



On the Cryptobiina of the Arabian peninsula (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Paederinae)

VOLKER ASSING

Gabelsbergerstr. 2, D-30163 Hannover, Germany. E-mail: vassing.hann@t-online.de

Abstract

The species of the paederine subtribe Cryptobiina from Oman and Yemen are examined. The following taxa are (re-) described and illustrated: *Cryptomanum* gen. n., *C. omanicum* (Coiffait, 1981), comb. n., *C. spinosissimum* sp. n. (Oman), and *Afrobbium arabicum* sp. n. (Yemen, Iran). Keys to the genera of Cryptobiina present in the Western Palaearctic region and to the Cryptobiina species recorded from the south of the Arabian peninsula are provided.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Paederinae, Cryptobiina, Palaearctic region, Oman, Yemen, Arabian peninsula, taxonomy, new genus, new species, new combination, key to genera, key to species

Introduction

In a revision of the Afrotropical representatives of the paederine subtribe Cryptobiina, Fagel (1977) attributed the species, most of which had been in *Cryptobium* Mannerheim, 1830 (today a junior synonym of *Ochtheophilum* Stephens, 1829), to eight genera, seven of them new. One of them is *Ophitodum* Fagel, 1977 (type species: *Cryptobium cephalicum* Fauvel, 1907), originally comprising 18 species from the Afrotropical region.

Ignoring Fagel's revision in a key published two years later, Scheerpeltz (1979) attributed the Afrotropical Cryptobiina to *Cryptobium* again.

Coiffait (1984) described the genus *Subhomaetarsus* to accommodate only the type species *Cryptobium nobile* Bernhauer, 1936, which at that time was known from Yemen and Senegal.

Based on an examination of numerous Cryptobiina from the Afrotropical region, Rougemont (1986) argued that the generic concept established by Fagel (1977) was doubtful, but confirmed the monophyly of *Ophitodum* and regarded the taxon as a subgenus of *Cryptobium*. Also, he synonymised *Cryptobium lloydi* Bernhauer, 1937 (described from Nigeria) with *C. nobile* and, implicitly, *Subhomaetarsus* with *Ophitodum*, and he reported new records of *C. nobile* from Yemen and Ethiopia.

In a generic revision of Afrotropical Cryptobiina, Drugmand (1991) continued and confirmed the dismemberment of *Cryptobium*, his concept including 12 genera, and treated *Ophitodum* as a distinct genus again.

According to Smetana (2004), two genera of Cryptobiina are present in the Western Palaearctic region, *Ochtheophilum* and *Homaetarsus* Hochhuth, 1851. The only species of *Ophitodum* previously reported from the Palaearctic region sensu Löbl and Smetana (2004), which includes all of the Arabian peninsula, is *O. nobile*. Although the species has been reported from Yemen at least three times, it is listed neither for this country nor for the Palaearctic region as a whole by Smetana (2004).

Amazingly little is known about the staphylinid fauna of the Arabian peninsula, especially of Oman. According to the catalogue by Smetana (2004) and an updated version of this catalogue by Schülke (unpubl.),