Amaurorhinus bewickianus (Wollaston, 1860: 451)

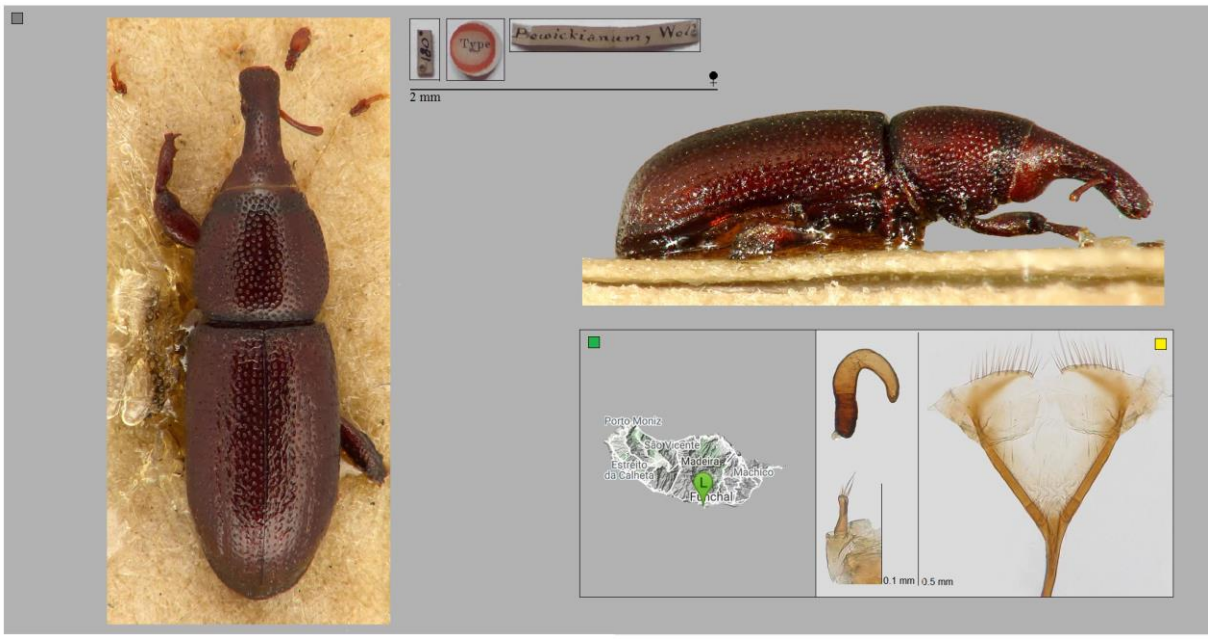
by P.E.Stüben

Note. This species, described from Madeira, is said to occur throughout the Mediterranean and has obviously been described more than half a dozen times under other names (Löbl & Smetana 2013: 220). It has even recently been reported by CURCULIO Institute staff from the island of Andros (Greece) (Bahr et al. 2017:10). I was able to study the holotype, a female, in the Natural History Museum (London) and found - except for the slightly shorter rostrum - no essential difference from the well known species *Amaurorhinus monizianus*, which also occurs in the Canaries, the Ilhas Selvagens, the Ilhas Desertas and Madeira, the locus typicus. It could well be possible that the type specimen from Madeira shown here is *Amaurorhinus monizianus* or a subspecies. Only molecular examination can finally provide clarity here!

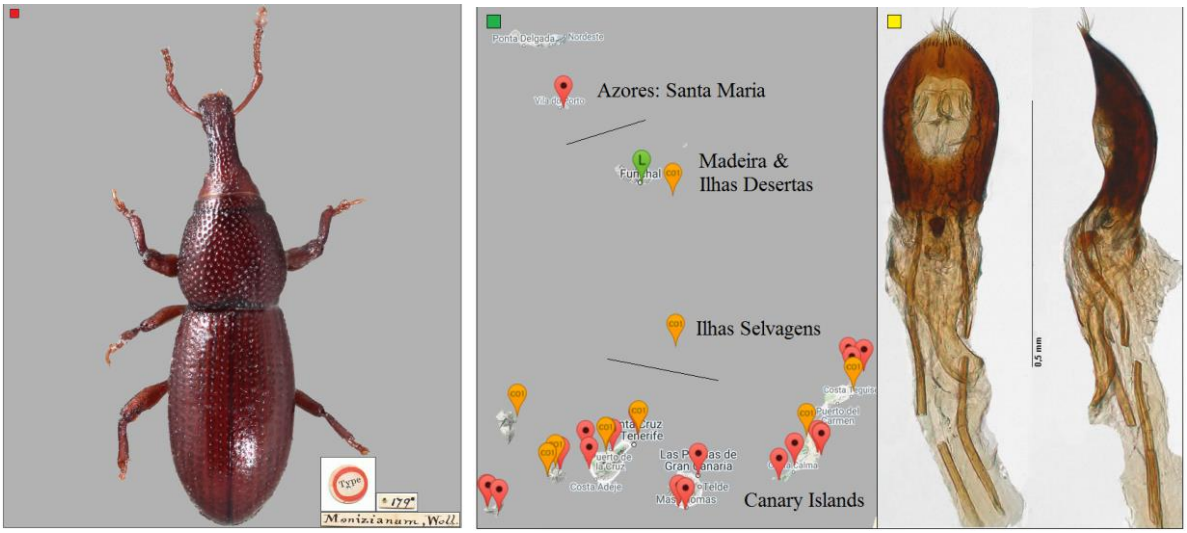
Therefore, a comprehensive morphological, but especially molecular revision of the genus *Amaurorhinus* Fairmaire, 1860 from the Macaronesian Islands and from the Mediterranean region is needed!

Bahr F., Winkelmann H. & Bayer Ch. (2017): Illustrated Catalogue of the Weevils of Greece (Coleoptera: Curculionoidea)- SNUDEBILLER: Studies on taxonomy, biology and ecology of Curculionoidea 18, No.257: 463 pp.

Löbl L. & Smetana A. (ed. 2013): Catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera. Vol. 8, Curculionoidea II, Leiden & Boston, Brill, 700 pp.



Amaurorhinus bewickianus (Wollaston, 1860): Habitus: Holotype (female) and femalia genitalia (spermatheca, ovipositor, spiculum ventral), Madeira, Praia Formosa (Funchal), coll Natural History Museum (London).



Amaurorhinus monizianus (Wollaston, 1860): Habitus (male) / aedeagus: Holotype, Madeira, Funchal, coll. Wollaston, Natural History Museum (London).

Note. This species, originally described from Madeira, occurs on all Canary Islands and the Ilhas Selvagens (Selvagem Grande). On Fuerteventura the species can be sieved from the wet substrate under various Amaranthaceae (Chenopodiaceae) and Zygophyllaceae near the sea in the mouth of seasonally wet barrancos.
A. monizianus is morphologically extremely variable (e.g. concerning the width and shape of the pronotum or the form or puncturation of the elytra) and can (except for the unmistakable aedeagus) hardly be separated ectoskeletally from allegedly ‘related species’ (e.g. *A. viti* of Gran Canaria or *A. bewickianus* also from Madeira). In any case, a DNA analysis (e.g. CO1) is worthwhile for doubtful morphological determinations.