

***Eurycleonus talamellii* n. sp. of Cleonine weevil from the Moroccan desert (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Lixinae: Cleonini)**

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Abstract

Eurycleonus talamellii n. sp. is described. It is a taxonomic and geographic vicariant of *E. gigas* (Marseul 1868), from which it mainly differs by the body with less broadened elytra, the vestiture composed of mixed white and brownish scales in irregular patches, the rostrum nearly straight in profile, the antennae with slightly longer segments, the upper margin of the scrobe sinuate and nearly reaching the lower part of the eye. Remarks on ecology, biogeography and phylogenetic relationships are given.

Kew words: Curculionidae, *Eurycleonus*, *Eurycleonus talamellii*, new species, taxonomy, biogeography, host plants, Morocco

Introduction

The genus *Eurycleonus* Bedel 1907, was revised and redefined by Meregalli (2000). It included two species, *E. gigas* (Marseul 1868) from Algeria and Tunisia and *E. amon* Meregalli 2000 from Egypt: Sinai. The author (Meregalli 2000: 154) examined also a fragment of a specimen from Morocco, and concluded that the Moroccan form was probably to be attributed to a further undescribed species. Recent collections confirmed that the Moroccan populations of *Eurycleonus* belong to a new species, which is described here.

Material and methods

Several examined specimens were dissected, female genitalia were embedded in Canada balsam and male genitalia were mounted dry, with the internal sac of the aedeagus of one