



A review of the *Tychus algericus* species group (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Pselaphinae), North Africa

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Abstract

The species belonging to the *Tychus algericus* group are revised and the group is characterized. Four species are recognized, described and illustrated, and a key for identification is provided. One species is new to science: *T. similis* Besuchet, **sp. n.** from Algeria, while three taxa: *T. algericus* Guillebeau, 1893 from Tunisia and Algeria, *T. depexus* Peyerimhoff, 1905 from Algeria, and *T. vaucheri* Jeannel, 1956 from Morocco are redescribed and their affinities and geographic distribution discussed. The lectotype for *Tychus depexus* is here designated.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Pselaphinae, Tychini, *Tychus algericus* group, taxonomy, new species, North Africa

Introduction

Some species of *Tychus* Leach, 1817 from North Africa are very similar for many features of their external morphology and shape of the aedeagus. For these species we propose a new species group, the *Tychus algericus* group, that includes: *T. algericus* Guillebeau, 1893; *T. depexus* Peyerimhoff, 1905, *T. vaucheri* Jeannel, 1956, and *T. similis* **sp. n.** We provide here a definition of the species group, the description of a new taxon, new details concerning the morphology and the geographical distribution of the attributed species, and an identification key.

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Material and methods

The study is based on the material from museums collections. The depositories of the material, their acronyms used in text, and the colleagues who kindly provided the material for the study, are as follows:

MHNG	Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Genève, Switzerland (G. Cuccodoro)
MNHN	Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France (A. Taghavian)
INAT	Institut National Agronomique, Tunis, collection Normand, Tunisia (N. Barbouche, S. Boulahia Kheder)
DBAC	Dipartimento di Biologia Animale "M. La Greca", Università di Catania, Italy

Under the sections "type material" or "material examined" the locality data are standartised, with major administrative units in English and names of collectors italicised in parentheses.

The body length excludes the antennae and is measured from the anterior clypeal margin to the posterior margin of the last visible abdominal tergite. The length and width of body parts were measured between points of max-