

# A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *Leptobium* Casey (COLEOPTERA: STAPHYLINIDAE: PAEDERINAE) FROM CENTRAL NORTHERN ANATOLIA, AND A DISTRIBUTIONAL CHECKLIST TO TURKISH SPECIES

Sinan ANLAŞ

Manisa Celal Bayar University, Alaşehir Vocational School, TR-45600, Alaşehir, Manisa, TÜRKİYE  
e-mail: [sinan.anlas@gmail.com](mailto:sinan.anlas@gmail.com), ORCID iD: [orcid.org/0000-0001-7059-5677](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7059-5677)

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**Abstract:** In this study, a new species of the genus *Leptobium* Casey, *Leptobium orgeli* sp. n. (Çorum province) from central northern Anatolia in Türkiye is described, illustrated, and distinguished from congeners. A total of 21 species is currently known from Türkiye. A distributional checklist of *Leptobium* of Türkiye is provided. Distributions of the endemic *Leptobium* species in central northern Anatolia are mapped. In addition, new and additional distribution data for 10 species of *Leptobium* are reported from different countries of the Palearctic Region. The material examined was based on specimens collected between 1927 and 2021, and contained additional specimens in European museums and Alaşehir Zoological Museum.

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**Key words:**  
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Endemism  
Taxonomy  
*Leptobium orgeli* sp. n.

**Özet:** Bu çalışmada, Türkiye'den *Leptobium* Casey cinsine ait bir yeni türün, *Leptobium orgeli* sp. n. (Çorum) tanımı yapılmış, şekillendirilmiş ve benzer türlerden ayrımı gösterilmiştir. Böylece, Türkiye'den bilinen tür sayısı 21 olmuştur. Türkiye'de bulunan *Leptobium* türlerine ait dağılımsal bir kontrol listesi verilmiştir. Orta kuzey Anadolu'da bulunan endemik *Leptobium* türlerinin yayılışı haritalandırılmıştır. Ayrıca, Palearktik Bölge'deki farklı ülkelerde bulunan *Leptobium* cinsine bağlı 10 türe ait yeni ve ek dağılımsal kayıtlar verilmiştir. İncelenen materyali, 1927-2021 yılları arasında toplanmış örnekler oluşturmakta olup, Avrupa müzeleri ve Alaşehir Zooloji Müzesi'nde bulunan örnekleri içermektedir.

## Introduction

The genus *Leptobium* Casey, 1905 (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Paederinae) is represented by 74 species and two subspecies in the Palearctic region (Schülke & Smetana 2015, Assing 2017, Anlaş & Örgel 2020). According to Assing (2005), the complete distribution of *Leptobium* includes the south of the Palearctic region from the Canary Islands to the Russian Far East, with *Leptobium gracile* (Gravenhorst, 1802) reaching into the northeast of the Ethiopian region. But the vast majority of species of the genus are distributed in the Mediterranean region and the Middle East, with the highest species diversity in Türkiye, where 20 species have been recorded so far (Anlaş & Örgel 2020), corresponding approximately one quarter of the known species in the Palearctic region.

*Leptobium* species can be found in almost any habitat providing optimal humidity and water supplies. They mostly can be collected in unforested habitats such as

meadows and pastures, as well as in forest, on flowers and lakeshores, usually at lower to intermediate elevations (Assing 2005, Anlaş 2012). According to Assing (2005), little is known about the phenology and biology of *Leptobium* species. According to Assing (2005), adults can be seen throughout the year, but they are much more common in spring. Also, teneral specimens of some species can be found both in spring and in late autumn. According to the published data on the genus and to personal observations, species of the genus are most probably predators of other invertebrates.

Most species of *Leptobium* are difficult to identify by external characters. A reliable identification at species level is possible only based on an examination of male sexual characters.

This study is mainly based on field studies in central northern Anatolia carried out within the scope of a



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research project. During the field trips in Çorum province, a new *Leptobium* species has been discovered. The number of currently known *Leptobium* species, including the newly described species, in Türkiye is 21, among which 17 are endemic to the country. New and additional distribution data for nine species of the genus are reported from different countries of the Palearctic Region.

### Materials and Methods

The material of the study was obtained from the specimens collected from Algeria, Croatia, Greece, Russia, Tunisia and Türkiye between 1927 and 2021. The specimens collected from Türkiye were sampled using aspirator and sifter methods. The material was examined under a Stemi 508 microscope (Zeiss Germany). All photographs were obtained using a digital camera (Zeiss Axiocam 208). All photographs were edited with Helicon Focus v. 6, and Corel Draw v. X7. A distribution map of the endemic *Leptobium* species in central northern Anatolia was prepared using the Google Earth Pro (2021) software. Nomenclature of the terminalia and the style of the description of *Leptobium orgeli* sp. n. follows Assing (2005).

Body length was measured from the anterior margin of the mandibles to the abdominal apex, head length was measured from the anterior margin of the clypeus to the neck, the length of pronotum was measured along the median line, the length of elytra from the apex of the scutellum to the posterior margin of the elytra (at the suture), and the length of the aedeagus from the apex of the ventral process to the base of the bulbos.

Abbreviations used to indicate collections where the studied material is deposited are as follows:

**AZMM**-Alaşehir Zoological Museum, Manisa Celal Bayar University, Türkiye (S. Anlaş) .

**HNHM**-Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, Hungary (G. Makranczy, O. Merkl).

**IRSNB**-Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Bruxelles (W. Dekoninck).

**MNHNP**-Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France (T. Deuve, A. Taghavian).

**ZIN**-Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St Petersburg (B. A. Korotyaev).

### Results

#### Taxonomy

Family STAPHYLINIDAE Latreille

Subfamily Paederinae Fleming

Tribe Paederini Fleming

Subtribe Dolicaonina Casey

*Leptobium orgeli* sp. n. (Figs 1, 2)

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**Type Material:** Holotype: TÜRKİYE: ♂, “TR. Çorum province, Osmancık, Danişment 4 km SW, 1400 m, 41°04'23"N, 34°58'24"E, 01.V.2021, leg. Örgel, Kacar & Çelik. / Holotypus ♂, *Leptobium orgeli* sp. n. det. S. Anlaş 2022” (AZMM). Paratypes: 15♂♂, 10♀♀, same data as holotype (AZMM). 3♂♂, 3♀♀, Osmancık, Danişment 3 km S, 1490 m, 41°04'36"N, 34°55'48"E, 01.V.2021, leg. Örgel, Kacar & Çelik (AZMM). 13♂♂, 8♀♀, Osmancık, Danişment 3 km E, 1461 m, 41°04'37"N, 34°56'04"E, 01.V.2021, leg. Örgel, Kacar & Çelik (AZMM). 4♂♂, 5♀♀, Osmancık, Danişment 4 km S, 1480 m, 41°04'26"N, 34°57'03"E, 01.V.2021, leg. Örgel, Kacar & Çelik (AZMM).

**Description:** Habitus as in Fig. 1a. Body 7.9-8.5 mm long. Colouration: head, pronotum, and abdominal segments III-VI black; elytra and abdominal segments VIII-X rufous, segment VII distinctly bicoloured with broad posterior margin rufous; antennae reddish and legs yellowish brown.

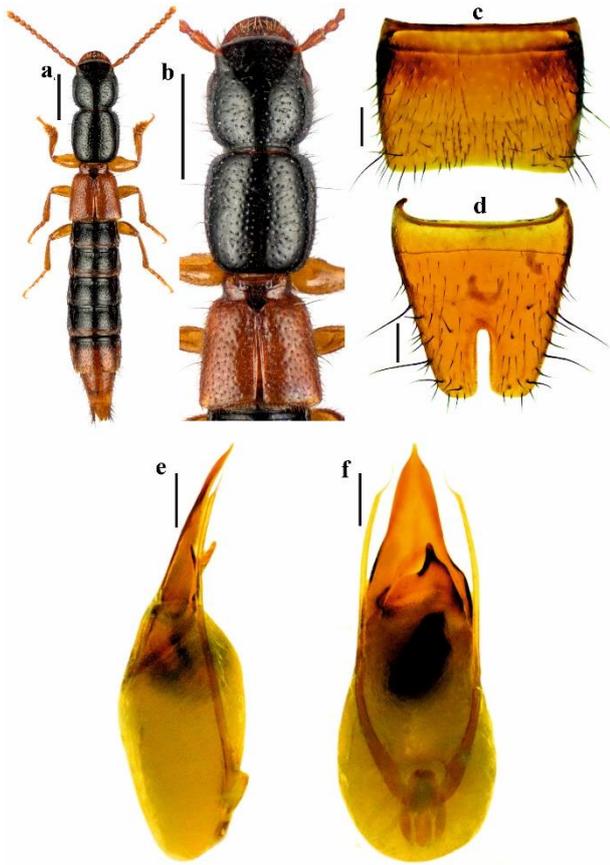
Head slightly oblong, approximately 1.05-1.10 times as long as wide (Figs 1a-b); integument without microreticulation; eyes approximately half as long as postocular region in dorsal view, weakly projecting from lateral outline of head; puncturation coarse and sparse, irregularly spaced, slightly denser and smaller in lateral than that in central dorsal area interstices wider than diameter of punctures both in lateral and median dorsal area; pubescence black and sparse. Antennae 1.82-1.98 mm long; antennomere III distinctly longer than II, approximately 1.5-1.6 times as long as II, antennomeres IV-VI longer than the width, antennomeres VII-X about as wide as long; antennomere XI almost twice as long as wide.

Pronotum oblong, approximately 1.2 times as long as wide and as wide as head (Figs 1a-b), slightly narrowed posteriorly, with subparallel lateral margins in dorsal view; dorsal surface without pronounced impressions; punctation similar to that of head, but slightly denser; microsculpture absent; pubescence blackish and sparse.

Elytra slightly wider than pronotum, approximately 1.05-1.10 times as wide as pronotum (Figs 1a-b) and shorter than pronotum, at suture about 0.75-0.80 times as long as pronotum; punctation not granulose, smaller, well-defined and denser than that of pronotum and head; microsculpture absent; pubescence reddish, slightly more distinct than that of head and pronotum. Hind wings reduced. Tarsi relatively long (Fig. 1a).

Abdomen slightly wider than elytra, approximately 1.05 times as wide as elytra (Fig. 1a), widest at segment VI; puncturation moderately dense and well-defined; all tergites with distinct microsculpture, composed of dense and fine transverse meshes and striae; pubescence blackish and sparse; posterior margin of tergite VII without palisade fringe.

♂. Sternite VII weakly modified, pubescence unmodified, with concave posterior margin and weakly



**Fig. 1.** Some morphological details of *Leptobium orgeli* sp. n. **a.** habitus, **b.** forebody, **c.** male sternite VII, **d.** male sternite VIII, **e.** aedeagus, lateral view, **f.** aedeagus, ventral view. Scale bars: 1 mm (a-b); 0.2 mm (c-f).

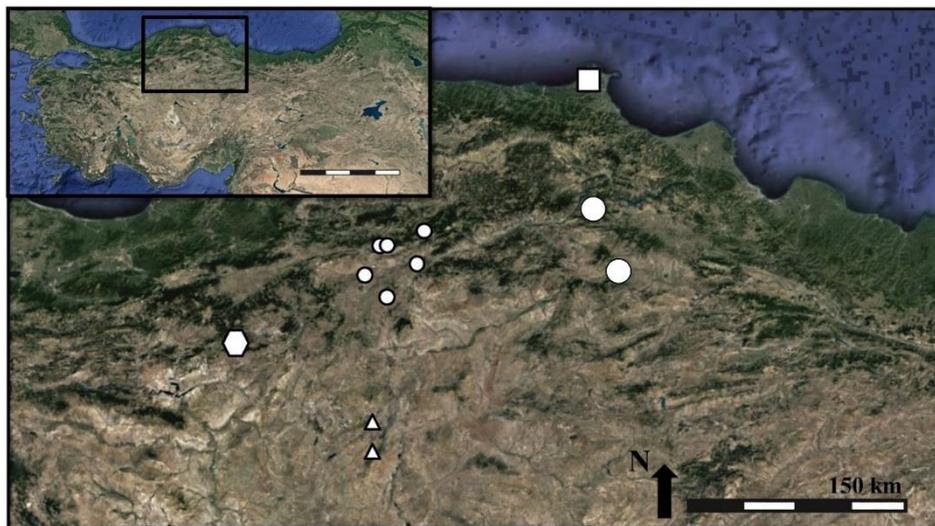
depressed in posterior median area (Fig. 1c); sternite VIII with posterior incision not reaching middle of the sternite, little more than 1/3 the length of the sternite (Fig. 1d); aedeagus approximately 1.5-1.6 mm long (Figs 1e-f), dorsal plate of aedeagus long and slender, apically acute;

the shape of the ventral process oblong and asymmetrical and on the right elongated in ventral view.

**Comparative notes:** The new species can be distinguished from other congeners (*Leptobium angoranum* Anlaş & Örgel, 2020; *L. ilgazicum* Assing, 2010; *L. ponticum* Assing, 2005; *L. yagmuri* Anlaş, 2017) in central northern Anatolia by the completely different morphology of the aedeagus and by the larger body (*L. angoranum*: 4.7-5.1 mm; *L. ilgazicum*: 6.6-7.0 mm; *L. ponticum*: 6.0-7.3 mm; *L. yagmuri*: 5.1-6.3 mm). External characters of the new species are similar to *L. illyricum* (Erichson, 1840), thus a reliable separation of the two species is possible only based on an examination of the aedeagus, especially the differently shaped ventral process. The species can be distinguished from *L. illyricum* by the more slender and pointed ventral process in ventral view.

For descriptions and illustrations of *L. angoranum*, *L. ilgazicum*, *L. ponticum*, *L. yagmuri* and *L. illyricum* see Assing (2005, 2010b), Anlaş (2017) and Anlaş & Örgel (2020).

**Remarks:** *Leptobium illyricum* is known from Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Macedonia, Slovenia, Cyprus, Iran, Syria and Türkiye (Assing 2005, Schülke & Smetana, 2015). *Leptobium illyricum* is distributed in Türkiye in Antalya, Konya and Mersin provinces. It seems that this species is confined to southern Anatolia (Assing 2005: fig. 116). The species has also been recorded from Amasya (=Çorum) province in northern Anatolia (Amasya: 1 ex., 10 km N Mecitözü, 1000 m, 4.V.1987, leg. Giachino) by Assing (2009b). Thus, this species was recorded far outside of its known distribution, so this record seems doubtful. This record is situated 70 km to the south of the type locality of *L. orgeli* sp. n. (Fig. 2). The record from Çorum by Assing (2009b) most probably refers to the new species.



**Fig. 2.** Distribution map for the endemic *Leptobium* species in central northern Anatolia: *L. ilgazicum* Assing (small circles); *L. ponticum* Assing (square); *L. yagmuri* Anlaş (small triangles), *L. angoranum* Anlaş & Örgel (hexagon), *L. orgeli* sp. n. (large circles).

*Etymology:* The species is dedicated to Semih Örgel, Manisa, who collected some of the type specimens of the new species.

*Distribution and bionomics:* The species was found at four localities from Çorum (Osmancık, Danişment) (Fig. 2, Table 1). The type specimens were collected under stones in various grassland areas at altitudes of 1400-1490 m.

### Faunistic Records

#### *Leptobium carinatum* Assing, 2005

*Material examined:* TÜRKİYE: 1♂, 2♀♀, 29.IV.2016, Antalya, Finike, Dağbağ, 36°25'19"N, 29°53'59"E, 336 m, leg. Kunt (AZMM). 1♂, 27.IV.2016, Antalya, Kaş, Saklıkent, 36°23'07"N, 29°21'02"E, 300 m, leg. Kunt (AZMM).

*Distribution:* This species is confined to Antalya and Muğla provinces in southwestern Türkiye (Assing 2005, Anlaş & Örgel 2021), (Table 1).

#### *Leptobium densiventre* (Fauvel, 1875)

*Material examined:* ALGERIA: 1♂, Algeria, Tlemcem (=Tlemcen), *Dolicaon illyricus* Peyer. (MNHNP). 1♂, Ain Fezza (MNHNP). TUNUSIA: 1♂, 1♀, Tunisie, Mateur, leg. Roche, *Leptobium boiteli* det. Fagel. (IRSNB).

*Distribution:* According to Assing (2005), *Leptobium densiventre* is widespread in northwest Africa, from Algeria to Libya and Sicily. The species was also recorded from Italian mainland recently by Anlaş (2017).

#### *Leptobium fagniezi* Jarrige, 1952

*Material examined:* ALGERIA: 1♂, 18.V.1953, Gde Kabylie (=Grande Kabylie, Yakouren), Foret d'Alfadou, Tala Kitan, 1100 m, leg. Fagel (IRSNB).

*Distribution:* This species is known from northern Algeria (Assing 2005).

#### *Leptobium gracile* (Gravenhorst, 1802)

*Material examined:* TÜRKİYE: 3♂♂, 6♀♀, 10.III.2018, Ankara, Mamak, Kutludüğün Plateau, 39°52'11"N, 33°06'04"E, 1436 m, leg. Örgel & Yaman (AZMM). 2♂♂, 4♀♀, 11.III.2018, Ayaş 10 km SE, Abdülselem Mountain, 39°56'40"N, 32°22'25"E, 1414 m, leg. Örgel & Yaman (AZMM). 4♂♂, 6♀♀, 21.V.2018, Çankırı, Ilgaz, Kuyupınar 2 km E, 1414 m, 40°51'06"N, 33°37'37"E, leg. Örgel & Yaman (AZMM). 8♂♂, 7♀♀, 30.X.2017, Karaman, Ayrancı, Yüglük Hill, 37°00'49"N, 33°46'55"E, 1967 m, leg. Örgel & Yaman (AZMM). 2♂♂, 3♀♀, 03.V.2018, Karaman, Ayrancı, Yüglük Hill, 37°00'49"N, 33°46'55"E, 1967 m, leg. Örgel & Yaman (AZMM). 8♂♂, 7♀♀, 02.V.2018, Karaman, Ermenek, Balkusan, 1890 m, 36°48'43"N, 32°53'35"E, leg. Örgel & Yaman (AZMM). 1♂, 09.IV.2018, Kayseri, Akkışla, Gömürgen 7 km E, Hınzır Dağları, 1970 m, 39°01'19"N, 36°17'52"E, 1970 m, leg. Yağmur & Örgel, Yaman (AZMM). 1♂, 07.V.2018, Kayseri, Develi, Yaylacık 6 km S, 38°04'26"N, 35°45'27"E, 1735 m, leg. Örgel & Yaman (AZMM).

3♂♂, 5♀♀, 07.III.2018, Kırıkkale, Bahşili, Sarıkayalar 8 km N, 39°44'12"N, 33°17'13"E, 1310 m, leg. Örgel & Yaman (AZMM). 2♂♂, 1♀, 08.III.2018, Kırıkkale, Çelebi, Tilkili 3 km E, 39°33'12"N, 33°30'41"E, 1427 m, leg. Örgel & Yaman (AZMM). Konya, 1♂, 27.X.2017, Bozkır, Tanrıdağı Tepesi, 36°58'39"N, 32°16'15"E, 1892 m, leg. Örgel & Yaman (AZMM). 2♂♂, 1♀, 05.III.2018, Konya, Cihanbeyli, Kırkışla, 38°32'10"N, 32°51'05"E, 1025 m, leg. Örgel & Yaman (AZMM). 2♂♂, 01.III.2018, Konya, Ilgın, Ilgın Gölü, 38°23'25"N, 31°53'21"E, 1068 m, leg. Örgel & Yaman (AZMM). 1♂, 1♀, 03.III.2018, Konya, Karapınar, Meke Lake, leg. Örgel & Yaman (AZMM). 3♂♂, 4♀♀, 05.III.2018, Konya, Böllük Gölü, 38°30'49"N, 32°54'00"E, 990 m, leg. Örgel & Yaman (AZMM). 1♂, 2♀♀, 04.III.2018, Konya, Karapınar, Yeşilyurt, Ovacık Y. 37°45'57"N, 33°46'08"E, 1600 m, leg. Örgel & Yaman (AZMM). 1♂, 1♀, 02.III.2018, Konya, Ilgın, Bulcuk, 38°08'40"N, 31°57'48"E, 1430 m, leg. Örgel & Yaman (AZMM). 1♂, 1♀, 20.III.2018, Konya, Halkapınar, Güney Mountain, 37°26'51"N, 34°18'31"E, 1830 m, leg. Örgel & Yaman (AZMM). 1♂, 09.V.2018, Konya, Karapınar, Meke Lake, 37°41'00"N, 33°38'01"E, 1000 m, leg. Örgel & Yaman (AZMM). 9♂♂, 5♀♀, 30.IV.2018, Konya, Bozkır, Geyik Mountains, 1875 m, 36°58'39"N, 32°04'56"E, leg. Örgel & Yaman (AZMM).

*Distribution:* *Leptobium gracile* is known from Canary Islands to Central Asia (Assing 2005, Schülke & Smetana 2015, Anlaş 2017). This species is very common and widespread in Türkiye (Table 1).

#### *Leptobium illyricum* (Erichson, 1840)

*Material examined:* CROATIA: 1♂, V.1927, Dalmatia, leg. Fodor (HNHM). GREECE: 1♂, 1♀, Graecia, leg. Fodor (HNHM).

*Distribution:* The species is known from Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Macedonia, Slovenia, Cyprus, Iran, Syria and Türkiye (Assing 2005, 2017, Anlaş 2017).

#### *Leptobium izmiricum* Anlaş & Gusarov, 2020

*Material examined:* TÜRKİYE: 2♂♂, 5♀♀, 18.IV.2021, İzmir, Karaburun 6 km W, 38°37'N, 26°24'E, 470 m, leg. Anlaş (AZMM).

*Distribution:* The recently described *L. izmiricum* is known from Karaburun, Çeşme and Urla districts in İzmir province (Anlaş & Gusarov 2020), (Table 1).

#### *Leptobium mutabile* Assing, 2005

*Material examined:* TÜRKİYE: 1♂, 29.IV.2016, Antalya, Finike, 36°17'34"N, 30°06'36"E, 600 m, leg. Kunt (AZMM). 2♂♂, 29.III.2016, Antalya, Gazipaşa, İnal Village, 36°09'07"N, 32°33'28"E, 1070 m, leg. Kunt (AZMM). 2♂♂, 07.VI.2019, Antalya, Kumluca, Sarnıç Hill, 36°21'24"N, 30°18'03"E, 120 m, leg. Yağmur (AZMM).

*Distribution:* The species is known only from Antalya province (Assing 2005, Anlaş & Örgel 2021), (Table 1).

*Leptobium sparsum* (Reitter, 1887)

*Material examined:* RUSSIA: 1♂, 1♀, 09.V.2017, Krasnodar Krai, [Terr.], vill. Nebug, Nebug riv. valley, 44°11'14"N, 39°01'05"E, mostly moss, leg. Salnitska & Valuyskiy (ZIN).

*Distribution:* *Leptobium sparsum* occurs in the western Caucasus region (Assing 2005, Anlaş 2017).

*Leptobium syriacum* (Saulcy, 1865)

*Material examined:* TÜRKİYE: 3♂♂, 22.III.2008, Gaziantep, Islahiye, Kabaklar, 840 m, 37°01'56"N, 36°33'44"E, leg. Yağmur (AZMM). 4♂♂, 3♀♀, 08.IV-23.VIII.2017 and 16.VIII.2019, Hatay, Hassa, Küreci, 36°42'32"N, 36°27'03"E, 532 m, leg. Yağmur.

*Distribution:* *Leptobium syriacum* is distributed in Cyprus, Israel, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Türkiye (Assing 2005, Örgel & Anlaş 2016, Anlaş 2017).

**Table 1.** Distributional checklist of the *Leptobium* species of Turkey.

Species	Distribution	References
<i>Leptobium angoranum</i> Anlaş & Örgel, 2020	Ankara (Beypazarı)	Anlaş & Örgel (2020); Endemic
<i>Leptobium anlasi</i> Assing, 2009	Manisa	Assing (2009b), Anlaş (2012, 2017); Endemic
<i>Leptobium assingi</i> Bordoni, 1994	Antalya, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Osmaniye	Bordoni (1994), Assing (2005, 2006, 2009a, b, 2017), Anlaş (2017), Anlaş & Örgel (2020); Endemic
<i>Leptobium bicarinatum</i> Assing, 2005	Gaziantep, Hatay, Kilis	Assing (2005, 2009a, b), Anlaş (2012, 2017), Anlaş & Örgel (2020)
<i>Leptobium bozdagense</i> Assing, 2006	İzmir, Manisa	Assing (2006, 2009b), Anlaş & Çevik (2008), Anlaş (2012, 2017); Endemic
<i>Leptobium carinatum</i> Assing, 2005	Antalya, Muğla	Assing (2005, 2017), Anlaş (2017), Anlaş & Örgel (2020); Endemic
<i>Leptobium geminum</i> Assing, 2005	Gaziantep, Kilis	Assing (2005); Endemic
<i>Leptobium gracile</i> (Gravenhorst, 1802)	Widespread and common in Turkey	Assing (2005, 2009a, b, 2010a, b, 2017), Anlaş & Çevik (2008), Anlaş (2012, 2017); Örgel & Anlaş (2016), Anlaş & Örgel (2020)
<i>Leptobium ilgazicum</i> Assing, 2010	Çankırı	Assing (2010b), Anlaş (2017), Anlaş & Örgel (2020); Endemic
<i>Leptobium illyricum</i> (Erichson, 1840)	Antalya, Konya, Mersin	Assing (2005, 2009b, 2017), Anlaş (2012)
<i>Leptobium izmiricum</i> Anlaş & Gusarov, 2020	İzmir (Karaburun, Çeşme)	Anlaş & Gusarov (2020); Endemic
<i>Leptobium keskini</i> Anlaş & Gusarov, 2020	Balıkesir (Sındırgı, Ulus Dağı)	Anlaş & Gusarov (2020); Endemic
<i>Leptobium mutabile</i> Assing, 2005	Antalya	Assing (2005, 2009b), Anlaş (2017), Anlaş & Örgel (2020); Endemic
<i>Leptobium nabozhenkoi</i> Anlaş, 2012	Karaman (Bolkar Dağı)	Anlaş (2012); Endemic
<i>Leptobium orgeli</i> Anlaş sp. n.	Çorum (Osmançık)	Anlaş (present paper); Endemic
<i>Leptobium ponticum</i> Assing, 2005	Sinop	Assing (2005, 2009a), Anlaş (2012, 2017), Anlaş & Örgel (2020); Endemic
<i>Leptobium schuelkei</i> Assing, 2005	Hatay	Assing (2005), Anlaş (2012); Endemic
<i>Leptobium syriacum</i> (Saulcy, 1865)	Adana, Diyarbakır, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Mersin, Osmaniye, Şırnak	Jarrige (1952), Coiffait (1972, 1982), Assing (2005, 2006, 2009a, b, 2017), Anlaş (2012, 2017)
<i>Leptobium thracicum</i> Anlaş & Örgel 2021	Tekirdağ (Şarköy, Uçmakedere)	Anlaş & Örgel (2021); Endemic
<i>Leptobium wunderlei</i> Bordoni, 1994	Antalya, Mersin (Anamur)	Bordoni (1994), Assing (2005, 2009b, 2010a, 2017), Anlaş (2012); Endemic
<i>Leptobium yagmuri</i> Anlaş, 2017	Ankara, Kırıkkale	Anlaş (2017), Anlaş & Örgel (2020) Yaman <i>et al.</i> (2020); Endemic

## Discussion

The main center of diversity of the genus *Leptobium* is in the Mediterranean countries and adjacent regions, especially Türkiye. 21 species of the genus have been recorded so far from Türkiye, where only five species were known before 2005 (Table 1). Despite the fact that the Turkish fauna of the genus has been well-studied in recent years, it seems most likely that the diversity of *Leptobium* species in Türkiye is far greater than presently known. Because, many species remain to be discovered and described. The main reason for the situation is that some regions of Türkiye (e. g. northeastern, eastern and southeastern Anatolia) have not been sufficiently studied in terms of *Leptobium* fauna yet.

The most distinctive specialty of the *Leptobium* fauna of Türkiye is the high rate of endemism. In Türkiye, 17 of 21 species are endemic and the endemism rate represent more than 80% of the Turkish *Leptobium* fauna. Restricted distribution ranges and the strong link to specific geological substrates are important characteristics of the endemic fauna of Türkiye (Çıplak *et al.* 1992, Demirsoy 2007). Endemic species in Türkiye are

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distributed in southern Anatolia (seven species), northern and central northern Anatolia (five species), western Anatolia (four species) and Thrace Region (one species). It is thought that both the number of species and endemic species will increase in the future, with further detailed studies on the *Leptobium* fauna of Türkiye.

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