Note scientifique

Enochrus (Lumetus) falcarius Hebauer, 1991, new for continental Europe (Coleoptera, Hydrophilidae).

Among the Hydrophiloidea collected in recent years by the authors in the Iberian Peninsula a species of Enochrus subgenus Lumetus previously unknown to inhabit continental Europe was identified by A. van Berge Henegouwen (Museon, The Hague, Netherlands), E. falcarius Hebauer, 1991. We report here some preliminary information concerning this species, a more comprehensive study of the Iberian Lumetus being in preparation.
**E. falcarius** is a species very close to **E. bicolor** (Fabricius, 1792) described from Sicily, from which it can be easily separated by the extremely long claws of both sexes (the inner lobe of the male front claw does not reach half the length of the claw) and the uniform colour of the base of the femora (distinctly yellow banded in **E. bicolor**). It also has a flatter body, with a more rounded pronotum and a less continuous outline than other species of **Enochrus**. The male aedeagus is very similar to that of **E. bicolor** (Fig. 1). In the original description (HEBAUER (F), 1991. — *Acta Coleopterologica* 7: 83-86) the aedeagus figured was probably distorted, and had an unusual appearance for a **Lumetus** species.

The species was found in saline small streams (ramblas) in the South-east corner of the Iberian Peninsula, always coexisting with **E. politus** Küster, 1849, and sometimes also with **E. bicolor**. Other typical aquatic coleoptera of these ramblas were **Nebrioporus mariae** Millán & Rocchi, 1993; **Herophydrus musicus** (Klug, 1833), **Laccobius moraguesi** Regimbart, 1898 and several species of **Ochthebius** (mainly **O. cuprescens** Guillenbau, 1893 and **O. tacapasensis baeticus** Ferro, 1984).

![Diagram of E. falcarius aedeagus](image)

The discovery of a supposed island endemic in the mainland warns against the assumption of early biogeographical conclusions in areas in which the faunistic knowledge is very scarce, as is the case in the south of the Mediterranean basin. Similar examples are those of **Colymbetes schildknechti** Dettner, 1983, originally described from Sardinia but present in the Iberian Peninsula and North Africa (BALKE (M.), FERY (H.) & FRESNEDA (J.), 1990. — *Entomol. Z.*, 100 : 393-412); and the same **L. moraguesi**, described as a Balearic endemic but recognised to be present from the Iberian Peninsula to Iran after the sinonimisation of **L. peyerimhoffii** Orchymont, 1939 (GENTILI (E.), 1989. — *Osservatorio di fisica terrestre e Museo Antonio Stoppani del Seminario Arcivescovile de Milano* 10 : 31 - 39; RIBERA (L.) & AGUILERA (P.), 1995. — *Zapateri Revta. aragon. ent.*, 5 : in press).

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