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715

Two new panurgine bee (Hymenoptera: Andrenidae) species from the Near- and Middle East

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Abstract

Two new species of Panurginae, *Clavipanurgus gusenleitneri* sp.nov. and *Flavomeliturgula schwarziana* sp.nov., are described from Near and Middle East. Their morphological characteristics and geographical distributions are discussed with respect to what is typical for the two genera in the concerned region.

Key words: Panurginae, new species, Central Asia, steppe, endemism

Introduction

Michener (1979) showed that bees are most abundant and diverse in the warm temperate xeric areas. In the Old World, the biodiversity of bees is highest around the Mediterranean basin and eastwards into Central Asia (Michener, 1979). The high diversity of Central Asia is even more remarkable n the cases of some groups like Panurginae (Patiny, 2001; Patiny & Gaspar, 2000).

The two genera to which the species treated in the present paper belong constitute typical examples of the diversity and typicality of Near- and Middle East steppes and perideserts (Patiny, 2001; Patiny & Gaspar, 2000; Warncke, 1972, 1985, 1987). Among the 10 described species in the genus *Clavipanurgus* Warncke, 1972, only 1 (endemic in Morocco) is absent from the region constituted by the Jordan Valley, Turkey and Iran. *Clavipanurgus gusenleitneri* sp.nov., described in the present paper, was also collected in this general area (Syria). Likely, all the described *Flavomeliturgula* Patiny, 1999 are endemic in the Zagros Mounts (Iran), extending eastwards in Baluchistan (Pakistan). The available specimens of the new species, *Flavomeliturgula schwarziana* sp.nov., were also collected in this region.

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