



## Contribution to the knowledge of the genus *Dicronychus* (Coleoptera: Elateridae) from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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### Abstract

Examination of specimens of *Dicronychus* Brullé in the King Saud University Museum of Arthropods, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia revealed the presence of two new species, *D. latifae* n. sp. and *D. bushrae* n. sp. In addition, the descriptions of *D. talhouki* Platia and Schimmel and *D. brancuccii* Platia and Schimmel are augmented after examination of both type material and recently collected specimens from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

**Key words:** Middle East, Click beetles, New species, Taxonomy, Cardiophorinae

### Introduction

The click beetle genus *Dicronychus* Brullé can be separated from other Cardiophorinae by the open procoxal cavities and tarsal claws with “two points” (Douglas 2006). *Dicronychus* is represented in the Arabian Peninsula by at least fourteen species: *D. bicoloratus* Platia, 2012; *D. brancuccii* Platia and Schimmel, 1997; *D. buettikeri* Platia and Schimmel, 1997; *D. chassaini* Platia and Schimmel, 1997; *D. cristianoii* Platia 2012; *D. ferruginosus* Platia and Schimmel, 1997; *D. graingeri* Platia and Schimmel, 1997; *D. laevimaculatus* Platia, 2010; *D. larseni* Platia and Schimmel, 1997; *D. omanensis* Platia, 2012, Schimmel, 1997; *D. pella* Platia 2012; *D. talhouki* Platia and Schimmel, 1997; *D. unimaculatus* Platia, 2012; and *D. wittmeri* Platia and Schimmel, 1997, Platia and Schimmel 1997, Platia 2004, Platia 2010, 2012). Two additional species have sometimes been referred to the Arabian fauna: *Dicronychus febriens* Candèze, 1860 has been transferred to *Cardiophorus* (Chassain, 1979) and *D. hedenborgi* (Candèze 1860), described from the Sudan, is not considered to occur in the Arabian Peninsula. Examination of specimens of this genus in the King Saud University Museum of Arthropods, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia revealed the presence of two undescribed species. In addition, *D. talhouki* and *D. brancuccii* are redescribed from both types and recently collected specimens from Saudi Arabia.

### Method and material

The terminology in the description follows Douglas (2006). The holotypes and all paratypes are deposited in the King Saud University Museum of Arthropods, Riyadh (KSMA). Type specimens as indicated below were borrowed from Naturhistorisches Museum, Basel, Switzerland (NHMB).

### Taxonomy

The two new species are most similar to *D. brancuccii*, a species having a widespread geographical distribution including Iraq, Kuwait, Sultanate of Oman, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia (Platia and Schimmel 1997, Platia 2004). The

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