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New species and record of Pselaphinae (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae) from Saudi Arabia

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Abstract

Centrophthalmus subtilissimus sp. nov. is described and the new record of *Ctenistes staudingeri* Schaufuss from Saudi Arabia is given. Both species were collected in the under rock ant nest of *Pheidole* cf. *pallidula*.

Key words: Staphylinidae, Pselaphinae, new species, Al Sarawat Mountains, Saudi Arabia, taxonomy

Introduction

During the study of the ant fauna of Saudi Arabia, two interesting species of Pselaphinae have been found by the second author. The new species is described here below, and the present paper is a further step toward a better knowledge of the fauna of Pselaphinae of the Arabian peninsula. The only previous papers on this topic are by Jeannel (1951), Besuchet (1966), and Besuchet and Cuccodoro (2011).

Materials and methods

All material is deposited in KSMA (King Saud University Museum of Arthropods, Plant Protection Department, College of Food and Agriculture Sciences, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia). The map was created by the ArcGIS 9.2 program, with the help of Prof. Mahmoud S. Abdeldayem (King Saud University).

Specimens prepared for morphological study were examined with a Leica S8APO stereomicroscope with diffuse lighting at magnifications up to 128 \times . The head length was measured from the occipital constriction to the anterior margin of the frontal rostrum; the head width was measured across the eyes; the elytral length was measured along the suture. Width refers to the maximum width of each body part. The body length is the combined length of the head, pronotum, elytra, and abdomen.

Results

Centrophthalmus subtilissimus Hlaváč sp. nov.

(Fig. 1, 2)

Material studied. HOLOTYPE, 1 ♂: SAUDI ARABIA: Al Bahah, Al Mukhwah, Dhi Ayn Archeological village, 11.V.2011, 19°55'45.9" N 41°26'30.2"E, 741m, M. R. Sharaf lgt. The holotype bears the following red label: HOLOTYPE *Centrophthalmus subtilissimus* sp. nov., P. Hlaváč det., 2012.