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# *Hydraena lotti* sp. nov., a new member of the "*Haenydra*" lineage from the Peloponnese (Greece), with additional records of *Hydraena* species in the region (Coleoptera, Hydraenidae)

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## Abstract

*Hydraena lotti* **sp. nov.** (Coleoptera, Hydraenidae) is described from the southern Peloponnese, Greece; the 92nd known member of the "*Haenydra*" lineage. The new species belongs to the *H. emarginata* complex, being closest morphologically to *Hydraena pelops* Jäch, 1995, from the south and east of the Taygetos range, *H. pangaei* Jäch, 1992, endemic to Mount Pangaeon in northeastern Greece, and *H. samnitica* Fiori, 1904, from central Italy. Characters on which the species can be distinguished are discussed; male genitalia and female elytral apices being particularly diagnostic. The ecology of *H. lotti* is described in the context of other members of the genus in the region. To date, the new species has only been found in small headwater streams at altitudes above 1,000 m in the northwest of the Taygetos range, where it can, however, be locally frequent. The opportunity is taken to provide an updated checklist of Peloponnese "*Haenydra*", together with new distributional records of selected *Hydraena* species, including *H. arachthi* Ferro & Jäch, 2000, which is reported from the peninsula for the first time.

**Key words:** Coleoptera, Hydraenidae, *Hydraena*, "*Haenydra*" lineage, new species, Greece, Peloponnese, new records

## Introduction

*Hydraena* Kugelann is the most speciose aquatic beetle genus on earth, with almost 900 described species, and many hundreds likely awaiting scientific discovery (Jäch & Balke, 2008; Trizzino *et al*., 2013a). Within *Hydraena* s.str. a number of monophyletic species groups are recognized, one of the most speciose being the "*Haenydra*" lineage, originally described as a genus by Rey (1886). "*Haenydra*" occur largely in countries bordering the northern Mediterranean, from Portugal to Iran, where most species have apparently diversified in the Pliocene and Pleistocene (Trizzino *et al*., 2011a). Members of "*Haenydra*" have invaded the rithron of fast flowing streams and rivers, where adults graze biofilms alongside riffle beetles (Elmidae). Unlike elmids, however, most of the 92 described species of "*Haenydra*" have narrow geographical ranges, often being restricted to individual mountain systems, or indeed single springs or drainages within them (Jäch & Diaz, 2012; Stanković & Jäch, 2012; Trizzino *et al*., 2013b). Here I describe *Hydraena lotti* **sp. nov.**, a member of the *H. emarginata* complex (*sensu* Trizzino *et al.*, 2013b) of "*Haenydra*", from the southern Peloponnese, Greece. Despite being locally common, and the region having been visited by a number of aquatic entomologists since d'Orchymont in the 1930s, this species has remained undetected until 2012. *H. lotti* **sp. nov.** is the seventh species of the lineage to be discovered in the Peloponnese, five of these being endemic to the peninsula. Whilst most *Hydraena* described in recent years emanate from poorly investigated areas, particularly in the tropics (e.g. Perkins, 2011), a steady stream of new species continues to be unearthed in Europe and western Asia. Jäch *et al*. (2005) ask how many undiscovered *Hydraena* species remain in Europe? As the description of this species demonstrates, there are still a number out there, even in apparently well-worked areas of the continent.

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