 1887: Neue Coleopteren aus Europa, den angrenzenden Ländern und Sibirien, mit Bemerkungen über bekannte Arten. *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift* **31 (1):** 241–288.

Sert O., Turan Y. & Kabalak M. 2019: A new *Leptusa* Kraatz, 1856 (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae) species from Turkey. *Türkiye Entomoloji Dergisi* **43 (1):** 31–39.