



An annotated checklist of Malachiidae (Coleoptera: Cleroidea) from Iran

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Abstract

A checklist of Iranian Malachiidae (Coleoptera) is given in this paper. Eighty two species from 22 genera (subfamily Malachiinae) are listed in the fauna of Iran. Of these species, 31 are endemic to Iran, and one *Anthocomus pupillatus* Abeille de Perrin, 1890 is a new record for this country.

Key words: Malachiidae, beetles, Iran, fauna, checklist

Introduction

The Malachiidae (Soft-winged flower beetles) represent a large group in the superfamily Cleroidea (Švihla & Hajek 2009), and are represented by about 150 genera and about 3,000 described species worldwide (Švihla & Mifsud 2006); over 1,400 species occur in the Palaearctic Region (Mayor 2007). Adults feed on pollen or fungi, and larvae live mainly in dead wood and in stems of plants, where they feed on larvae of xylophagous insects (Plata Negrache & Santiago Hernandez 1987; Švihla & Mifsud 2006).

Iran forms a large part of the Iranian plateau, and covers an area of 1,623,779 km². It is bordered to the north by the Caucasus Mountains, the Caspian Sea (-27 m below sea level), and Middle Asian natural regions; to the west by the Anatolian and Mesopotamian regions; to the east by the eastern part of the Iranian plateau (Afghanistan and adjacent west Pakistan) and the Baluch-Sindian region; and to the south by the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman, which are connected by the latter to the Indian Ocean (fig. 1). Climatologically, Iran is a predominantly arid and semi-arid country, but the northern slopes of the Alburz Range and the Caspian Lowland receive 800 to 2000 mm annual rainfall, making them the most humid parts of the country. The Dasht-e Kavir and Dasht-e Lut deserts are the driest areas in the country with an annual precipitation of less than 150 mm. The highlands receive between 250 and 800 mm (Zehzad *et al.* 2002).

Material and methods

The published data on distribution of the family Malachiidae (Coleoptera) in Iran are summarized by province. Tribes, genera and species are listed alphabetically. The following data are included in the catalogue for each species: (1) valid name, (2) junior synonym(s), (3) published records synthesised by provinces (classified in alphabetical order), and relevant references (classified in chronological order) with cited species name if it differs from a current status, (4) synthesised information on general distribution on a world scale (listed chronologically, and from West to East, from North to South), and on feeding habits, (5) new records for Iran. Information given on classification, nomenclature and distribution is based mainly on Mayor (2007), but for later additions and changes exact references are given. Where accurate data about local distribution in Iran are lacking in a quoted reference, the note “Iran (no locality cited)” is used. Additionally, the name “Persia” has been retained because it is a traditional synonym for Iran. The provinces of Iran are represented in figure 1.

and some other coleopteran families for 35 years; we dedicate this publication to him. We thank also our colleagues Sergei Tshernyshev (Institute of Animals Systematics and Ecology, Novosibirsk, Russia) for his personal communications and Robert Constantin (Saint-Lo, France) for his critical reading. This research was supported by Uzhhorod National University (Ukraine) and Islamic Azad University (Yadegar—e- Imam Khomeini (RAH) Shahre Rey Branch).

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