

# The Dasytidae of the Naples province (Coleoptera)

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## ABSTRACT

Twenty-two species of Dasytidae (18.3% of the Italian ones) are known from the Campania region; 15 of these (12.5%) are known from the province of Naples, 8 of which also from Vesuvius National Park. It is felt that further entomological surveys carried out in this region could increase these numbers. For each of the 15 species here listed for the Naples province both the collecting details and the known distributions are reported. Nine species have a wide European and/or Mediterranean distribution, 2 (*Divales cinctus*, *Aplocnemus cribricollis*) have a Tyrrhenian distribution, 3 (*Danacea cusanensis*, *D. nigritarsis brunneipes* and *D. aurichalcea*) are endemic to central or southern peninsular Italy and 1 (*Danacea wittmeri*) is a strict endemic of the Naples coastal area.

**Key words:** Dasytidae, Italy, Campania, faunistics, syntypes, volcanoes.

## RIASSUNTO

*I Dasytidi della provincia di Napoli (Coleoptera: Dasytidae)*

Ventidue specie di Dasytidae (18,3% di quelle italiane) sono note della Regione Campania. Per la provincia di Napoli sono segnalate 15 specie (12,5%), 8 delle quali anche del Parco Nazionale del Vesuvio. Si ritiene che questi numeri possano aumentare a seguito di ulteriori ricerche nella regione. Per ciascuna delle 15 specie considerate vengono fornite le notizie disponibili sui relativi ritrovamenti e viene tratteggiato l'areale noto. Nove specie sono ad ampia distribuzione europea e/o mediterranea, due (*Divales cinctus*, *Aplocnemus cribricollis*) hanno distribuzione tirrenica, tre (*Danacea cusanensis*, *D. nigritarsis brunneipes* e *D. aurichalcea*) sono endemiche della penisola italiana centro-meridionale e una (*Danacea wittmeri*) è un'endemita il cui areale è limitato al Golfo di Napoli.

## INTRODUCTION

The Dasytidae have been recently given full family rank by Majer (1994); in the past they were included in the old Malacodermata group together with unrelated families (Cantharidae, Lampyridae and others) and, later, considered as a subfamily of the Melyridae within the superfamily Cleroidea (Crowson 1964; Audisio et al. 1995).

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was primarily focused on the area of the Vesuvius National Park (cf. Nardi & Vomero 2007); however, it was felt useful to extend it to the whole Naples province as all this area still deserves further collecting efforts.

Dasytidae records for the province of Naples are rather scarce in the literature and the older ones (Costa 1843, 1844, 1847; Prochazha 1894; Schilsky 1897; Baudi 1873a, 1873b; Baudi et al. 1882; Luigioni

1923a, 1923b, 1929) are often doubtful with regard to species identification. As a consequence, this paper is mostly based on dasytid material personally studied by the writer, which amounts to approximately 950 specimens. The studied material comes from the below listed collections and from a few short collecting trips, as detailed below.

In the faunistic list, for each species only a few selected bibliographic references are supplied, where taxonomic details (description or identification key), distributional information and a full bibliography can be found. Square brackets include personal comments or additions. For some of the old findings no collecting date was available: these were indicated as [old], which means a period possibly located between 1890 and 1930; the indication [very old] refers to dates before 1890. Under the "Records" section the material is listed in alphabetical order according to locality. All localities are listed in Italian, and those from the Vesuvius National Park are abbreviated (see further on). Some records had already been published without complete label data;

in these cases the label data are reported fully and are followed by the bibliographic reference preceded by “cf.”.

Five species, reported in the past for the Naples province, have been excluded from the faunistic list:

*Danacea pallipes* (Panzer, 1793), reported by Costa (1843: 46, 57, 68 as *Dasytes pallipes*). This species lives in central western Europe and, in Italy, it is present on the Alps and the northern Apennines only. Two similar species live in central and southern Italy, namely *Danacea ambigua* Mulsant & Rey, 1868 and *D. aurichalcea* (Küster, 1850);

*Danacea trinacriae* Liberti, 1979, reported by Liberti (1979: 43). No doubts this species is a Sicilian endemic (Audisio et al. 1995; Liberti & Baviera 2004; Liberti 2005): the old four specimens labelled “Capri, Gabriel” (cf. Liberti 1979) should be considered mislabelled;

*Danacea citrina* Prochazka, 1894, reported of Sicily by Prochazka (1894: 23, 31) and of several Italian regions by Luigioni (1929: 633) was described – and is currently known – only from Beirut (Lebanon) (cf. Schilsky 1897) and its presence in Italy should be excluded;

*Divales quadrimaculatus* (Olivier, 1790): Luigioni (1929: 628) reports for Naples a “*Divales quadripustulatus* Fab.” [sic] followed by “*quadrimaculatus* Oliv.” as a synonym. *Divales quadrimaculatus* is a south-east France endemic also present in Liguria (Imperia province) and its presence in southern Italy should be excluded; however the pattern of elytral red spots in genus *Divales* Laporte de Castelnau, 1836, which is very variable, has led in the past to the description of many “varieties” resulting in a rather complex nomenclature, where misinterpretations are likely;

*Dasytes (Mesodasytes) virens* (Marsham, 1802): the Luigioni report (1923b: 4, 1929: 630 as *D. flavipes* (Olivier, 1790)) for Capri island is certainly due to a determination mistake. This species has a rather large central European range and occurs in Italy only in the north, reaching the Sibillini Mountains and the Spoleto area (Marches and Umbria) southwards. Its similarity with *D. (Mesodasytes) plumbeus* Müller, 1776 and *D. (M.) nigroaeneus* Küster, 1850, both present in the Naples gulf islands, explains the misinterpretation.

There are further three species, already reported for the Naples province, whose presence, in the author’s opinion, is possible or even likely: the reports however are considered not fully reliable and their actual presence should need confirmation. These are:

*Dasytes (Dasytes) tristiculus* Mulsant & Rey, 1868:

Luigioni (1929: 629) reports this species as *Dasytes calabrus* Costa, 1847 for Naples. This latter name is here (tentatively) interpreted as *Dasytes calabrus* sensu Mulsant & Rey, which is a “synonym” of *tristiculus* (teste Liberti 2004: 295); the interpretation of the true Costa taxon is doubtful because the type was not retrieved (Liberti 2004: 282). *Dasytes tristiculus* is common all along the Tyrrhenian coast, and up to over 1000 meters altitude, from the Pyrenees to Calabria; its presence in the Naples province is likely, in spite of the lack of reliable findings;

*Dasytes (Mesodasytes) aeratus* Stephens, 1829: this species is reported by Luigioni (1929: 630) for Naples. Such record is not sufficiently reliable because of the similarity between *D. aeratus* and *D. aeneiventris* Küster, 1850 (common in southern Italy and actually recorded, see below) which might have led to misinterpretation. However *D. aeratus* has a wide European range and is rather frequent all over continental Italy, from the Alps to Calabria;

*Aplocnemus pectinatus* (Küster, 1849) has been reported by Luigioni (1923b: 4, 1929: 627, in both cases as *Haplocnemus*) for Capri island. This record has been considered insufficiently reliable because of the similarity with *A. cribricollis* Mulsant & Rey, 1868 (actually recorded for Capri, see below) and with *A. chalconatus* (Germar, 1817) (actually recorded for the Vesuvius slopes, see below). *Aplocnemus pectinatus* is a central Mediterranean species, living in southern Corse, Sardinia, Sicily, Malta and Tunisia: its presence on Capri island, although possible, should be confirmed.

Species marked with an asterisk in the faunistic list have not yet been found in the Vesuvius National Park.

All specimens collected recently in the Vesuvius National Park (cf. Nardi & Vomero 2007) were found, unless otherwise stated, by general sweeping.

The nomenclature and sequence of species follow those of Liberti (2005).

General naturalistic information on the Naples province can be found in Massa & Massa (1980) and Groppali et al. (1983), whereas Picariello et al. (2000), Cona & Di Pasquale (2007) and Filesi (2007) can be consulted for information on the Vesuvius National Park.

#### ABBREVIATIONS

SAMPLING SITES IN THE VESUVIUS NATIONAL PARK. **BBoscot1** = Boscotrecase, Vesuvio vers. S, Riserva Tirone-Alto Vesuvio 500-700 m, *Pinus pinea* plantation with a few *P. halepensis*;

**EColata** = Ercolano, Vesuvio vers. N, strada per il cratere, 890 m ca, edge of lava flow; **EGigante** = Ercolano, Vesuvio, vers. N, Valle del Gigante, 965-870 m, transect between tall *Genista aetnensis*-dominated shrubland and lava flow covered with lichens; **EGinestre1** = Ercolano, Vesuvio vers. O, strada per il cratere, 525 m, *Spartium junceum* shrubland; **EGinestre2** = Ercolano, Vesuvio vers. O, strada per il cratere, 525-500 m, *Spartium junceum* shrubland with small isolated Holm oak patches; **EOsserv** = Ercolano, Vesuvio vers. O, dintorni dell'Osservatorio, 600-650 m, tall Mediterranean maquis; **ERimbos** = Ercolano, Vesuvio vers. N, strada per il cratere, 960 m ca, reforested area with conifers and *Genista aetnensis*; **EVesuv** = "Ercolano, Vesuvio" (without further details); **OCognoli** = Ottaviano, M. Somma vers. E, "sentiero per i Cognoli", 600 m ca, mixed chestnut grove; **OPrinc** = Ottaviano, M. Somma vers. E, a monte di Castello del Principe, 515 m, wasteland and pine plantation; **OVallone** = Ottaviano, M. Somma vers. E, Vallone Mazzamei, 450 m ca, hazelnut grove on pozzolana; **SMaria** = Somma Vesuviana, M. Somma vers. N, Santa Maria di Castello, 500 m ca, chestnut grove; **SMaria1** = Somma Vesuviana, M. Somma vers. N, Santa Maria di Castello, 450 m ca, margins of chestnut grove and anthropized area; **SMaria2** = Somma Vesuviana, M. Somma vers. N, Santa Maria di Castello, 465 m, wasteland on the edge of chestnut grove; **TFunivia** = Torre del Greco, Vesuvio vers. SO, stazione inferiore ex funivia, 754-800 m, mixed broadleaved woodland with False acacia and Pine; **"Vesuvio"** = Vesuvio (without further data); **VNP** = Vesuvius National Park.

COLLECTORS. AF = A. Fiori; AR = [A.] Rottenberg; BB = B. Bari; BR = [E.] Brenske; CD = C. D'Antonio; CE = [C.] Emery; EC = E. Colonnelli; EM = E. Moltoni; FI = F. Izzillo; FL = [?] Flach; FO = A. Focarile; FV = F. Vegliante; GL = G. Liberti; GN = G. Nardi; L? = no collector specified; MA = [?] Mattei; PA = [G.] Paganetti; PC = P. Cerretti; VV = V. Vomero.

DEPOSITORIES. CAn = Fernando Angelini collection (Francavilla Fontana, Italy); CCo = Achille Costa collection (Museo Zoologico dell'Università "Federico II", Naples, Italy); CFo = Alessandro Focarile collection (Saint Pierre, Italy); CLi = Gianfranco Liberti collection (Uboldo, Italy); CGN = Gianluca Nardi collection (Cisterna di Latina, Italy); CNBF = Centro Nazionale per lo Studio e la Conservazione della Biodiversità Forestale, Bosco della Fontana, Italy; MBa = Naturhistorisches Museum Basel, Switzerland; MBe = Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany; MGe = Museo Civico di Storia Naturale "Giacomo Doria", Genoa, Italy; MMi = Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Milan, Italy; MCZR = Museo Civico di Zoologia, Rome, Italy; MTo = Museo Regionale di Storia Naturale, Turin, Italy.

OTHER ABBREVIATIONS. coll. = collection; dint. = environs; ex = specimen/s; hw = handwritten; sd = collection date not indicated; vers. = slope.

## FAUNISTIC LIST

### 1. \* *Danacea (Danacea) ambigua* Mulsant & Rey, 1868

Liberti 1979: 37

RECORDS. **Monte Sant'Angelo [Tre Pizzi]**: [old], PA, 31 ex (MBa).

DISTRIBUTION AND COMMENTS. Northern Spain, France, Switzerland, Italy (islands excluded), Austria, Slovenia, north of Croatia. Very common all over continental Italy; already reported by Luigioni (1929). The lack of recent findings in the Naples province is surprising; its presence in the Vesuvius area is likely.

### 2. *Danacea (Danacea) aurichalcea* (Küster, 1850)

Liberti 1979: 39

RECORDS. **Capri**: sd, L? (Prochazha 1894; Schilsky 1897; Luigioni 1929); V.1911, Anguissola legit (Luigioni 1923b); [old, in Schilsky coll.], Gabriel leg., 7 ex (MBe) (cf. Liberti 1979); [old, hw by R. Hicker], L?, 4 ex (MBa); V.1939, L?, 1 ex (MBe). **Capri, Anacapri**: 7.V.1983, GL, 8 ex (CLi). **Capri, Anacapri, dint. S-W**: 7.V.1983, GL, 32 ex (CLi). **Napoli**: "Neapel (haufig von Brenske gefunden)" (Schilsky 1897); [old, in Schilsky coll.], L?, 17 ex (MBe) (cf. Liberti 1979); II.1902, AF, 4 ex (MBe); [old], BR, 16 ex (MBa). **Sorrento**: [old, hw by R. Hicker], L?, 16 ex (MBa); 21.IV.1962, BB, 4 ex (MGe). **VNP, EColata**: 31.V.2000, GN, 1 ♀ (CGN). **VNP, TFunivia**: 2000, EC, 1 ♀ (MCZR). [**VNP**] **"Vesuvio"**: 22.V.1913, 9 ex (MMi) (cf. Liberti 1979).

DISTRIBUTION AND COMMENTS. Lošinj Island in Croatia, peninsular Italy, approximately from Latium to Calabria, absent in the islands. Common. The record from Montenegro (Liberti 1979) was later ignored (Liberti 2005) because based on possibly mislabelled specimens (Liberti, unpublished).

This species (fig. 1) was described from Italy (without further details) (Küster 1850: n. 17, as *Cosmiocomus aurichalceus*); the lectotype from "Napoli" was designated by Liberti (1979).

Costa (1843: 46, 57, 68) reports a *Dasytes pallipes* (Panzer, 1795) as common around Naples in March-July, on flowers: on page 46 he was most likely referring to *Danacea aurichalcea* and/or *D. ambigua* Mulsant & Rey, 1868, which have an early phenology (March and April) and a similar general appearance, whereas on page 57 he was probably referring to *Danacea cusanensis* (A. Costa, 1847), which has a late phenology and can easily be found in July when the two former species have already disappeared (four years later, in 1847, Costa describes his *Dasytes*



Fig. 1. *Danacea aurichalcea* from Torre del Greco (x 21,2) (photo by D. Avesani).

*cusanensis* clearly stating the close resemblance, in his opinion, with *pallipes*. For the same reasons also the record of “*Dasytes pallipes*” from Quisisana at Castellammare di Stabia (Naples province) in March by Costa (1844: 59) must be referred to *Danacea aurichalcea* and/or *D. ambigua*.

### 3. *Danacea (Danacea) cusanensis* (A. Costa, 1847)

Liberti 1989: 293

RECORDS. **Napoli**: “Napoli (Emery)” (Baudi 1873a: 251); “ex speciminibus a D. Emery e Neapoli pro typicis communicatis” (MTo) (Baudi 1873b: 314); [very old], sd, “Napoli / Emery leg.”, 2 ex (F. Baudi coll., MTo) (cf. Liberti 1989: 293); [very old], CE, 1 ex (F. Baudi coll., dupleta, MTo) (cf. Liberti 1989: 295); [very old], AR, 1 ex (MTo) (cf. Liberti 1989: 295); [very old], cambio [= exchange] Carrara, 3 ex (MFi). **Punta Campanella**: 16.VI.1995, GL, 1 ex (CLi). **VNP, EAtrio**: 3.VII.2000, L?, 6 ex (MCZR). **VNP, BBoscot1**: 1.VI.2000, EC, 1 ex (CGN). **VNP, EGigante**: 17.VII.2000, CD, 3 ex (MCZR). **VNP, EGinestre1**: 8.VI.2000, CD, 1 ex (MCZR); 14.VI.2006, GN, 4 ex (CGN). **VNP, EVesuv**: 17.VII.2000, L?, 2 ex (MCZR). **[VNP] Napoli, Osservatorio Vesuviano**: [very old], dal Dr. [= from the Dr.] Cavanna (MFi), 1

ex. **VNP, OPrinc**: 2.VIII.2000, CD, 3 ex (MCZR). **VNP, SMaria1**: 14.VI.2000, GN, 1 ex (CGN); 8.VIII.2000, GN, 1 ex (CGN). **VNP, SMaria2**: 9.VI.2000, CD, FI & FV, 1 ex (MCZR).

DISTRIBUTION AND COMMENTS. An Italian endemic (fig. 2), described from Cusano Mutri (Campania, Benevento province) (Costa 1847; Liberti 1989), very common from Emilia to Calabria and absent from the islands.

Luigioni’s (1929: 633) citations of *Danacea citrina* Prochazka, 1894 for Tuscany, Latium and Campania probably refer to *D. cusanensis* (see above), and those for Sicily to *D. nigripalpis* Fiori, 1912.



Fig. 2. *Danacea cusanensis* from Somma Vesuviana, 450 m (x 27,8) (photo by D. Avesani).

### 4. *Danacea (Danacea) nigritarsis brunneipes* Pic, 1927

Liberti 1984: 164

RECORDS. **Capri**: V.1911, Anguissola legit (Luigioni 1923b, as *Danacea nigritarsis* (Küster, 1850)); sd, L? (Luigioni 1929, as *D. nigritarsis*); VI.1892, FL, 1 ex (MBa) (cf. Liberti 1984); 9.V.1963, BB, 2 ex (MGe). **Capri, Anacapri**: 7.V.1983, GL, 55 ex (CLi). **Ischia, Barano d’Ischia, spiaggia Maronti**: 25.V.1985, GL, 7 ex (CLi). **Ischia, Campagnano**: 25.V.1985, GL, 4 ex (CLi). **Punta**

**Campanella:** 16.VI.1995, GL, 15 ex (CLi). [VNP] **Osservatorio Vesuviano:** 6.VII.1880, A. Biondi, C. Caroti & G. Cavanna leg. (Baudi et al. 1882, as *D. nigritarsis* Kust. = *tomentosa* Muls.).

DISTRIBUTION AND COMMENTS. *Danacea nigritarsis* (Küster, 1850) is a widespread (central and southern Europe) polytypical species: the subspecies *brunneipes* is limited to south west Italy, namely Campania, Basilicata and Calabria. The above old record from Vesuvius (Baudi et al. 1882) might refer to this taxon; however, confusion with *Danacea cusanensis* is quite possible and a specimen of this latter species collected at the same site and very probably during the same expedition was examined (see above).

5. \* *Danacea (Allodanacaea) wittmeri* Liberti, 1985

Liberti 1985: 342

RECORDS. **Capri:** V.1892, Flach leg., 3 ex (Liberti 1985). **Capri, Anacapri dint. S-W:** 7.V.1983, Liberti leg., 3 ex (Liberti 1985). **Ischia, Barano [d'Ischia], [spiaggia] Maronti:** 25.V.1985, Liberti leg., 41 ex (Liberti 1985). **Ischia, Campagnano:** 25.V.1985, GL, 9 ex (CLi). **Punta Campanella:** 16.VI.1995, GL, 80 ex (CLi).

DISTRIBUTION AND COMMENTS. *Allodanacaea* Liberti, 1985 is a Tyrrhenian subgenus the distribution of which includes the Tuscan archipelago, Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily, the Italian Tyrrhenian coast from Tuscany to Calabria (and the Ionian coast of Apulia), the Maltese archipelago, Tunisia and eastern Algeria. *Allodanacaea* species often have small distribution ranges, sometimes limited to one or two small islands (Liberti 1985).

*Danacea (Allodanacaea) wittmeri* was described from Capri and Ischia; it is a rather common restricted endemic of the Naples coastal area, and its presence on the lower southern slopes of Vesuvius is possible in spite of the heavy urbanization of the area.

6. \* *Divales bipustulatus* (Fabricius, 1781)

Horion 1953: 126; Majer 1984: 275

RECORDS. **Napoli dint.:** VI-VII.1842 (Costa 1843: 52, 57, 68, as *Dasytes bipustulatus*). **Napoli:** sd, L? (Baudi 1873a: 247, as *Dasytes bipustulatus*).

DISTRIBUTION AND COMMENTS. Mainland Italy, from the Alps to Calabria (marginally present in southeastern France), and Bulgaria. Common or very common in selected places all over Italy, often found on thistles, sometimes even close to cities in wastelands.

This species is known from the Naples area through Costa (1843) and Baudi (1873a) records which appear to be reliable; its presence is not at all surprising and the lack of recent findings may just confirm the insufficient entomological knowledge of the area.

7. *Divales cinctus* (Gené, 1839)

Majer 1984: 287

RECORDS. **Capri:** V.1911, Anguissola legit (Luigioni 1923b: 4, as *Divales communimacula* Costa); sd, L? (Luigioni 1929: 628, as *Dasytes communimacula*); 9.V.1963, BB, 1 ex (MGe). **Capri, Anacapri dint. S-W:** 7.V.1983, GL, 16 ex (CLi). **Ischia:** sd, L? (Luigioni 1929: 628, as *Dasytes communimacula*). **Ischia, Barano d'Ischia, spiaggia Maronti:** 25.V.1985, GL, 31 ex (CLi). **Ischia, Campagnano:** 25.V.1985, GL, 60 ex (CLi). **Isola di Vivara:** 3.VI.1982, 3 ex (D'Antonio & Fimiani 1988, as *D. communimacula*). **Napoli dint.:** "Habitat in pratis et in fruticosis prope Neapolim, rarus", "Trovasi in vari punti de' contorni di Napoli nelle siepi o nei prati secondo la stagione; e' assai raro." (A. Costa 1847, as *Dasytes communimacula* n. sp.); "D. communimacula A. Cos. Napoli [hw]", 2 syntypes [both in very bad conditions, one consisting of a single elytron] (CCo). **Napoli, Monte Nuovo:** sd, Anguissola leg. (Luigioni 1923a: 142, as *Divales communimacula* ab. *atratus* Schilsky). **Pozzuoli:** "Dasytes communimacula A. Cos., Pozzuoli [hw]", "M° Zool. N° 5229 [hw]", 1 ♂, 1 ♀ [syntypes; the latter without labels] (CCo). **Punta Campanella:** 16.VI.1995, GL, 28 ex (CLi). **VNP, BBoscot1:** 1.VI.2000, EC, 1 ex (MCZR). **VNP, EAtrio:** 3.VII.2000, L?, 10 ex (MCZR). **VNP, EColata:** 19.VI.2006, GN & PC, 4 ex (CGN, CNBF). **VNP, EGigante:** 6.VI.2000, FV & CD, 2 ex (MCZR); 3.VII.2000, CD, on *Daucus* sp., 6 ex (MCZR); 17.VII.2000, CD, 6 ex (MCZR). **VNP, EGinestre1:** [2000], L?, 18 ex (MCZR); 31.V.2000, GN, 2 ex (CGN); 14.VI.2000, GN, 6 ex (CGN). **VNP, EVesuv:** 17.VII.2000, L?, 11 ex (MCZR). **VNP, SMaria:** 21.V.2000, VV, 4 ex (MCZR). **VNP, TFunivia:** 24.V.2000, VV, 4 ex (MCZR).

DISTRIBUTION AND COMMENTS. A Tyrrhenian species (fig. 3) very common in mainland Italy (from Liguria to Calabria), Sicily, Sardinia, Corsica, the Tuscan archipelago and all other Tyrrhenian islands.

*Dasytes communimacula* A. Costa, 1847 was placed in synonymy with *D. cinctus* by Majer (1984). Four syntypes (see above) of the former taxon can be found in the Achille Costa collection. Luigioni (1923a: 142, 1929: 628) correctly reports it for Naples and both Capri and Ischia islands.

8. \* *Dasytes flavescens* Gené, 1839

Liberti 2004: 284

RECORDS. **Napoli**: sd, L? (Luigioni 1929: 628).

DISTRIBUTION AND COMMENTS. A central Mediterranean species, present in North Africa, Malta, Sicily, Sardinia, and southern and central mainland Italy up to Rome. Rather late appearance (June, July), sometimes very common. The above record for Naples is not at all surprising although it has not been confirmed by recent findings.



Fig. 3. *Divales cinctus* from Somma Vesuviana (x 26,0) (photo by D. Avesani).

9. \* *Dasytes (Mesodasytes) aeneiventris* Küster, 1850

Liberti 2004: 315

RECORDS. **Napoli**: "Neapel" [old], BR, 1 ex (MBe) (cf. Liberti 2004).

DISTRIBUTION AND COMMENTS. Central and western Mediterranean: North Africa, Spain, central and southern Italy (including Sardinia and Sicily), Greece. Common in southern Italy, its presence all over the Naples province, including the Vesuvius area, is very likely. Luigioni's (1929: 630, as *D. aerosus* Kiesw.) record of *D. aeratus* Stephens, 1829 for Naples possibly re-

fers to *D. aeneiventris* (see above), which is really very similar: a reliable separation of these species often requires dissection and examination of the aedeagus.

10. \* *Dasytes (Mesodasytes) nigroaeneus* Küster, 1850

Liberti 2004: 318

RECORDS. **Ischia, Barano d'Ischia, spiaggia Maronti**: 25.V.1985, GL, 11 ex (CLi) (cf. Liberti 2004). **Ischia, Campagnano**: 25.V.1985, GL, 10 ex (CLi) (cf. Liberti 2004).

DISTRIBUTION AND COMMENTS. A Mediterranean species distributed from Morocco and Portugal eastwards to the eastern coast of the Black Sea. Generally uncommon in Italy, it can be rather common on islands or at specific sites, for instance Elba island, Ischia island, places in Sardinia etc. Its presence on the Vesuvius slopes is likely.

11. *Dasytes (Mesodasytes) plumbeus* (O. F. Müller, 1776)

Liberti 2004: 319

RECORDS. **Capri**: sd, L? (Luigioni 1929); 9.V.1963, BB, 4 ex (MGe). **Capri, Anacapri**: 7.V.1983, GL, 7 ex (CLi) (cf. Liberti 2004). **Capri, Anacapri dint. S-W**: 7.V.1983, GL, 97 ex (CLi). **Ischia**: 3.VI.1967, EM, 5 ex (MMi) (cf. Liberti 2004). **Ischia, Campagnano**: 25.V.1985, GL, 46 ex (CLi) (cf. Liberti 2004). **Monte Faito**: V.1976, FO, 1 ex (CFo). **Monte Sant'Angelo [Tre Pizzi]**: [old], PA, 5 ex (MBa) (cf. Liberti 2004). **Napoli**: 30.VI.1901, [AF?], 1 ex (MBe) (cf. Liberti 2004); 1902, MA, 1 ex (CLi); idem, 3 ex (MGe); 1907, MA, 3 ex (MGe) (cf. Liberti 2004). **Napoli dint.**: IV-VI.1842 (Costa 1843: 68). **Punta Campanella**: 16.V.1995, GL, 15 ex (CLi) (cf. Liberti 2004). **Sorrento**: [old, hw by Hicker], 1 ex (MBa) (cf. Liberti 2004). **VNP, BBoscot1**: 1.VI.2000, EC, 2 ex (MCZR). **VNP, EAtrio**: 3.VII.2000, L?, 1 ex (MCZR). **VNP, EColata**: 31.V.2000, GN, 1 ex (CGN); 19.VI.2000, GN & PC, 3 ex (CGN, CNBF). **VNP, EGinestre1**: sd, 2000, L?, 1 ex (MCZR). **VNP, EOsserv**: 1.VI.2000, EC, 1 ex (MCZR). **VNP, ERimbos**: 31.V.2000, GN, 3 ex (CGN). **VNP, OCognoli**: 31.V.2000, GN, 3 ex (CGN). **VNP, OVallone**: 31.V.2000, GN, 1 ex (CGN). **VNP, SMaria**: 21.V.2000, VV, 6 ex (MCZR). **VNP, SMaria1**: 31.V.2000, GN, 8 ex (CGN); 14.VI.2000, GN, 1 ex (CGN). **VNP, TFunivia**: 24.V.2000, VV, 2 ex (MCZR); 14.VI.2000, VV, 1 ex (MCZR).

DISTRIBUTION AND COMMENTS. Europe, Caucasus, Turkey, Iran (possibly central Asia). Common to very common all over western and central Europe, from Spain to Germany to Greece. Very common in Campania. Costa (1843: 46, 69) reports *Dasytes plumbeus* as common on flowers, in April-June, in the Naples area:

this statement is credible, although in theory also the similar *Dasytes aeneiventris* and *D. nigroaeneus* might be included. Luigioni (1923b, 1929) reports both *Dasytes plumbeus* and *D. virens* (Marsham, 1802) (= *flavipes* (Olivier, 1790)) for Capri Island: the latter species is to be referred to *D. plumbeus*, which shows a strong geographical variability: its separation from the other *Mesodasytes* Mulsant & Rey, 1868 species may be, at times, really tricky.

#### 12. *Psilothrix aureola* (Kiesenwetter, 1859)

Pic 1937: 108, as *Lasius aureolus*; Porta 1939: 123

RECORDS. **VNP, SMaria**: 24.V.2000, EC, 1 ex (MCZR). **VNP, OVallone**: 31.V.2000, GN, 1 ex (CGN).

DISTRIBUTION AND COMMENTS. A central Mediterranean species (fig. 4), known from mainland Italy (from Emilia to Calabria), Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily, Balearic Islands, Tunisia and Algeria. Common in Italy.

#### 13. *Psilothrix viridicoerulea* (Geoffroy, 1785)

Pic 1937: 110, as *Lasius viridicoeruleus*; Horion 1953: 138, as

*Psilothrix cyaneus* (Olivier, 1790); Fiori 1971: 3; Lohse 1979: 80, as *P. cyaneus*

RECORDS. **Capri**: V.1911, Anguissola legit (Luigioni 1923b: 4, as *Psilothrix cyaneus* Oliv. a. *viridis* Rossi); sd, L? (Luigioni 1929). **Capri, Anacapri dint. S-W**: 7.V.1983, GL, 5 ex (CLi). **Ischia, Barano d'Ischia, spiaggia Maronti**: 25.V.1985, GL, 4 ex (CLi). **Ischia, Campagnano**: 25.V.1985, GL, 8 ex (CLi). **Lago di Patria dint.**: 25.IV.1962, BB, 7 ex (MGe). **Napoli**: sd, L? (Luigioni 1929); 26.V.1982, FI, 1 ex (CAN). **Napoli dint.**: V.1842 (Costa 1843: 46, 68, as *Dasytes nobilis* [(Illiger, 1798)]). **VNP, EGinestre1**: 31.V.2000, GN, 1 ex (CGN). **VNP, SMaria**: 21.V.2000, VV, 2 ex (MCZR). **VNP, SMaria1**: 31.V.2000, GN, 1 ex (CGN). **VNP, SMaria2**: 9.VI.2000, FV & CD, 1 ex (CGN).

DISTRIBUTION AND COMMENTS. Species (fig. 5) very common from northern Europe to the whole Mediterranean area. In the north (southern England, Brittany, Normandy, northern Germany etc.) this species only lives along the sea coasts. In the Mediterranean countries it can be found everywhere although not on mountains. The biology of this species has been thoroughly described by Fiori (1971). It has already been reported by Costa (1843: 47, as *Dasytes nobilis*) for the Naples environs, although at that time the



Fig. 4. *Psilothrix aureola* from Somma Vesuviana (x 18,0) (photo by D. Avesani).

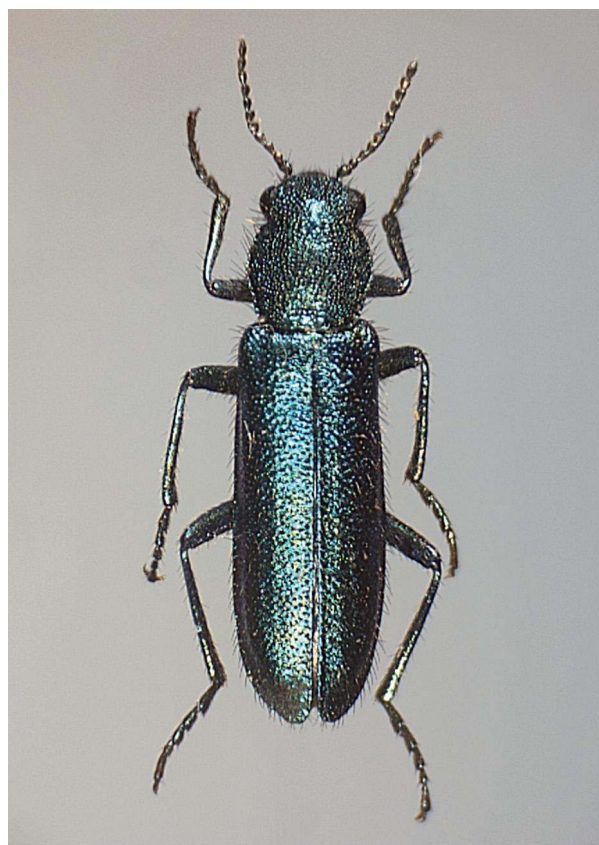


Fig. 5. *Psilothrix viridicoerulea* from Somma Vesuviana (x 12,0) (photo by D. Avesani).

specific difference between *Psilothrix aureola* and *P. viridicoerulea* may not have been fully understood.

14. *Aplocnemus (Aplocnemus) chalconatus* (Germar, 1817)

Majer 1982: 442; Liberti 1995: 187

RECORDS. **VNP, EGinetre1**: 19.VI.2006, GN & PC, 2 ex (CGN, CNBF). **VNP, SMaria2**: 9.VI.2000, FV & CD, 1 ex (MCZR).

DISTRIBUTION AND COMMENTS. Species (fig. 6) common in the north-western Balkans and in nearly the whole of Italy; probably present, although very rare, in France (Costantin 2007). In Italy it is rare in the north-west (no records for Piedmont, rare in the Milan and Pavia provinces, marginally present in western Liguria) but it becomes common in the north-east and in the whole Apennine area; it is absent in Sardinia and Sicily.



Fig. 6. *Aplocnemus chalconatus* from Somma Vesuviana (x 13,0) (photo by D. Avesani).

15. \**Aplocnemus (Aplocnemus) cribricollis* Mulsant & Rey, 1868

Liberti, 1995: 176

RECORDS. **Capri, Anacapri dint. S-W**: 7.V.1983, GL, 18 ex (CLi). **Ischia, Barano d'Ischia, spiaggia Maronti**: 25.V.1985, GL, 1 ex (CLi). **Napoli, Camaldoli**: sd, L? (Luigioni 1929).

DISTRIBUTION AND COMMENTS. A truly Tyrrhenian species, occurring on several Tyrrhenian islands and very common in Corsica and Sardinia. It shares the northern part of its distribution area with the similar *Aplocnemus difficilis* Holdhaus, 1923, which either replaces *A. cribricollis* (Pianosa, Giglio and Mount Argentario) or overlaps with it (Elba island, Corsica). *Aplocnemus cribricollis* is also present at least in one locality of the Italian coast, namely on Mount Circeo (Latium). It was reported by Luigioni (1929) for Camaldoli, very close to Naples, so its presence in the Vesuvius area is possible.

## DISCUSSION

Out of 22 Dasytidae species known for the Campania region (Liberti, unpublished), 15 have been recorded for the Naples province, including Capri and Ischia islands, eight of which have been found to occur in the Vesuvius National Park. Compared to the approximately 120 Italian Dasytidae species (Liberti 2005), these numbers underline the rather unsatisfactory knowledge of the whole area. The recent investigations carried out in the Vesuvius National Park have significantly improved this situation, but it is felt that the Naples area would still deserve further collecting efforts.

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