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Results of the Czechoslovak-Iranian entomological expeditions to Iran. Coleoptera: Silphidae

Výsledky československo-íránských entomologických expedicí do Íránu. Coleoptera: Silphidae

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Abstract. The faunistic data are given for 68 specimens, representing seven species of Silphidae, collected during 1970-1977 by the Czechoslovak-Iranian entomological expeditions in Iran. Recent finding of *Aclypea cicatricosa* Reitter, 1885 and first reliable records for *Nicrophorus vespilloides* Herbst, 1784 and *N. investigator* Zetterstedt, 1824 from Iran are provided.

Three expeditions to Iran were undertaken by the Department of Entomology of the National Museum (Natural History) in Prague in 1970, 1973 and 1977, respectivelly. The basic data about the expeditions, including detailed description of collecting localities (numbering successively), maps and photos can be find in Hoberlandt (1974, 1981, 1983).

In this paper, the material of carrion beetles (Coleoptera: Silphidae) is elaborated. All the material is deposited in collections of National Museum, Praha, unless otherwise mentioned.

Thanatophilus sinuatus (Fabricius, 1775)

Material examined. N. Iran, Tehran prov., central Elburz Mts, Kandavan - pass, 2700-2900 m, south slope, loc. no. 395, 4-9.vii.1977, 1 ♂.

Palaearctic species, from Iran reported by Schawaller (1981).

Ablattaria cribrata (Ménétriés, 1832)

Material examined. N. Iran, Gilan, Sheykh Mahalleh, 160 m, loc. no. 390, 28.vi.-3.vii.1977, 1 ♀. This species is known only from southern parts of Russia and the Caucasus, a single report from northwestern Iran is reported by Schawaller (1979).

Aclypea undata (Müller, 1776)

Material examined. N. Iran: Mazandaran, central Elburz Mts, Damavand, Lajran, 2400 m, loc. no. 68, 23.vii.1970, 1 ♂ 2 ♀♀; Tehran prov., Elburz Mts Central, Kandavan, Val. N of tunnel, 2545 m, loc. no. 86, 10-11.vi.1970, 1 ♂; Tehran prov., Elburz Mts Central, Kandavan - pass, 2700--2900 m, south slope, loc. no. 395, 4.-9.vii.1977, 1 ♀; Tehran prov., 8 km W of Gachsar, loc. no. 396, 6.-8.vii.1977, 1 ♀; Elburz Mts, Damavand Mt., vii.1976, J. Boháč lgt., J. Růžička coll., 1 ♀.

Palaearctic species, the specimens from the Caucasus, the Transcaucasia, Syria and "Persia" with more lustrous and bumpy elytra were described as ssp. *verrucosa* (Ménétriés, 1832) - Reitter (1885), Portevin (1926) and Nikolaev (1990); it is recently considered as being a junior synonym of *A. undata* by Schawaller (pers. comm.).

Aclypea cicatricosa Reitter, 1885

Material examined. E. Iran, Kerman prov., Jebal Barez Mts, Deh Bakri, 1700-1750 m, loc. no. 186, 30.iv.-3.v.1973, 6 ♂♂ 14 ♀♀, some specimens also deposited in the author's collection and in coll. Schawaller.

The species was described after a single female specimen from "Persia" (Reitter 1885), three further records from western Turkmenia have been recently provided by Nikolaev (1990).

Silpha obscura obscura Linneaus, 1758

Material examined. N.W. Iran, Azarbaidjan, Sufian, 30 km W Tabriz, loc. no. 27, 20-21.vi.1970, 3 ♂♂ 1♀; N.W. Iran, Tehran prov., Ghazvin, loc. no. 29, 24.vi.1970, 2 ♂♂ 2 ♀♀; N. Iran, Mazandaran, Elburz Mts Central, Gazanak, in the valley of the river Haraz Chay, 1400 m, loc. no. 63, 20-21.vii.1970, 8 ♂♂ 4 ♀♀; N. Iran, Tehran prov., central Elburz Mts, Kandavan, valley N of tunnel, 2545 m, loc. no. 86, 1 ♂ 2 ♀♀.

Nominotypical subspecies of this palaearctic species, reported from Iran by Schawaller (1980).

Silpha obscura nitida Portevin, 1907

Material examined. N. Iran, Tehran prov., Elburz Mts West, Rudbarak, northern slope of the Alam Kuh massif, plain of the Kalardasht, 1850-2400 m, loc. no. 92, 13.viii.1970, 4 ♂♂ 3 ♀♀; N. Iran, Gilan, Talesh Mts, 24 km N of Khalkhal, Pushte-Kuh, pass, 2200-2300 m, loc. no. 95, 13.viii.1970, 4♂♂ 5♀♀.

This subspecies is restricted to the Caucasus, the Transcaucasia, northeastern Turkey; from northwestern and northern Iran reported by Schawaller (1980).

Nicrophorus vespilloides Herbst, 1784

Material examined. N. Iran, Tehran prov., Elburz Mts West, Rudbarak, northern slope of the Alam Kuh massif, plain of the Kalardasht, 1850-2400 m, loc. no. 92, 13.viii.1970, 1 ♀.

Holarctic species, the first reliable record from Iran.

Nicrophorus investigator Zetterstedt, 1824

Material examined. N. Iran, Tehran prov., Elburz Mts West, Rudbarak, northern slope of the Alam Kuh massif, plain of the Kalardasht, 1850-2400 m, loc. no. 92, 13.viii.1970, 1 ♀.

Holarctic species, the first reliable record from Iran.

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SOUHRN

V práci je zpracován materiál mrchožroutovitých brouků čeledi Silphidae, sebraný během let 1970-1977 účastníky tří československo-íránských entomologických expedicí do Íránu. Celkem byl zpracován materiál 68 exemplářů. Ze sedmi druhů mrchožroutů je nejzajímavější nález druhu *Aclypea cicatricosa*, popsaného Reitterem (1885) podle jediné samice z "Persie" (bez bližší lokalizace), druh je jinak známý pouze ze západní Turmenie (Nikolaev 1990). První konkrétní nálezy z Iránu jsou také uvedeny pro holarktické druhy hrobaříků *Nicrophorus vespilloides* Herbst a *N. investigator* Zetterstedt.