



New and less known Orthoptera (Insecta) from the island of Socotra (Yemen)

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Abstract

A list of nine species of Orthoptera collected on Socotra is reported. Three of them were previously unrecorded on the island (*Trigonidium cicindeloides*, *Paratettix subpustulatus* and *Acrotylus insubricus*) and one (*Ochrlidia socotrae* n.sp.) was undescribed. Further systematic notes on *Glomeremus pileatus*, *G. mediopictus*, *Pyrgomorpha conica tereticornis*, *Acrotylus incarnatus* and *Sphingonotus insularis* are included. The East African *Acrotylus meruensis*, previously considered synonym of *A. incarnatus*, is proposed as a valid species, distinct from the latter.

Key words: *Ochrlidia socotrae* n. sp., systematic, distribution, new records

Introduction

Socotra is a very interesting island; originally part of the African-Arabian tectonic plate, since Tertiary it remained isolated. Its old isolation produced a very high degree of endemism both on plants and animals. Concerning Orthoptera, all authors agree with the very high number of endemic taxa, compared with the whole orthopterofauna. Socotran Orthoptera were previously recorded by Burr (1903), Krauss (1907), Uvarov and Popov (1957) and Popov (1984). I visited the island between 4th and 11st April 2008, with a group of botanists of the Botanical Garden of Palermo University. During the visit, I collected some specimens of Orthoptera; in addition, I received some others collected by P.Lo Cascio and F.Griti on February 2009. Some of them resulted new for the island, others are interesting for the reasons reported below.

If not differently indicated, material is preserved in the coll. B.Massa (University of Palermo).

Results

On the whole, I identified 35 species and here I report a short list of nine. Three of them were previously unrecorded on the island and one resulted undescribed; in addition, I improve the systematic status or the morphological description of other five.

Fam. Gryllidae

Trigonidium cicindeloides Rambur, 1839

Material examined. Socotra, Zam Hom 7-8.IV.2008, B.Massa & A.Carapezza (2♂, 2♀).

Remarks. Previously unrecorded from Socotra, it is a widespread species, covering Africa, Asia, Arabia and S Europe.