



Contribution to the knowledge of Iranian *Pygopleurus* Motschulsky, with description of *P. rapuzzii* n. sp. (Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea: Glaphyridae)

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Abstract

A new species of Glaphyridae is described: *Pygopleurus rapuzzii* n. sp. from northwestern Iran. The new species is sympatric with and shares many character states with *P. anahitae* Mitter, from which it can be differentiated by the shape of genital parts and by morphological characters of head, pronotum, and elytra. Both species are illustrated for the first time. New records from Iran are given for other species of the genus *Pygopleurus* Motschulsky.

Key words: Iran, Glaphyridae, *Pygopleurus*, new species, new records, systematics

Introduction

Since the revision of the genus *Pygopleurus* Motschulsky, 1859 proposed by Baraud (1989), nine new taxa have been described: *P. lucarellii* Piattella & Sabatinelli, 1992; *P. psilotrichius annemariae* (Mitter, 1992); *P. nabataeensis* (Mitter, 1996); *P. zagrosensis* Nikodým & Král, 1998; *P. rufovillosus undofi* Keith, 2000; *P. anahitae* Mitter, 2001; *P. samai* Keith, 2001; *P. devei* Montreuil & Serri, 2007; and *P. weilli* Keith, 2008.

There are few external characters that can be used to reliably identify *Pygopleurus* species. External characters generally only allow identification of *Pygopleurus* species groups. The positive identification of *Pygopleurus* species is therefore primarily based on the shape of the parameres of the male genitalia.

The distribution of the genus is rather vast and covers the Balkans, the Near East, and the Middle East. Certain regions of this area are rather poorly known for their entomofauna and it is thus hardly surprising to find new taxa among recently collected material.

The most recent contribution to the Glaphyridae fauna of Iran was published by Montreuil & Serri (2007), who described a new species of *Pygopleurus* and compiled a checklist of all *Pygopleurus* species so far recorded from this country, listing ten entries. This present paper improves our knowledge of the Iranian fauna of this genus by describing a new species and by citing new distributional records for some poorly known species. In addition, illustrations and anatomical details of *P. anahitae* Mitter, related to the new species, are presented for the first time.

Materials and methods

This study was based on specimens recently collected by various entomologists and preserved in the authors' collection (except for the holotype of the new species and one paratype of *P. anahitae* from the Mitter collection [Steyr, Austria]). All examined specimens were dissected and then mounted dry with entomological glue.