

*This contribution is published
to honor Prof. Vladimir Chikatunov,
a scientist, a colleague and a friend,
on the occasion of his 80th birthday.*

A new species of the genus *Mogulones* Reitter (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) from Israel

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ABSTRACT

A new species, *Mogulones chikatunovi*, is described from Israel, and compared with the close Euromediterranean *M. andreae* (Germar, 1823) and Western Palaearctic *M. larvatus* (A. Schultze, 1897).

KEYWORDS: Biodiversity, Coleoptera, Curculionidae, Ceutorhynchinae, *Mogulones*, beetles, weevils, new species, Israel, Middle East, Palaearctic.

RIASSUNTO

Una nuova specie, *Mogulones chikatunovi*, viene descritta di Israele e confrontata con il vicino *M. andreae* euromediterraneo (Germar, 1823) e con il Paleartico occidentale *M. larvatus* (A. Schultze, 1897).

PAROLE CHIAVE: Biodiversità, coleotteri, Curculionidi, Ceutorhynchinae, *Mogulones*, nuova specie, Israele, Vicino Oriente, Paleartico.

INTRODUCTION

The Palaearctic genus *Mogulones* Reitter, 1916 comprises 74 species, the known host plants of them are all within Boraginaceae (Colonnelli 2004; Alonso-Zarazaga *et al.* 2017; Korotyaev *et al.* 2017; Korotyaev 2018; Krátký & Colonnelli 2018). Three species of *Mogulones* have been recorded so far from Israel; these are *M. andreae* (Germar, 1823), *M. beckeri* (A. Schultze, 1900) and *M. griseescens* (Pic, 1940), and a few more may occur, both described and undescribed (Colonnelli 2004; Alonso-Zarazaga *et al.* 2017 and unpubl. data). The adults are elusive, having a short activity period on the host plants, and require a dedicated search under the leaf-rosettes of the suitable host plants during winter and spring. Those collected by sweeping in the last decades were found on *Anchusa* spp. and *Echium* spp. (A.L.L. Friedman, pers. comm.). The genus needs further research; therefore, it is still premature to produce an identification key.

During a collecting trip to Israel in 2014, a new species of the genus was found, the description of which is given below.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Measurements are taken as explained by Colonnelli (2005). Specimens were photographed by Daniele Baiocchi with a Canon EOS D-5-MarkII digital camera equipped with a Mitutoyo M plan apo objective 5×/0.14 mounted on a Macro bellow Pentacon M42. Pictures of the aedeagi were taken by Maurizio Gigli with a Canon 5BMK2 camera equipped with a 20× objective. All photographs were then edited using the programs Zerene Stacker version 1.04 and Adobe Photoshop PS4. The photo of the habitat was taken by Carlo Giusto. Labels are reported verbatim, a slash separating lines on the same label; the official transcription of the Hebrew names of the localities, according to the Israel Touring Map (Survey of Israel 2009), is given in parentheses. The holotype of the new species is deposited in the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel, and the paratype will be preserved in collection of the author.

TAXONOMY

Genus *Mogulones* Reitter, 1916

Mogulones chikatunovi n. sp.

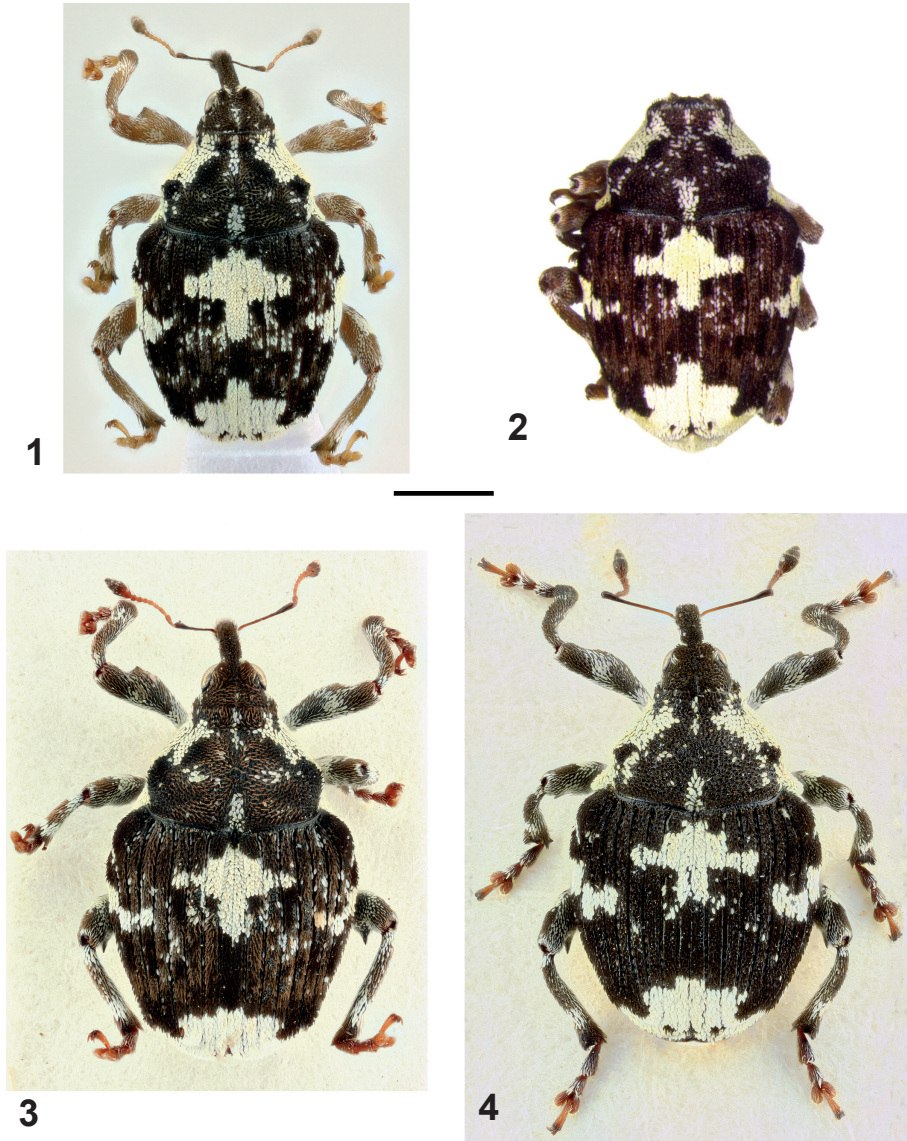
(Figs 1, 2, 5)

LSID: urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:01FE41E0-6008-41DE-8CB4-A518074BFA29.

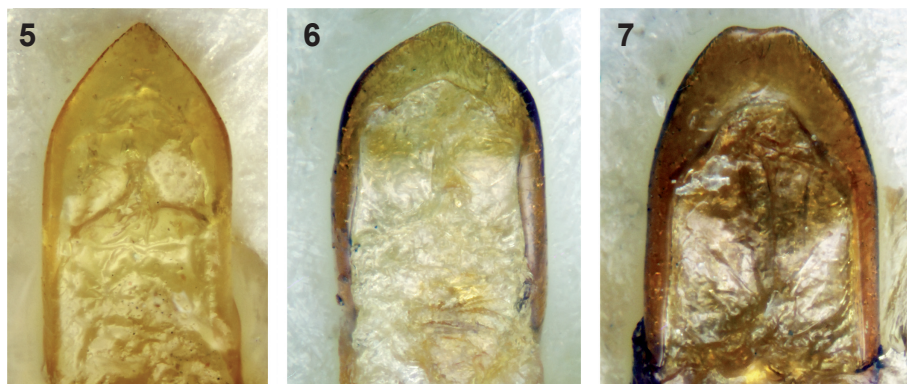
Etymology: The species is named after Prof. Vladimir I. Chikatunov, the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, Tel Aviv, Israel, whom I had the pleasure to meet during my first visit to Israel in 1995.

Diagnosis: The closest to *M. chikatunovi* n. sp. is undoubtedly *M. andreae*, a species rather widely spread in Europe, Caucasus, Eastern Mediterranean, and reported also from Israel by Alonso-Zarazaga *et al.* (2017). *Mogulones chikatunovi* easily differs from *M. andreae* by its reddish legs, more elongate body, lack of black spots on the abdominal ventrites, and a narrower aedeagus with a rather sharp apex (cf. Figs 5 & 6). Another species of this group, also very similar to *M. chikatunovi* n. sp., is *M. larvatus* (A. Schultze, 1897) from the Western Palaearctic, but, apart from its plumper body shape, the latter differs from the new species by its pitchy legs, spotted abdomen and a blunt apex of the aedeagus (cf. Figs 1 & 4, and 5 & 7). No other species of *Mogulones* can be confused with the newly described one.

Description: Male (holotype). Length, 3.73 mm. Pitchy-brown, rather shining, coarsely punctured; antennae (apical fourth of scape excepted) and legs ferruginous. Dorsal vestiture consists of moderately dense recumbent blackish, brownish and whitish comma-like scales, plus adpressed recumbent roundish white scales forming a distinct pattern (Fig. 1). Underside clothed with thick subrotundate white scales somewhat sparser on sides of metasternum and at middle of ventrite I. Rostrum 0.91× as long as pronotum, moderately curved, densely punctured, tricarinate to antennal insertion, then slightly thicker, finely setose and very coarsely punctured. Antennae inserted at apical 0.47 of length of rostrum, scape thin, quite abruptly



Figs 1–4: Habitus of *Mogulones* spp.: (1, 2) *Mogulones chikatunovi* n. sp., male, holotype (1) and paratype (2); (3) *Mogulones andreae* (Germar, 1823) from Greece, Iliá, Kaiáfa; (4) *Mogulones larvatus* (A. Schultze, 1897) from Italy, Liguria, Monte Rama. Scale bar 1 mm. (Photos by Baniele Baiocchi)



Figs 5–7: Apex of aedeagi: (5) *Mogulones chikatunovi* n. sp., holotype; (6) *Mogulones andreae* (Germar, 1823) from Poland, Zamość surroundings; (7) *Mogulones larvatus* (A. Schultze, 1897) from Hungary, Budapest, specimen compared with the type. Scale bar 0.2 mm. (Photos by Maurizio Gigli)

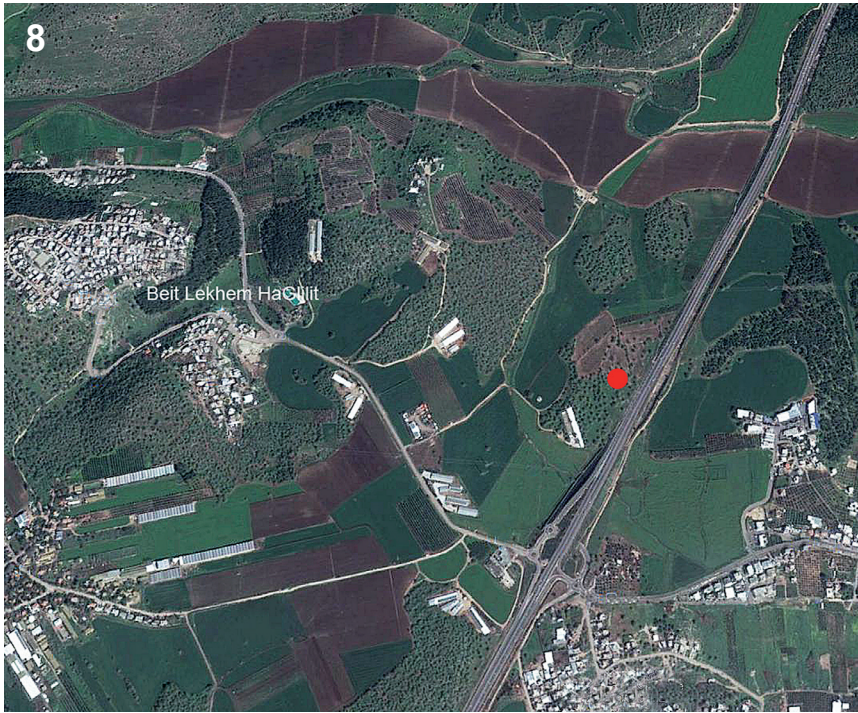
clubbed, funicle 7-jointed, four basal segments longer than wide, segments 5–7 moniliform, about as long as wide, club moderately large, fusiform, hardly longer than segments 5–7 combined. Interocular space concave, strongly punctured; eyes fairly large, protruding. Pronotum subtrapezoidal, $0.76\times$ as long as wide, constricted at apex, base slightly bisinuous, apical margin slightly elevated above head, disc flat, coarsely punctured; antero-lateral depressions moderate; dorsal sulcus in form of elongate pit in front of scutellum, lateral tubercles acute. Elytra $1.04\times$ as long as wide, almost flat, with slightly depressed base near scutellum, widest at about apical $\frac{1}{4}$, sides moderately curved up to preapical tubercles, humeri quite strong. Striae furrowed. Interstriae clearly wider than striae, flat, coarsely punctured. Legs fairly elongate; femora quite strongly clubbed and acutely dentate; tibiae slightly curved at base, then almost straight, slightly widened towards apex, all mucronate at inner margin, mucro of anterior tibiae minute, those of middle and posterior tibiae strong; tarsi robust, claws appendiculate. Ventrites 1 and 2 flat at middle, 5 quite concave. Aedeagus quite sharply pointed and moderately thin (Fig. 5).

Paratype male. Very similar to the holotype (Fig. 2). Length, 3.72 mm.

Holotype: ♂ with the following labels: “ISRAEL - Lower Galilee / Beit Lekhem HaGelilit [Bet Lehem haGelilit] / $32^{\circ}44'N$ $35^{\circ}12'E$ - m 170 / 6.IV.2014 - E. Colonnelli” [white, printed], “HOLOTYPUS ♂ / *Mogulones* / *chikatunovi* n. sp. / E. Colonnelli det., 2020” [red, handwritten].

Paratype: Israel: ♂ “Panyas [Banyas Nature Reserve], 205 m / $33^{\circ}15'N$ $35^{\circ}42'E$ / 28.iv.2011, D. Furth”.

Habitat: The holotype of the new species was collected in a pasture with scattered oak trees (Fig. 9) near the turn off to Bet Lehem haGelilit from the main road 77 from Teverya to Haifa, North Israel (Fig. 8). Despite careful examination, it was impossible to detect there a likely host plant nor to procure additional specimens.



Figs 8, 9: (8) Precise location of the holotype collection spot (red dot), image elaborated from Google Earth; (9) habitat of the holotype of *Mogulones chikatunovi* n. sp., photo by Carlo Giusto.

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