

Linzer biol. Beitr.	46/1	703-722	31.7.2014
---------------------	------	---------	-----------

***Lethrus (Lethrus) baiocchii* nov.sp. (Coleoptera: Geotrupidae) from Iran**

O. HILLERT & D. SECHI

A b s t r a c t : *Lethrus (Lethrus) baiocchii* nov.sp. from the Māzandarān (مازندران), Semnān (سمنان) and Tehran (تهران) provinces of Iran is described. The new species is similar and closely related to *L. (L.) acutangulus* BALLION, 1870. Diagnostic characters of the Iranian and west Turkmenian species of the nominotypical subgenus *Lethrus* SCOPOLI, 1777 are given for both males and females. Additionally the characteristics of the head, male mandible processes, pronotum and aedeagus are illustrated for all species.

K e y w o r d s : Taxonomy, new species, differentiating characters, Coleoptera, Scarabaeoidea, Geotrupidae, *Lethrus*, Palearctic region.

Introduction

Two species of the subgenus *Lethrus* SCOPOLI, 1777 of the genus *Lethrus* are currently known from the southern and southeastern region of the Caspian Sea in Iran and west Turkmenistan: *Lethrus acutangulus* BALLION, 1870 and *L. sieversi* KOZHANTSCHIKOV, 1894 (NIKOLAJEV 2003; KRÁL & NIKOLAJEV 2006). For *L. acutangulus*, the material examined in the present paper came from the north Iranian provinces of Māzandarān (مازندران), Golestan (گلستان) and N Semnān (سمنان). *L. sieversi* is so far known only from the western slopes of the Kopet Dagh mountain range (کپداغ) in Turkmenistan (NIKOLAJEV 2003; SEMENOV-TYAN-SHANSKIJ & MEDVEDEV 1936). Three other species of *Lethrus*, of the subgenus *Scelolethrus* SEMENOV, 1892 are known from Iran; *L. (Scelolethrus) chorassanicus* SEMENOV & MEDVEDEV, 1935, *L. (Scelolethrus) mithras* REITTER, 1904 and *L. (Scelolethrus) percutens* GUSAKOV & KLIMENKO, 2011. Further species of *Lethrus* are present in the nearby Kopet Dagh mountain range in West Turkmenistan: *L. (Heteroplistodus) cicatricosus* REITTER, 1889, *L. (Scelolethrus) crypticus* KRÁL & OLEXA, 1996, *L. (Scelolethrus) rosmarus* BALLION, 1871, *L. (Scelolethrus) spinnimanus* JAKOVLEV, 1892, *L. (Scelolethrus) substriatus* KRAATZ, 1883, *L. (Scelolethrus) sulcatus* KRAATZ, 1883 and *L. (Scelolethrus) tekkensis* KRÁL & OLEXA, 1996.

Fifteen other species of the subgenus *Lethrus* are known from Europe and the Mediterranean region (KRÁL et al. 2001; KRÁL & NIKOLAJEV 2006; PITTINO 2011; KRÁL & HILLERT 2013; KRÁL et al. 2013).