



Synopsis of the genus *Pharaonus* (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Rutelinae), with descriptions of new taxa

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Abstract

An overview of the genus *Pharaonus* Blanchard, 1851 is presented. *Pharaonus farsensis* **new species** and *P. adelphus* **new species** are described from Iran, *P. lederi turcmenius* Ohaus, 1941 is recognized as **new synonym** of *P. lederi* (Reitter, 1888), and the subgenus *Tamerlanius* **new subgenus** is proposed for the two central-Asian species. New distribution records and systematic notes are presented: *P. caucasicus* (Reitter, 1888) is removed from the fauna of Iran and *P. varicoloreus* (Burmeister, 1844) from that of Israel; *P. fasciculatus* (Burmeister, 1844) is reported for the first time from Israel, *P. semenowi* (Reitter, 1888) from Tajikistan. All known species are illustrated and a key to species is presented.

Key words: Scarabaeidae, Rutelinae, *Pharaonus*, *Tamerlanius*, Iran, Middle East, Central Asia, North Africa, new taxa

Introduction

The genus *Pharaonus* Blanchard, 1851 included, to date, seven species-level taxa distributed from North Africa (where only two species are present) to western and central Asia. Král (2012) recently described the second known species for North Africa and gave a preliminary review of the distribution of each species.

Among the material examined, we discovered two small series of *Pharaonus* species from the Iranian provinces of Fars and Kerman, which did not seem to correspond to any of the known taxa. The study of this material drove us to scrutinize the taxonomy and faunistic literature of the entire genus. As a result, two new species from Iran are recognized; a new synonymy is proposed; and a new subgenus is established for the two central-Asian species, which are distinguished by a set of strong, distinct characters.

In addition, we present a new dichotomic key to the species of the genus, illustrations of the habitus and the aedeagus for all known species, and provide an updated distribution for *P. fasciculatus* (Burmeister, 1844), *P. caucasicus* (Reitter, 1888), *P. varicoloreus* (Burmeister, 1844), and *P. semenowi* (Reitter, 1887).

Material and methods

This work is based on specimens preserved in the following collections:

DKCC	Denis Keith personal collection, Chartres, France
GSCP	Guido Sabatinelli personal collection, Prévessin-Moëns, France
HMIM	Hayk Mirzayans Insect Museum, Tehran, Iran
HNHM	Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, Hungary
MHNG	Muséum d'histoire naturelle, Genève, Switzerland
MNB	Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin, Germany