



Acinopus sabulosus and *A. lepeletieri* from north-west Africa are two distinct species (Coleoptera: Carabidae: Harpalini)

BORIS M. KATAEV^{1,3} & DAVID W. WRASE²

¹Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, Universitetskaya nab. 1, St. Petersburg 199034, Russia. E-mail: harpal@zin.ru

²Dunckerstrasse 78, D-10437 Berlin, Germany. E-mail: carterus@gmx.de

³Corresponding author. E-mail: harpal@zin.ru

Based on examination of the type specimens and additional material from various localities, *Acinopus lepeletieri* Lucas, 1846 is treated as a distinct species from Algeria and Tunisia, not as a synonym of *A. sabulosus* (Fabricius, 1792). The distinctive features of these two species and their distribution are described. The absence of any newly collected material of *A. lepeletieri* argues for the possibly extinction of this species as a result of destruction of its natural biotopes. Lectotype is designated for *Scarites sabulosus* Fabricius, 1792.

Acinopus Dejean, 1821 is a moderately diverse Palaearctic genus of the subtribe Harpalina, with 25 described species distributed mostly in the Mediterranean Region. The genus comprises mainly large-sized beetles (10–28 mm). Both larvae and imago are phytophagous, feeding on seeds. Status of some taxa needs a revision.

Acinopus lepeletieri Lucas, 1846 was described from the environments of Oran, Algeria. In all subsequent publications (Piochard de la Brûlerie 1873; Bedel 1898; Csiki 1932; Puel 1934; Antoine 1959; Kataev et al. 2003; Lorenz 2005), it was considered as a synonym of the morphologically variable species *A. sabulosus* (Fabricius, 1792), which is rather widely distributed in north-west Africa. However, examination of specimens from various localities and of the type material formally belonging to *A. sabulosus* revealed the specific status of *A. lepeletieri*.

The following abbreviations are used for the depositories of the specimens examined: MFNB—Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, Germany; MNHN—Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France; ZIN—Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Saint Petersburg, Russia; ZMUC—Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen, Denmark; ZSM—Zoologische Staatssammlung München, Germany.

Measurements were taken as follows: body length, measured from the anterior margin of the clypeus to the elytral apex; the width of the head, measured as the maximum linear distance across the head, including the eyes (HWmax), and (HWmin) as the minimum linear distance across the neck constriction just behind the eyes; the length of pronotum (PL), measured along its median line; the length of the elytra (EL), measured from the basal border in the scutellar region to the apex of the sutural angle; the maximum width of the pronotum (PW) and of the elytra (EW), both measured at their broadest point; the length and the width of the metepisterna, measured along their inner and anterior margins, respectively. Measurements were made under the stereobinocular microscope MBS–10 using an ocular-micrometer. The male genitalia were examined in glycerin.

Acinopus (Acinopus) sabulosus (Fabricius, 1792)

(Figs 1–4)

Scarites sabulosus Fabricius, 1792: 96. Type locality: "Barbariae sabulosis".

Carabus obesus Schönherr, 1806: 191. Type locality: "Alger".

Acinopus mauritanicus Lucas, 1846: 67. Type locality: "environs d'Hippone [Annaba]", Algeria.

Acinopus sabulosus lucidus Alluaud, 1930: 3. Type locality: Tendirra, Morocco.

Acinopus sabulosus peyerimhoffi Antoine, 1959: 417. Type locality: "massif des Mouzaia", Algeria.

Type material: Lectotype (present designation) of *Scarites sabulosus*: ♂, with rectangular piece of green paper, also labelled "Marocco. Mus: S. & T. L. *Scarites sabulosus* F.", "626" [both handwritten], and recent printed bottom label "Syst. El. I 187.95" (Coll. Fabricius: ZMUC). Paralectotype: ♀, without any labels (Coll. Fabricius: ZMUC).