



## A new *Omiamima* Silfverberg, 1977 from Sicily (Coleoptera: Curculionidae)

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**Abstract.** *Omiamima elymorum* n. sp. from northwestern Sicily, Italy, is described, illustrated, and compared with the other seven known species. Moderate size, raised elytral setae, pronotum coarsely punctured and only slightly transverse, and parallel-sided and dorsally almost flat rostrum allow its easy identification.

**Riassunto.** Una nuova specie di *Omiamima* Silfverberg, 1977 della Sicilia (Coleoptera: Curculionidae). *Omiamima elymorum* n. sp. della Sicilia nord-occidentale viene descritta, illustrata e comparata con le altre sette specie del genere finora note. Medie dimensioni, setole elitrali sollevate, pronoto solamente di poco più largo che lungo, e rostro a lati paralleli e dorsalmente praticamente piatto permettono un suo facile riconoscimento.

**Key words.** Curculionidae, *Omiamima*, new species, Sicily.

### Introduction

The recollection of a second specimen of an undescribed species gathered long time ago, and whose single adult was presented to the first author by Fernando Angelini (Francavilla Fontana, Italy), gave us the opportunity to describe it. Even if our two specimens are females, considering that other species of the genus are known upon few or single female specimens (FORMÁNEK, 1909; TYL, 1912) we believe that the characters are good enough to describe a new species. In addition, we should consider that the widespread *O. mollina* (Boheman, 1834) is parthenogenetic (DIECKMANN, 1980).

### Material and methods

Measurements of specimens are taken as explained in COLONNELLI & CASALINI (2014). Terminology of rostral regions follows BOROVEC *et al.* (2014). A stereomicroscope Wild M5 up to 50 magnifications was used to study the insects. Photos were taken by Francesco Sacco by means of a Nikon D90 camera with a AF Micro Nikkor 60 mm objective, and then elaborated using the software Helicon Focus 5.1. The software Adobe Photoshop CS4 was used to group the figures. Labels of specimens are quoted as written, a slash separating lines on the same label.

### Description of the new species

#### *Omiamima elymorum* n. sp.

**Diagnosis.** An *Omiamima* easily recognisable by the combination of moderate size, raised elytral setae, pronotum only slightly transverse and coarsely punctured, parallel-sided and dorsally almost flat rostrum.

**Type series.** “Sicilia (TP) / M.te Sparagio / 4-IV-2013 m 630 / Leg. Aless. Paladini”, 1 ♀ holotype (Alessandro Paladini collection, Vicchio, Italy). “Sicilia (TP) cast. / Baia Castellammare / del Golfo, 9.XII.93 / prato leg. Sabella”, 1 ♀ paratype (Enzo Colonnelli collection, Rome, Italy).

**Holotype.** Body length 3.33 mm. Pitchy-brown, shining, pronotum dark red-brown, antennae and legs ferrous-red. Dorsal side and legs rather sparsely clothed by golden-yellowish half-lifted hairlike scales and by stiff erect hairs on elytral intervals not arranged in rows; underside with sparser recumbent hairs. Rostrum about as long as wide, sides subparallel from base to weakly protruding pterygia. Epifrons almost flat, strongly and rugosely punctured from base to the subapical oblique declivity, at the narrowest point (situated just basad of antennal insertion) slightly narrower than interocular distance, sides weakly keeled. Epistome short, U-shaped, barely distinct from epifrons, with moderately sized punctures, and with two lateral small shallow foveae. Scrobes moderately large, rather elongate, sublateral although entirely visible in dorsal view, in lateral view almost straight and directed below eyes without reaching them. Head not separate from epifrons, distance between eyes slightly greater than that between antennal insertion, interocular space with elongate fovea, head and vertex strongly punctured, temples much shorter than the largest diameter of an eye. Eyes large, slightly elliptical, moderately convex. Scape thin, moderately curved and quite strongly clubbed at apex; first funicular antennomere thicker and about 1.5 times longer than the second one, which is subconical and slightly longer than wide, antennomeres 3 to 7 moniliform and decreasing in length, 6 and 7 transverse; club large, fusiform, about as long as the four preceding segments. Pronotum 1.07 times wider than long, widest at middle, moderately convex dorsally in lateral view; anterior margin almost as wide as basal one; sides strongly rounded and barely sinuate towards apex and base; disc with large coarse punctures and with a thin median keel-like smooth area. Scutellum almost invisible. Elytra elongate-oval, 1.37 times longer than wide and 1.48 times as wide as pronotum; dorsum moderately convex, apical declivity almost vertical; striae formed by rows of moderately large subquadrate irregular punctures; intervals a trifle wider than striae, rather flat, their surface irregularly and minutely punctured. Legs fairly short; femora moderately clubbed, edentate; external margin of tibiae almost straight, their inner side slightly bisinuate, apical fifth curved inwards mainly in pro- and mesotibiae; tarsi quite short, third segment strongly bilobed, fourth protruding from the third more than the length of third, claw elongate, fused at base. Abdomen slightly and uniformly convex, sutures between ventrites straight, ventrites 1 and 2 have about the same length and they are twice longer than 3 and 4 united, like the fifth. Habitus as depicted in Figs 1 and 2.

**Paratype.** Almost identical to the holotype, except for the pronotal sides slightly more bisinuate and the shallower fovea between eyes. Body length 3.53 mm. Segment 3 to 5 of left mesotarsus and left posterior leg broken beyond basal half.

**Differential diagnosis.** Among the seven species of *Omiamima* Silfverberg, 1977 so far known (BOROVEC, 2013), four are distributed in western Mediterranean, two in eastern Europe, Anatolia and Caucasus, and one species, *O. mollina* (Boheman, 1834), widespread and somewhat bridging the two above mentioned areas. The western Mediterranean species are *O. desbrochersi* (Reitter, 1906) from Algeria, *O. fulgida* (Formánek, 1909) from Sardinia, *O. metallescens* (Seidlitz, 1868) from central and southern Italy, Tunisia and Algeria, and *O. pygmaea* (Hustache, 1937) from Algeria. Considering the Mediterranean species, *O. desbrochersi*, according to its description (REITTER, 1906), clearly differs from the new species, apart from its much smaller size (2.0-2.5 mm), by its sulcate rostrum, convex pronotal disc, pronotum much wider than long, and elytra with just lifted instead of erect hairlike scales. On the other hand, *O. metallescens*, whose body shape is not unlike that of the new species, clearly differs from it by the much more elongate rostrum and lack of erect elytral setae (Figs 1-3). The same character separates *O. elymorum* n. sp. from the smaller (2.8 mm) *O. fulgida* which also has a spot on elytra, and the scape just slightly clubbed at apex (FORMÁNEK, 1909). The lack of erect elytral setae and the clearly smaller size (2.9-2.3 mm) make *O. pygmaea* (Hustache, 1937) from Algeria immediately distinct from the new Sicilian species here described (HUSTACHE, 1937). Concerning European and Anatolian species, namely *O. mollina* (Boheman, 1834) from Northern, Central and Eastern Europe, *O. formaneki* (Tyl, 1912) from Bulgaria, and *O. leonhardi* (Formánek, 1908) from eastern Turkey and Armenia (FORMÁNEK, 1908 and pers. rec.), they differ from *O. elymorum* n. sp. as follows. Considering the two species of this group with erect or suberect setae, the new taxon is quite similar to *O. formaneki*, which at glance differs from it (Figs 1, 2 and 4) by the much shorter sulcate rostrum, clearly more transverse pronotum, much longer and barely curved scape (TYL, 1912). Moreover, there is no possibility of confusing *O. elymorum* n. sp. with the

plumper *O. mollina* which has thin scape, and both the head and pronotum shorter and much more finely punctured (Figs 1, 2 and 5). The larger (4.7-5.0 mm) *O. leonhardi* can be immediately differentiated from the new species by its much finer dorsal punctures and the lack of erect setae on elytra (Figs 1, 2 and 6). The general distribution of all species of *Omiamima* is shown in Fig. 7.

**Etymology.** The species takes its name from the ancient people of Elymi who inhabited the region before and during the Greek and Roman domination of Sicily.

**Ecology.** Both type specimens were collected by sifting leaf litter. The habitat where the holotype was collected is a degraded Mediterranean gariga (Figs 8 and 9).

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2



3



4

Figs 1-4. Habitus of *Omiamima elymorum* n. sp., holotype in dorsal (1) and lateral (2) view; *O. metallescens* (Seidlitz), female from Latium: Tolfà, Italy (3); *O. formaneki* (Tyl), female holotype (4), figure from Tyl (1912). Scale bars: 1 mm.



5



6



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Figs 5-7. 5. Habitus of: *Omiamima mollina* (Boheman), female from Latium: Amatrice, Sette Fonti, Italy; 6. *O. leonhardi* (Formánek), female from Bayburt province: Kop geçidi, Turkey. Scale bar: 1 mm. 7. Distribution of members of *Omiamima*, where asterisk = *O. elymorum* n. sp.; triangles = *O. metallescens* (Seidlitz); heart = *O. fulgida* (Formánek); cross = *O. pygmaea* (Hustache); inverted triangle = *O. desbrochersi* (Reitter); square = *O. formaneki* (Tyl); circles = *O. leonhardi* (Formánek); grey area and dots = *O. mollina* (Boheman). Map modified from d-maps.com.





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**9**

Figs 8-9. Habitat of the holotype of *Omiamima elymorum* n. sp., Monte Sparagio, Sicily (photo Cesare Bellò).

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