

NOTA / NOTE

Metophtalmus (Metophtalmus) hispanicus Reitter, 1908 (Coleoptera: Latridiidae: Latridiinae), new species for Portugal

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Abstract: *Metophtalmus (Metophtalmus) hispanicus* Reitter, 1908 (Coleoptera: Latridiidae: Latridiinae) is reported for the first time from Portugal. An updated global distribution of the species is presented and its known Iberian distribution is summarised and mapped.

Key words: Coleoptera, Latridiidae, *Metophtalmus hispanicus*, first records, Portugal.

Resumen: *Metophtalmus (Metophtalmus) hispanicus* Reitter, 1908 (Coleoptera: Latridiidae: Latridiinae), nueva especie para Portugal. Se cita *Metophtalmus (Metophtalmus) hispanicus* Reitter, 1908 (Coleoptera: Latridiidae: Latridiinae) por primera vez de Portugal. Se presenta la distribución global actualizada de la especie y se resume y mapea su distribución ibérica conocida.

Palabras clave: Coleoptera, Latridiidae, *Metophtalmus hispanicus*, primeras citas, Portugal.

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The Holarctic genus *Metophtalmus* Motschulsky, 1850 (Coleoptera: Latridiidae: Latridiinae) is represented by two species in the Iberian Peninsula, placed in two subgenera: *Metophtalmus (Bonvouloiria) niveicollis* (Jacquelin du Val, 1859) and *Metophtalmus (Metophtalmus) hispanicus* Reitter, 1908. So far, only the former had been recorded from Portugal, namely from Mértola, Leiria, and Santarém (OTERO & LÓPEZ, 2016).

In this note, we present the first Portuguese records of *M. hispanicus* based on specimens deposited in the collection of MHNC-UP (Museu de História Natural e da Ciência da Universidade do Porto, Portugal) and photographs uploaded to the online platform iNaturalist.org.

Metophtalmus hispanicus was described from Madrid (Spain) by REITTER (1908) and is currently known from France (Corsica), Spain (mainland) and Morocco (REITTER, 1908; ESCALERA, 1914; JOHNSON, 2007; RÜCKER, 2011; ROSE & VINCENT, 2014¹; OTERO & LÓPEZ, 2016²). It should be noted that RÜCKER (2021) included mainland France ("Frankreich: Pyrénées Orientales") in the distribution of *M. hispanicus*. However, this seems to be a confusion with the range of *M. ragusae* Reitter, 1875, which is indeed recorded from that French department (cf. ROSE & VINCENT, 2014). Furthermore, while RÜCKER (2021) also included the Canary Islands in the distribution range of *M. hispanicus*, we were unable to trace any primary records from that Spanish archipelago.

¹ The male specimen recorded by ROSE & VINCENT (2014) from Corsica was collected in 1937, a shelf life of 77 years before the specimen was finally studied and the data published.

² Oddly, OTERO & LÓPEZ (2016) consider *M. hispanicus* an Iberian endemic, despite mentioning that its synonym *M. proximus* Reitter, 1908 was described from both Spain (holotype) and Morocco (paratype).

The Iberian distribution (Map 1) includes the Spanish provinces of (only the earliest record for each province is presented): Madrid and Cádiz (REITTER, 1908), Seville (DAJOZ, 1970), and Barcelona (TRÓCOLI & DIÉGUEZ, 2023).

Material examined and iNaturalist Portuguese records

PORTUGAL:

Évora district:

– Reguengos de Monsaraz municipality:

- Campinho (38.342701 -7.455037; MGRS: 29SPC3544, 170 m a.s.l.), 31/12/2023 [1 ex., Axel Gosseries leg., MHNC-UP col.: MHNCUP-ART-41230; photographed by A. Gosseries (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/195445186>)].
- Campinho (38.344392 -7.450113; MGRS: 29SPC3545, 179 m a.s.l.), 2/04/2024 [1 ex., Axel Gosseries leg. under the bark of *Punica granatum* L., MHNC-UP col.: MHNCUP-ART-41233; photographed (Fig. 1) by A. Gosseries (<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/205145980>)].

The two specimens studied were identified with the monograph of OTERO & LÓPEZ (2016) and were easily determined as *M. hispanicus* by the 10-segmented antennae typical of the nominal subgenus (the second Iberian species, *M. niveicollis*, has 9-segmented antennae, characteristic of the subgenus *Bonvouloiria* Jacquelin du Val, 1859).

While only two of the specimens were collected and identified to species level, the second author observed *Metophtalmus* specimens ten times in Campinho between November 2023 and April 2024. They were found under stones, but also under the bark of small dry *Quercus rotundifolia* Lam. branches and behind bark scales of small living *Punica granatum* trees. Under stones, they were in very close proximity of e.g. *Palpimanus gibbulus* Dufour, 1820 (Araneae: Palpimanidae) and *Anthrenus isabellinus* Küster, 1848 (Coleoptera: Dermestidae). Under *P. granatum* bark scales, one of them was, as shown in Fig. 1, in the middle of other beetles such as *Boromorphus tagenioides* (Lucas, 1849) (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae) and *Typhaea stercorea* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Coleoptera: Mycetophagidae). We suspect that given the abundance of *Metophtalmus* in the Campinho montado, the species must be under-detected elsewhere, at least in southern Portugal, probably due to its minute size. The first specimens were actually only discovered once zooming on pictures of other invertebrates, which then led the second author to begin to search for them more actively.

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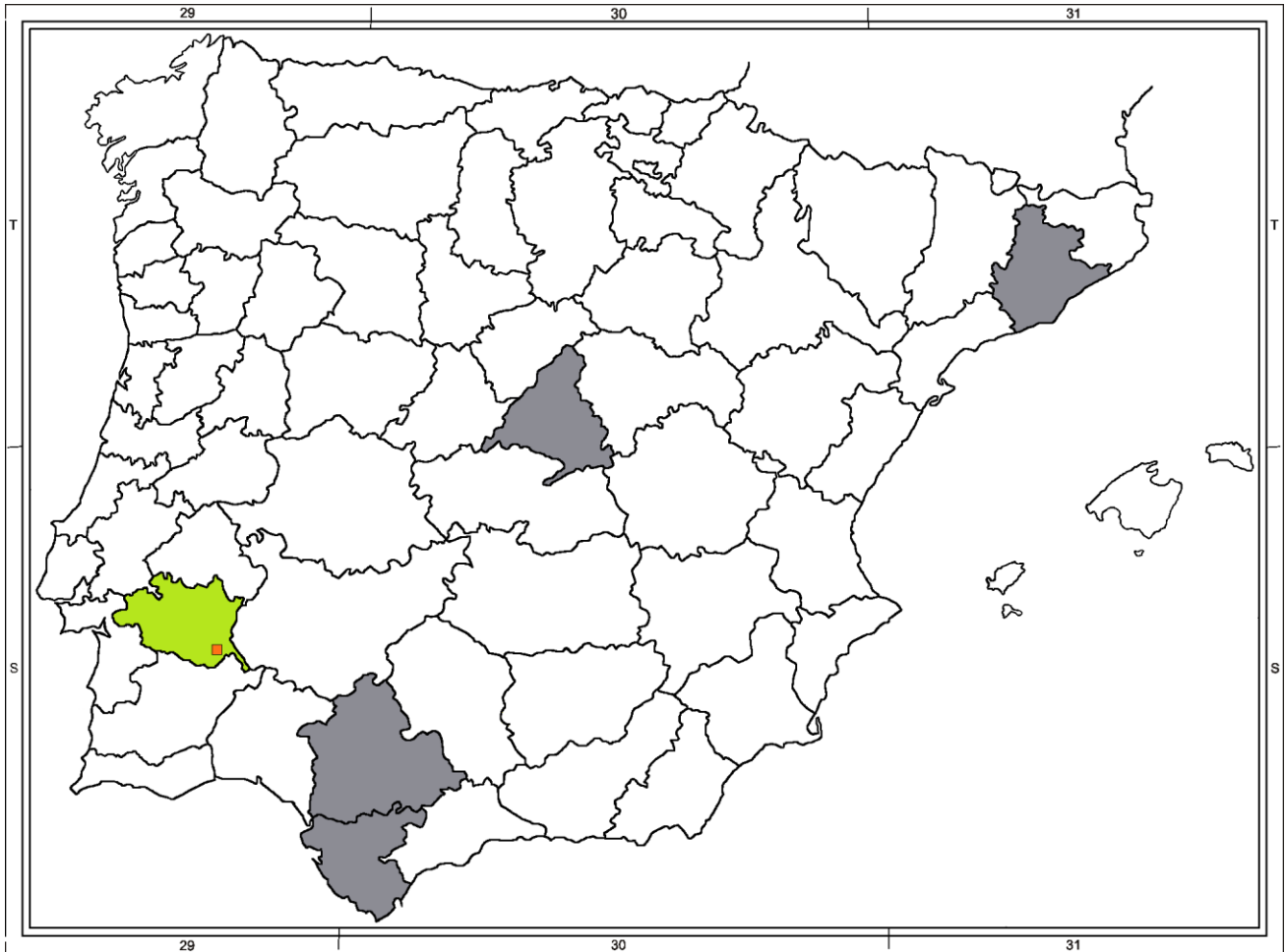
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Fig. 1.- Specimen of (a) *Metophthalmus* (*M.*) *hispanicus* Reitter, 1908 in Campinho (Reguengos de Monsaraz, Portugal) on 02/04/2024 (MHNCUP-ART-41233) in the company of the beetles (b) *Boromorpha tagenioides* (Lucas, 1849) and (c) *Typhaea stercorea* (Linnaeus, 1758). Photo: Axel Gosseries.



Map 1. - Iberian distribution of *Metopthalmus (M.) hispanicus* Reitter, 1908 (grey: previously known Spanish provinces; green: new Portuguese district; orange: new Portuguese MGRS 100 km² square).