

**Occurrence of the “osmeterium”  
in Staphylinini and Quediini  
(Coleoptera Staphylinidae Staphylininae)**

Note 17 (Staphylinoidea), released by Luigi De Marzo on March 2013 –  
Results of the study of several members of these tribes.  
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**SUBJECTS**

- Adults of Staphylininae included into the genera *Cafius*, *Gabrius* and *Philonthus* bear a pair of ear-like pits related with the first abdominal segment (Crowson, 1963).
- Pits lay on the body surface under the elytra and composes a glandular device, which is reported as “osmeterium” referring to its supposed function to release odours (Crowson, 1981).
- Thanks to the courtesy of my friend Fernando Angelini (Francavilla Fontana, Italy), I could study several species of different genera in the subfamily Staphylininae, including members of the genera *Astrapaeus* and *Quedius*.
- This inspection showed the ear-like pits to be occurring in the species listed in Table A.
- A seemingly analogous device (Fig. 1.B) was found in ten members of the tribe Quediini (Table B), where pits are only moderately sunken.
- Neither ear-like nor slight pits were found in the species listed in Tab. C, which include *Gabrius doderoi*, *Neobisnius procerulus* and eight *Quedius* spp.

**REFERENCES**

- Crowson R.A., 1963 - On a supposed tympanal organ in the Staphylinid genus *Philonthus* (Col.). Ent. mon. Mag., 98: 197.  
Crowson R.A., 1981 – Chapter 8, The senses. In: The biology of the Coleoptera. Academic Press, 802 pp.

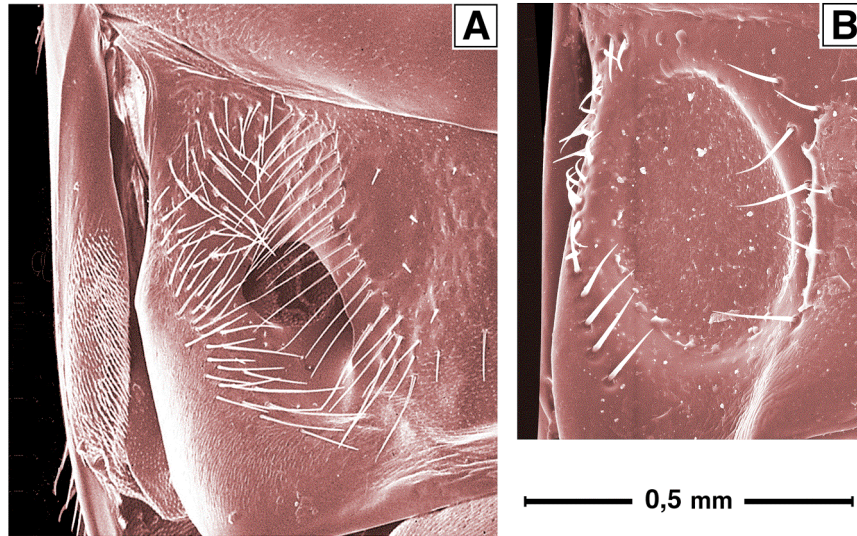


Fig. 1 – The two forms of the “osmeterium“ occurring in Staphylinidae-Staphylininae:  
A, ear-like pit; B, moderately sunken pit.

Table A – Species provided with the typical ear-like pits.

TRIBE: PHILONTHINI
<i>Cafius xantholoma</i> (Gravenhorst)
<i>Orthidus cribratus</i> (Erichson)
<i>Philonthus concinnus</i> (Gravenhorst)
<i>Philonthus cognatus</i> Stephens
<i>Philonthus decorus</i> (Gravenhorst)
<i>Philonthus intermedius</i> (Lacordaire)
<i>Philonthus politus</i> (Linnaeus)
<i>Philonthus quisquiliarius</i> (Gyllenhal)
<i>Remus filum</i> (Kiesenwetter)

Table B – Species provided with moderately sunken pits.

TRIBE: QUEDIINI
<i>Astrapaeus ulmi</i> (Rossi)
<i>Quedius boops</i> (Gravenhorst)
<i>Quedius cinctus</i> (Paykull)
<i>Quedius collaris</i> (Erichson)
<i>Quedius dubius</i> (Heer)
<i>Quedius latialis</i> Gridelli
<i>Quedius latinus</i> Gridelli
<i>Quedius nigriceps</i> Kraatz
<i>Quedius obscuripennis</i> Bernhauer
<i>Quedius paradisianus</i> (Heer)

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 Table C – Species lacking in any structure referring to the glandular pits.

TRIBE: PHILONTHINI
<i>Gabrius doderoi</i> Gridelli
<i>Neobisnius procerulus</i> (Gravenhorst)
TRIBE: QUEDIINI
<i>Quedius abietum</i> Kiesenwetter
<i>Quedius bruttius</i> Zanetti
<i>Quedius cruentus</i> (Olivier)
<i>Quedius nigrocaeruleus</i> Fauvel
<i>Quedius ochripennis</i> (Ménétriés)
<i>Quedius ochropterus</i> Erichson
<i>Quedius pallipes</i> Lucas
<i>Quedius semiaeneus</i> Stephens