



A new Iranian *Onthophagus* species belonging to the *O. semicornis* group (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Onthophagini)

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After the revision of the *Onthophagus* species of the *O. semicornis* group (Ziani & Gudenzi 2007) had been published, I had the chance to examine three more specimens of this group belonging to an undescribed species, two were collected by Gianfranco Sama in northeastern Iran and one was collected in the same area by Daniele Baiocchi. *Onthophagus* (*Palaeonthophagus*) *samai*, new species is described herein and a modified key to the species in the *O. semicornis* species group is provided.

The methods and terminology follow Ziani & Gudenzi (2006). The following collection abbreviations are used in the text:

MHNG Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Geneva (Switzerland)
SZCM the author's private collection, Meldola, Forlì (Italy)

Onthophagus (*Palaeonthophagus*) *samai*, new species

(Figs. 1–7)

Type locality. Iran, Semnan: 4–9 km NE Abr.

Type series. Holotype ♂: Iran, Semnan prov., 4/9 km NE Abr, 1600 m / 1800 m, 19/23.v.2010, G. Sama leg. Allotype: Iran, Semnan prov., 9 km NE Shahmirzād, 2200 m, 18/25.v.2010, G. Sama leg. Paratype ♂: Iran, Mazandaran prov., Fülād Mahalle, 32 km NE Shahmirzād, 18.v.2010, D. Baiocchi leg.

Types depositaries. Holotype in MHNG, allotype and paratype in SZCM.

Type labelling. Holotype bears two labels, as follow. 1) white, printed in black: “IRAN – Semnan – 4/9 km / NE Abr 1600/1800 / 19–25 V 2010 leg. G. Sama”; 2) red, printed in black: “Holotype / *Onthophagus* (*Palaeonthophagus*) / *samai* mihi / S. Ziani, 2011”.

Etymology. The new species is dedicated to Gianfranco Sama, a well-known specialist of Palearctic Cerambycidae beetles, who once in a while and much to the benefit of scarabaeology, enjoys collecting scarabs.

Description. Holotype (Fig. 1). Major male, based on the size and the development of cephalic and pronotal outgrowths. Length 6.3 mm, width 3.6 mm. Pronotum shorter than elytra (length ratio = 0.88).

Black, upper side almost dull, with a distinct isodiametric microreticulation; elytra with feeble green reflections; pubescence yellowish white; antennal scape, pedicel and funicle reddish brown; antennal club dark reddish brown.

Head (Figs. 2, 7) short, clearly wider than long (width/length ratio = 1.75). Clypeus broadly round on either side of shallow but distinct median emargination. Clypeofrontal carina moderately elevate but distinct, bent backward, edge in contact with clypeogenal suture. Occipital carina wider at base than clypeofrontal carina but not reaching lateral margins of head. Head with a strong, transverse, terminally narrow lamina, approximately one half longer than wide at base, bearing a pair of erect points distinctly reflexed towards pronotum. Margin between horns, as well as sides of lamina, sinuate in front view. Clypeal and frontal surface with rather coarse, large, setigerous punctures, more widely spaced on frons than on clypeus; setae long, thin, erect, only slightly thicker basally, gradually thinner apically.

Pronotum (Fig. 7) convex, strongly declivous towards anterior edge, with distinct anterolateral tubercle on either side and with an anteromedian round prominence; prominence clearly projecting further forward than the anterolateral tubercles. Anterior angles distinctly produced, sides sinuate behind them; dorsal surface setigerously punctuate; punctures broad, irregular, umbilicate on the anterior half, separated by 1–2 diameters on disc; each puncture bears a small granule at its anterior margin. Bristles whitish yellow, long, thick at their base, gradually thinner apically.