

LECTOTYPE DESIGNATION AND REDESCRIPTION OF *ALEOCHARA VERBERANS* (COLEOPTERA: STAPHYLINIDAE)¹

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ABSTRACT: The original specimens of *Aleochara verberans* have been studied, the lectotype designated, the species redescribed and the habitus and genitalic structures illustrated by line drawings for the first time. Its relation to some species of the Nearctic region is briefly discussed.

This is the first paper of a series in which we plan to redescribe species of *Aleochara* from Central and South America. We will deal mainly with species in which the descriptions (e.g., Erichson 1839; Sharp 1883, 1887; Solier 1849, etc.) are practically useless for the purpose of species identification because of a lack of illustrations, especially those of genitalic structures which are essential in separating species of this genus. After this preliminary treatment of the species of the genus is achieved, a generic revision may be undertaken.

Among various specimens of Aleocharinae sent to the first author for study and identification by Dr. M. Uhlig of the Humboldt University, East Berlin, were four of Erichson's original specimens of *A. verberans* bearing typical green rectangular Erichson's label, and 4 additional specimens of the same species (2♂, 1♀, 1 sex?) bearing only collection No. 5571 on white labels. In the original description Erichson (1839) mentioned only 4 specimens, 2 from Columbia (1♂, 1♀) and 2 from Brazil (2♀), so the remaining specimens are excluded from the syntypic series, although they may have been seen by Erichson. Because none of the original specimens was designated as a holotype, we designate the male from Columbia as a lectotype. It bears the following data: green rectangular label "Columb. Moritz, 5571;" white label "Zool. Mus. Berlin;" our red lectotype designation label. The lectotype is housed in the Zoological Museum of Humboldt University, East Berlin.

Aleochara verberans is assigned here to the subgenus *Xenochara* Mulsant and Rey (1874), as redefined by Klimaszewski (1984), on the grounds of having a completely carinate mesosternum and evenly pubescent pronotum. In comparison with the Nearctic species of the genus, *A. verberans* seems to be closely allied to the species of the *Sculptiventris*

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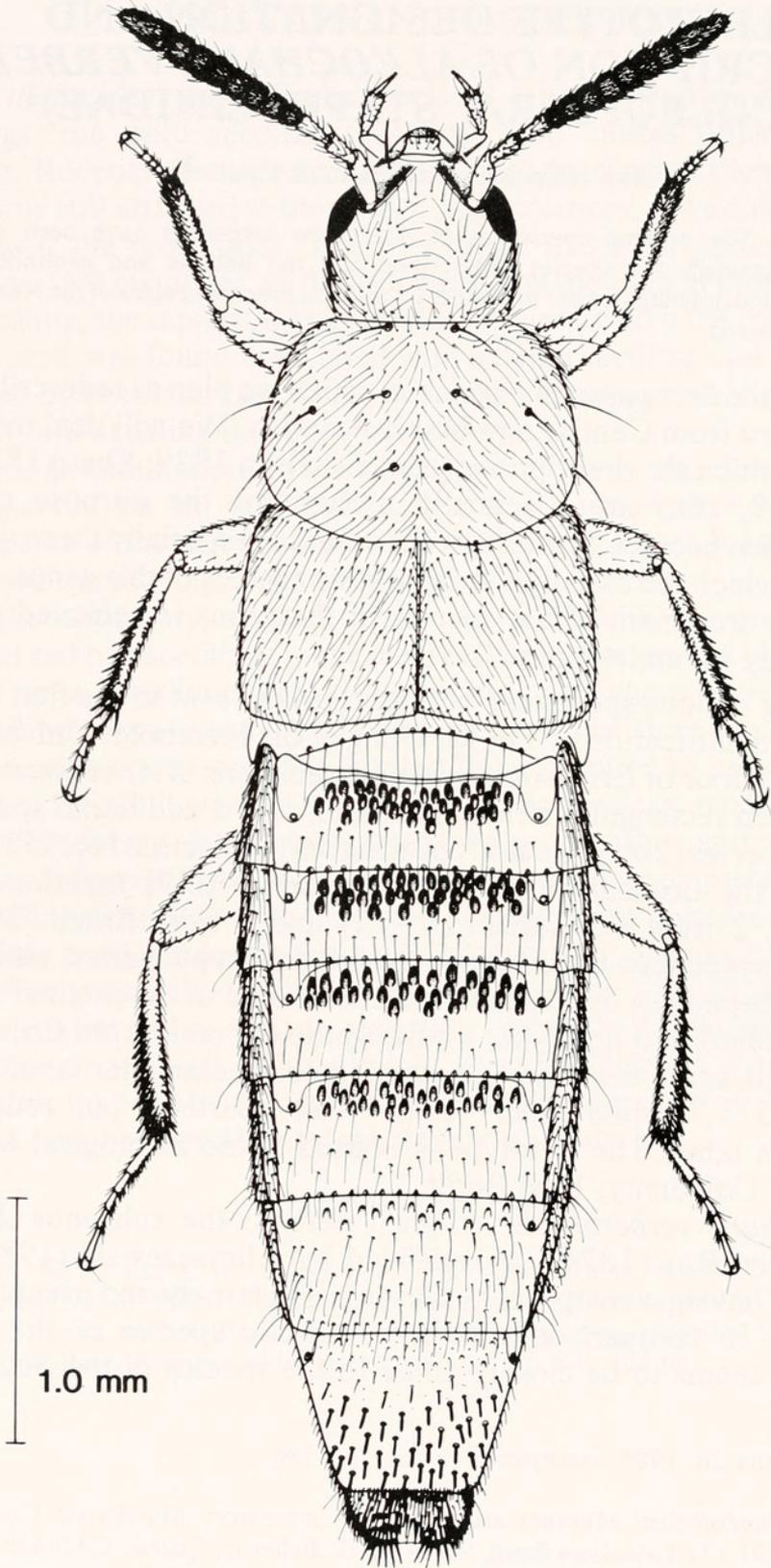
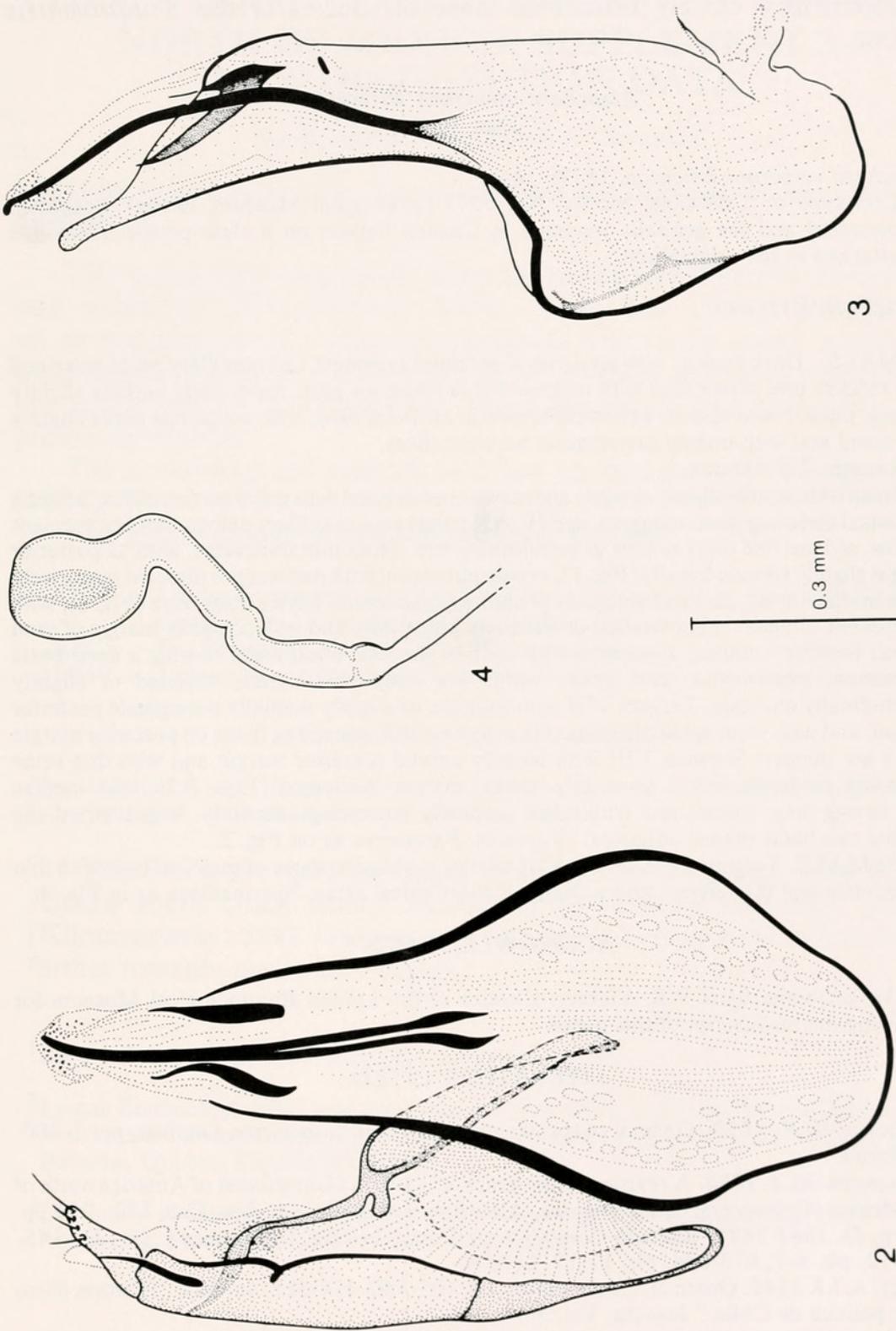


Fig. 1. Habitus of *Aleochoa verberans* Erichson.



Figs. 2-4. *Aleocharus verberans* Erichson. 2, aedeagus in dorsal view, (Lectotype); 3, median lobe of aedeagus in lateral view (Lectotype); 4, spermatheca (syntype, Colombia).

Group (Klimaszewski, 1984), although unlike the latter the pronotum is scarcely pubescent. The male aedeagus with structures of its median lobe in *A. verberans*, closely resembles those of species of the *Sculptiventris* Group.

Aleochara verberans Erichson

Figs. 1-4

Aleochara verberans Erichson, 1839: 164.

Lectotype ♂: Colombia, Moritz, No. 5571 (Zoological Museum, Berlin). Specimen dissected and the genitalia mounted in Canada balsam on a clear plastic microslide attached to the original pin.

REDESCRIPTION

MALE: Dark brown, with tarsi, basal antennal segments and maxillary palpi paler and with reddish tint; elytra also with reddish tint in posterior part; upper body surface slightly shining; pubescence scarce; yellowish-brown in artificial light, with setigerous pores slightly impressed and with minute punctuation between them.

Length: 5.5-9.0 mm.

Head with capsule slightly elongate and pubescence directed outwards from the midline; antenna with basal three segments elongate, and IV to X transverse; maxillary palpus with last segment narrow, at least one third as long as penultimate one. Pronotum transverse, with its posterior margin slightly sinuate basally (Fig. 1), evenly pubescent with pubescence directed posteriorly in the midline of the disc and obliquely posteriorly elsewhere. Elytra transverse (Fig. 1), with pubescence directed either straight or obliquely posteriorly and with posterior margin of each elytron broadly rounded. Abdomen with each of the four basal terga bearing a deep basal impression; impressions have pores which are deep and coarse, rounded or slightly longitudinally elongate. Tergum VIII with truncate or slightly medially emarginate posterior margin, and with stout setae distributed in posterior half, excepting those on posterior margin which are thinner. Sternum VIII with broadly curved posterior margin and with thin setae becoming gradually longer towards posterior margin. Aedeagus (Figs. 2,3), with median lobe having large bulbus and with tubus gradually narrowing anteriorly, with internal sac bearing two band-shaped subapical structures. Parameres as on Fig. 2.

FEMALE. Tergum and Sternum VIII similar in shape to those of male but both with thin pubescence and the tergum with a fringe of short apical setae. Spermatheca as in Fig. 4.

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