



Revision of *Eulasia genei* Truqui, with description of *Eulasia rittneri* n. sp. from Israel and synonymic notes on related species (Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea: Glaphyridae)

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Abstract

This paper presents a revision of the species *Eulasia genei* Truqui, 1848. A total of 773 specimens, including all type series of the involved taxa, were examined. Nominal species currently in synonymy with *E. genei* are discussed. All the current synonyms proved to be wrongly attributed, and the following new synonyms are proposed: *Eulasia pretiosa* Truqui, 1848 = *E. genei chaifensis* (Reitter, 1890) = *E. japhoensis* (Petrovitz, 1972). *Eulasia hybrida agricola* (Reitter, 1890) is no longer considered a synonym of *E. genei* Truqui and *Amphicomma genei* ab. *nobilissima* Balthasar, 1929 is an unavailable name.

Eulasia rittneri n. sp., a species close to and parapatric to *E. genei*, is described and illustrated. The diagnostic characters are discussed in relation to their discriminating value, with special consideration for the morphology of the aedeagus. A technique for observing the volumetric shape of the endophallus has been modified and used for the first time as such for the study of Scarabaeoidea. On the basis of the large number of specimens gathered, the distribution range of both species is defined and notes on their ecology and phenology are presented.

Key words: Scarabaeoidea, Glaphyridae, taxonomy, distribution, *Eulasia (Rudeulasia) genei*, *Eulasia (Rudeulasia) rittneri*, new species, genitalia, Middle East, Israel

Introduction

Eulasia genei Truqui, 1848 is one of the most widespread species of the subgenus *Rudeulasia* Baraud, 1990, known from Turkey and Iran in the north and reaching Israel in the south (Baraud 1990). In spite of the large distribution and of the environmental differences occurring throughout its range, *E. genei* is currently recognized as a uniform species and no intraspecific variation is described apart from the “aberration” *E. genei* ab. *nobilissima* Balthasar, 1929. This is incongruent with the large amount of polymorphism described in other members of the subgenus *Rudeulasia* (i.e. in the *Eulasia papaveris* group).

During our research on Glaphyridae of the Middle East, we collected a considerable number of specimens referable to *Eulasia genei* from several localities ranging from northern Syria to southern Israel. A thorough study of these specimens revealed an unexpected morphological diversity and the existence of a parapatric new species close to *E. genei*. Since no previously proposed names were available for this taxon, it is here described as *Eulasia rittneri* n. sp.

We take this opportunity to revise the current synonyms of *E. genei* and to define the distribution of both species in detail.