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**PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE CERAMBYCIDAE
OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES,
WITH THE DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES
BELONGING TO A NEW SUBGENUS**

(Insecta Coleoptera Cerambycidae)

Abstract

The author gives a preliminary report on the Cerambycidae of the United Arabs Emirates. *Mourgliana* (*Pseudomourgliana* n.subgen.) *vanharteni* n.sp. is described. The systematic position of *Mourgliana* Holzschuh, 1993 is discussed. *Zoodes compressus* (Fabricius, 1787), *Hypoeshrus indicus* Gahan, 1906 and *Iranobrium davatchii* Villiers, 1967 are recorded for the first time from the Arabian Peninsula. New distributional data are provided for *Diorthus cinereus* (Fabricius, 1792). According to the type material examined, *Zoodes compressus* (Fabricius, 1787) is proposed as a junior synonym of *Gnatholea soraya* Villiers, 1974.

Key words: Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, new taxa, new synonymy, new records, Arabian Peninsula, United Arab Emirates, Qatar.

Riassunto

[Rapporto preliminare sui Cerambycidae degli Emirati Arabi Uniti, con descrizione di una nuova specie appartenente ad un nuovo sottogenere]

In questo lavoro l'autore descrive *Mourgliana* (*Pseudomourgliana* n.subgen.) *vanharteni* n.sp. degli Emirati Arabi Uniti. Segnala inoltre nuove località di raccolta di quattro specie di Cerambycidae, tre delle quali: *Zoodes compressus* (Fabricius, 1787), *Hypoeshrus indicus* Gahan, 1906 e *Iranobrium davatchii* Villiers, 1967, risultano nuove per la fauna della Penisola Arabica. Propone inoltre la nuova sinonimia: *Zoodes compressus* (Fabricius, 1787) = *Gnatholea soraya* Villiers, 1974.

Introduction

The present paper is intended to give a preliminary report on the Cerambycidae collected by Tony Van Harten and his collaborators from the late 2004 to the first half of 2006, during his field researches in different localities of the United Arab

Emirates, within the UAE Insect Project. Among the Cerambycidae sent for study, I have identified one new species belonging to a new subgenus and some interesting species which constitute new records for the UAE and the Arabian Peninsula.

Mourgliana subgenus ***Pseudomourgliana*** nov.

Type species. *Pseudomourgliana vanharteni* n.sp.

Description. Head with eyes coarsely faceted, deeply emarginate, the upper lobes well developed and close to each other on the vertex; antennal tubercle flat. Antennae 11-segmented, conspicuously longer than the body in male, slightly shorter than it in female. Pronotum like in *Mourgliana*. Mesonotum emarginate on anterior margin, with a median longitudinal furrow, apparently without stridulatory plate or with stridulatory plate reduced; mesoscutum without ventral apodeme. Elytra shortened, not totally covering the abdominal sternites, parallel sided, dehiscent, attenuate and narrowly rounded apically. Legs like in *Mourgliana*. Prosternal process short, triangular in front, not extending to the middle of coxae; front coxae contiguous, coxal cavities transverse, widely angulate externally, open behind; mesosternal process short, sub-triangular; mesocoxal cavities open laterally to the epimera; metepisterna moderately narrow, conspicuously tapering behind; metepimera not produced beyond the hind margin of episterna toward the hind coxae. Metendosternite of “Hylecoetoid type”, with stalk well developed, articulated with the base of metasternum, lateral laminae moderately shortened and moderately enlarged, separated by a deep notch, anterior projections for tendons absent, tendons placed far from each other, lateral arms short and oblique. Abdomen with sternites not modified in both sexes, first segment only slightly longer than each of the following ones. Male genitalia: ventral arc (IX sternite) fork shaped; dorsal arc (IX tergite) apparently absent; internal sac of aedeagus with basal sclerites; tegmen short, with lateral lobes moderately elongate, not fused distally. Female genitalia not modified, with ovipositor elongate, of Cerambycinae type.

Discussion. Unfortunately, I was unable to study the type material of *M. conspicua* Holzschuh, 1993, type species of the genus; therefore, I provisionally describe *Pseudomourgliana* as a subgenus of *Mourgliana*, basing the comparison upon the drawings and the very detailed description given by the author. The new subgenus is very similar to *Mourgliana* Holzschuh, 1993, described on a single species (*M. conspicua* Holzschuh, 1993) from Saudi Arabia. *Mourgliana* differs from the new taxon in having 12-segmented antennae, mesonotum (according to the original description) with stridulatory file, abdomen with a small spot of appressed hairs on the middle of the first and second visible sternites, elytra more strongly abbreviated, somewhat emarginated on the outer side and with apices broadly rounded.

***Mourgliana (Pseudomourgliana) vanharteni* n.sp.**

Type series. Holotype ♂ : UAE: Sharhah x Khor Kalba, 24.59N 56.09E, 07-22.03.2006, in light traps (loc. 3937), leg. Tony van Harten. Paratypes: 5 ♂♂: Wadi Safad, 25.13N 56.19E, 02-26.01.2006, in yellow & white water traps (loc. 4889); 7 ♂♂: Wadi Safad, 25.13N 56.19E, 20.12.05-02.01.06, in light traps (loc. 3159); 11 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀: Sharhah x Khor Kalba, 24.59N 56.09E, 07-22.03.2006, in light traps (loc. 3937); 3 ♂♂: Wadi Safad, 25.13N 56.19E, 02-26.01.2006, in yellow & white water traps (loc. 5017); 6 ♂♂: Wadi Madaq, 25.18N 56.07E, 14.03.2006, at light (loc. 3502); 1 ♂: Sharhah x Khor Kalba, 24.59N 56.09E, 16-31.01.2006, in light traps (loc. 5083); 3 ♂♂: Wadi Safad, 25.13N 56.19E, 14-21.05.2006, in light traps (loc. 4211); all specimens collected by Tony van Harten. Holotype and some paratypes in author's collection; paratypes also in the collection of UAE Insect Project (Sharjah, United Arab Emirates).

Description of the holotype male. Length 6.5 mm from the frons to the apex of abdomen. Integument dark brown, covered with sparse recumbent light pubescence. Palpi very short, subequal, last segment of maxillary palpi cylindrical, about twice longer than the preceding one. Antennae longer than body, surpassing the elytra by the last five segments and extending two segments beyond the tip of abdomen, sparsely and densely clothed with pale pubescence, the scape short, thickened behind, pedicel very short, segments 3rd to 6th distinctly thickened, 4th segment the longest, 1.9 times longer than 1st, 1.2 times longer than both 3rd and 11th; 3rd very slightly longer than segments 6th to 10th which are similar in length. Pronotum cylindrical, about as long as broad, almost parallel sided, the disc moderately convex, sparsely rasp-like punctate except for a median longitudinal shining area before the base. Scutellum short, apparently glabrous. Elytra shortened, not covering the last three segments of abdomen, 2.2 times longer than broad at their base, distinctly tapering behind, apices attenuate, the surface sparsely granulate/punctate at base, more densely and finely punctate toward the apex; pubescence pale, moderately long near the base, shorter on the apical half. Ventral side of the body with sparse short recumbent pubescence. Abdomen with first sternite only slightly longer than each of the following ones. Legs sparsely pubescent, first segment of hind tarsi 3.36 times longer than the following one, 1.23 times longer than the other segments. Male genitalia: median lobe truncate and somewhat bilobed apically, with basal apophyses elongate, tegment short, with paired lateral lobes.

Variability in paratypes. Length 4.0-6.5 mm. The paratypes do not differ substantially from the holotype; female differ from male by lighter coloration, elytra somewhat longer, antennae shorter, not longer than body and extending only the last two segments beyond the elytral apex; fourth segment not longer than third.

Discussion. HOLZSCHUH (1993), who described *Mourgliana conspicua* basing upon male specimens, assigned the new genus to the tribe Nathriini Linsley,

1963 and compared it to *Nathrius* Brethès, 1916. In fact, *Mourgliana* Holzschuh and the new subgenus described in this paper, are very different from *Nathrius* and, very likely, unrelated to the tribe Nathriini. *Nathrius* markedly differs from *Pseudomourgliana* n.subgen. as follows. Head with eyes prominent, finely faceted, with short erect hairs between the ommatides, the upper lobes greatly reduced; mesonotum with front margin straight or slightly curved; metendosternite of very peculiar shape, without stalk, fused at base with the base of metasternum, lateral lamina very short, lateral arms elongated, anterior projections for tendon insertion present; abdomen modified in female, with 1st sternite elongate, about as long as the following ones combined, 2nd segment apically emarginate, with a dense brush of petiolate hairs; intermediate and hind legs with femora strongly clavate; male genitalia: dorsal arc (IX tergite) present; internal sac of aedeagus without basal sclerites; tegmen very elongate and narrow, with lateral lobes fused distally. Female genitalia modified, with ovipositor short, analogous to Stenopterini.

Range and biology. The new species is only known from the United Arab Emirates. All known specimens were attracted to light traps or to yellow or white dishes with water. Host plants unknown.

Hypoeschrus indicus Gahan, 1906

Hypoeschrus indicus Gahan, 1906, Fauna of British India, Coleoptera, 1: 104. Type locality: "India: Karachi, Calcutta, Belgaum". Type material examined.

Range. Pakistan, India (GAHAN, 1906); Southern Iran: Bandar-Langeh; Baluchistan: Iranshahr (VILLIERS, 1967).

UAE - SSW of ad-Dhaid, 25.09N 55.48E, 10-29.12.2005, 2 specimens, in light traps; Fujairah, 25.08N 56.21E, 28.02-01.04.2006, 1 specimen, in light traps.

A new species for the Arabian Peninsula.

Diorthus cinereus (Fabricius, 1792)

Cerambyx cinereus Fabricius, 1792, Ent. Syst., 1(2): 265 (nec DeGeer, 1775, now in *Phytoecia* Dejean, 1835), maintained according to the ICZN, art. 59.2. Type locality: "Tranquebar" (East India). Type material not examined.

Range. Distributed from southeast Asia to Nepal, Pakistan, Baluchistan, Aden, Mauritius and in Tropical Africa from Tanzania to Sierra Leone and Mauritania (GAHAN, 1906; MATEU, 1963); southern Iran (SAMA et al., 2005).

UAE - SSW of ad-Dhaid, 25.09N 55.48E, 10-29.12.2005, in light traps (loc. 3585), Sharjah, 25.21N 55.24E, 14.05.2006, with hand from garden wall (loc. 4105); al-Ajban, 24.36N 55.01E, 27.05-26.06.2006, in Malaise-traps (loc. 5325); Wadi Safad, 25.13N 56.19E, 14-21.05.2006, in light traps (loc. 4211).

A new species for the United Arab Emirates.

Zoodes compressus (Fabricius, 1787).

Callidium compressum Fabricius, 1787, Mant. Ins., I: 153. Type locality:

“Habitat in Siam”. Type material (Coll. Banks, NHM, London) examined.
Gnatholea soraya Villiers, 1974, in Breuning & Villiers, *L'Entomologiste*, 30(3): 131. Type locality: Iran, Bandar Abbas. Type material (Mus. Nat. Hist. Nat., Paris) examined (**new synonymy**).

Range. Widespread from Thailand and India to southern Iran (GAHAN, 1906, VILLIERS, 1974). In southern Iran (Minab, east of Bandar Abbas) I have found one dead adult under the loose bark of a dead Mango (*Mangifera indica*) and some larvae (one specimen emerged) feeding on a dead branch of the same plant.

UAE - SSW of ad-Dhaid, 25.09N 55.48E, 07-14.09.2006, one specimen in light traps. I have examined two specimens in bad condition, labelled “Dubai, 2000, ex boat”) (Nat. Hist. Museum, London).

A new species for the Arabian Peninsula.

Iranobrium davatchii Villiers, 1967

Iranobrium davatchii Villiers, 1967, *Ann. Soc. ent. Fr.*, 3: 338. Type locality: Iran: Minab; Bandar Abbas Type material (Mus. Nat. Hist. Nat., Paris) examined.

Range. Described and only known from southern Iran; I have found it in several localities of the Hormozgan province, east and west of Bandar Abbas: Minab (oasis), ex larva from *Mangifera indica*; 15 km south of Minab, Isin and Pahel, ex larva from *Acacia* sp. It has been recently discovered in Qatar: Doha, Center of the Friend of the Nature, 25.11.2001, two specimens attracted to light traps, leg. and coll. C. Cocquempot; idem, 2.03.2003, many adults emerged from dead twigs of *Ziziphus* sp., leg. C. Cocquempot and G. Sama.

UAE - Sharjah Desert Park, 25.17N 55.42E, 14.10.2004; Sharjah, 25.21N 55.24E, many adults attracted to light traps from 12.06.2005 to 09.10.2005; idem, 26.04.2006, hand collecting.

A new species for the Arabian Peninsula.

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