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Review of the genus *Lesteva* Latreille, 1797 (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Omaliinae: Anthophilagini) of Iran and adjacent territories

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Abstract

The type and additional material from adjacent territories of species of the genus *Lesteva* Latreille, 1797 of Iran are revised. Eight species are recognized, three of which are described as new: *L.* (s.str.) *frischi* **sp.n.** (Iran, Esfahan), *L.* (s.str.) *schawalleri* **sp.n.** (Iran, Elburs) and *L.* (s.str.) *antennata* **sp.n.** (Iran, Golestan). Two synonyms are proposed: *L.* (s.str.) *binotata* Reitter, 1901 = *L.* (s.str.) *syriaca* Luze, 1903, **syn. n.**, *L.* (s.str.) *longoelytrata longoelytrata* (Goeze, 1777) = *L.* (s.str.) *soror* Smetana, 1967, **syn. n.** A key to species known from Iran and new provincial records for *L.* (s.str.) *binotata* Reitter, *L.* (s.str.) *longoelytrata longoelytrata* (Goeze), *L.* (s.str.) *maculipennis* Luze, 1903 and *L.* (*Lestevidia*) *punctata* Erichson, 1839 are provided. *L.* (s.str.) *binotata* Reitter and *L.* (s.str.) *maculipennis* are redescribed. Aedeagi of all new species, *L.* (s.str.) *binotata*, *L.* (s.str.) *longoelytrata longoelytrata* and *L.* (s.str.) *maculipennis*, as well as the antennae of all species and the variability of elytral maculae for two redescribed species are illustrated.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Omaliinae, *Lesteva*, Iran, taxonomy, new species, new synonymy, new records

Introduction

Based on the catalogue of Herman (2001) and my unpublished data, there are 109 species of the genus *Lesteva* Latreille, 1797 in the world, which are distributed mainly in the Palaearctic region (only two species are known from the Nearctic). Thirty-seven percent of these are distributed in Europe, some of which, especially from southern Europe, till now remain with unclear or doubtful specific status. Differently from Europe, the *Lesteva* faunas of Western and Central Asia, the Caucasus and other adjacent territories with complex mountainous relief are extremely poorly investigated. For the territory of Iran, only one species was recorded (Anlaş & Newton 2010), *L.* (s.str.) *morvani*, which was described by Jarrige (1971) from Elburs Mts. based on one (!) specimen.

In this paper I studied specimens of the genus *Lesteva* captured in Iran and housed in 17 museums and private collections, and discovering eight species, three of which are new to science. For some species that have not been revised since their description, I studied the types and for several widespread species, additional material from Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Caucasus, Transcaucasia and Uzbekistan was examined.

Material and methods

Specimens were dissected using standard methods of preparation. Tergite and sternite of posterior abdominal segments were glued on the same plate with the dissected specimens and the male genitalia were mounted in Canada balsam on plastic microslides pinned under the respective specimens.

Morphological studies were carried out using Zeiss Discovery V8 and V12 stereomicroscopes. A digital camera Sony Alpha DSLR-A300 was used for imaging and all figures were enhanced using Adobe Photoshop software. All measurements are given in millimeters and were made with a stereoscopic microscope using an ocular micrometer.

The following measurements are used and are abbreviated as follows:

30–32). Head with moderately flat frons and vertex, 1.6–1.8 times as wide as long. Eyes more than two times as long as temples. Forebody, abdomen, femora and antennomeres II and III black; tibiae, antennomeres III–XI, ocelli, mouthparts and apical margin of tergite VIII brown, base of antennomeres I–III and tarsi yellowish brown. Body length: 4.1–4.3 mm. *L. (s.str.) frischeri* sp.n.

- Antennomeres IV–X elongated (Fig. 10). Apex of aedeagus narrower, parameres shorter (Fig. 45–47). Head with moderately convex frons and vertex, 1.1 times as wide as long. Eyes approximately 3 times as long as temples. Head, pronotum and antennae black, elytra dark brown with indistinct yellow-brown macula in anterior third of each elytron; abdomen and legs brown; ocelli, mouthparts and base of antennomeres II–III red-brown. Body length: 4.1–4.7 mm. *L. (L.) schawalleri* sp.n.

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