



Contribution to the knowledge of Agrypninae (Coleoptera: Elateridae) with description of new species and new records from Pakistan

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Abstract

Thirty-two species, belonging to ten genera are listed in this work, including eight species newly recorded from the country. The study is based upon material collected in Pakistan between 2004–2010. The genus *Cryptalaus* Ohira is recorded from Pakistan for the first time. Two species *Cryptalaus tamargrahensis* sp. n. and *Agrypnus dadarensis* sp. n. are described as new and a key to the Pakistani species of the genera *Agrypnus* Eschscholtz, *Lanelater* Arnett, *Drasterius* Eschscholtz and *Heteroderes* Latreille are provided.

Key words: Coleoptera, Elateridae, Agrypninae, new species, new records, Pakistan

Introduction

The click beetle subfamily Agrypninae represents a cosmopolitan group of approximately 800 species (Laibner, 2000). The last reclassification (Hayek, 1973 & 1979) listed seven genera from India and two genera from West Bengal. Some authors (Smith & Enns, 1977 & 1978, Golbach, 1983) shifted many genera to the Pyrophorinae and the tribe Adelocerini. Stibick (1979) divided it into ten extant tribes: Agrypnini, Tetralobini (subtribes Tetralobina, Piezophyllina), Chalcolepidiini, Pseudomelanactini, Campyloxenini, Heligmini (subtribes Heligmina, Alampina, Euplinthina, Compsoplinthina), Pyrophorini (subtribes Pyrophorina, Nyctophyxina, Hapsodrilina), Hemirhipini, Conoderini and one fossil tribe, Protagrypnini (subtribes Protagrypnina, Hypnomorphina, Desmatina). Indian authors, Vats (1986–1991), Vats & Chauhan (1992, 1993), Vats & Kashyap (1992a, b, 1993, 1996), described many new species from India, while Chakraborty & Chakraborty (2000) and Chakraborty & Chakrabarti (2006) studied the Elateridae from Bengal. Cate (2007) listed some species from Pakistan in his Catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera but a complete review of the Pakistani fauna is unavailable.

Chaudhry *et al.* (1966) provided some information on Pakistani Elateridae but they referenced several species or genera with a question mark next to the name. Since there is no way to determine what these species actually are and the authors were uncertain of the taxa, the names have not been included to this census. Hashmi and Tashfeen (1992) listed Elateridae in their Coleoptera of Pakistan but these data are not included in the present study because these specimens were not found in the Museum in which they were supposedly deposited and the status of most species has changed.

The definitively known species from Pakistan are limited. Platia (1988) recorded *A. ellipticus* (Candèze), *A. tibetanus* (Rietter) and *A. cashmirensis* (Della Beffa) from northern Pakistan. *Lanelater bartoni* (Fleutiaux) and *L. bipunctatus* (Candèze) were redescribed by Akhter *et al.* (2006), and Platia *et al.* (2006) described a new species, *L. punjabensis* from Talagang (Punjab), Pakistan.

Here, we provided new information and records on Agrypninae from Pakistan based on newly collected material. All currently collected taxa and their distributions are listed according to Cate (2007). Two new species, *Cryptalaus tamargrahensis* sp. n., from Tamargrah and *Agrypnus dadarensis* sp. n., from Dadar in the Khebar Pakhton