



A checklist of comb-clawed beetles (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Alleculinae) from Iran

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Abstract

The fauna of Iranian Alleculinae is summarized in this paper. Seventy species from 12 genera are reported: the subtribe Alleculina Laporte with 4 genera and 18 species: *Hymenalia* Mulsant (7 species), *Hymenophorus* Mulsant (3 species), *Mycetocharina* Seidlitz (6 species), *Prionychus* Solier (2 species); the subtribe Gonoderina Seidlitz with 3 genera and 6 species: *Gonodera* Mulsant (1 species), *Isomira* Mulsant (4 species), *Pseudocistela* Crotch (1 species), the subtribe Mycetocharina Gistel with a single genus and 3 species: *Mycetochara* Berthold (3 species) and the tribe Cteniopodini Solier with 4 genera and 43 species: *Cteniopus* Solier (5 species), *Omophtina* Reitter (2 species), *Omophtus* Dejean (32 species) and *Podonta* Solier (4 species). Nine species are newly recorded for the fauna of Iran: *Hymenalia atronitens* (Fairmaire, 1892), *Mycetocharina rufotestacea* Reitter, 1898, *Prionychus asiatica* (Fairmaire, 1892), *Isomira nitidula* (Kiesenwetter, 1861), *Mycetochara ocularis* Reitter, 1884, *Cteniopus impressicollis* Fairmaire, 1892, *Omophtus afghanus* Muche, 1965, *Omophtus schmidi* Muche, 1965 and *Podonta elongata* Ménériés, 1832.

Key words: Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, Alleculinae, checklist, new records, Iran

Introduction

The Alleculinae (comb clawed beetles) are characterized by a heteromorous combination of the tarsal formula (5-5-4) and mainly by the pectinate tarsal claws (Campbell 1971). According to the current systematics, Alleculinae are one of the subfamilies of Tenebrionidae—darkling beetles (Lawrence & Newton 1995; Bouchard *et al.* 2005, 2011; Novák & Pettersson 2008). Previously they were recognized as an independent family Alleculidae (Seidlitz 1896; Borchmann 1910; Mader 1928).

Members of the subfamily occur throughout the world, in all zoogeographical regions and are divided into 2 tribes (Alleculini Laporte, 1840 and Cteniopodini Solier, 1835); a total of 167 genera with about 2900 species have been described (Novák 2014). Both tribes are represented in the Palaearctic Region (Novák & Pettersson 2008), with 47 genera and approximately 670 species (Novák 2014).

Old references (ex. Seidlitz 1896; Reitter 1906; Borchmann 1910; Mader 1928) used names like "Mesopotamia" (for the territory of Iraq and west Iran) and "Persia" (territory of Iran), with no specific localities. Newer papers (ex. Ogloblin & Znojko 1950; Muche 1964b; Iablokoff-Khnzorian 1983; Novák & Pettersson 2008) use almost only the name Iran, but also with no specific localities, while most recent publications (Novák 2006a, b, 2007, 2008, 2011 and 2013) give more precise information regarding species localities and distributions.

Faunistic knowledge for Iran is limited. Ghahari *et al.* (2012, 2015), Khormali *et al.* (2004) and Sakenin *et al.* (2009) give some information from canola, cotton or rice fields from north provinces of Iran. Five Alleculinae species have also been listed as agricultural pests in the country (Modarres Awal 1997). A short preliminary study of the Iranian Alleculinae has been produced (Samin *et al.* 2014), but unfortunately it is an incomplete list of the Iranian species, without the use of older sources, and provides only limited information about the Iranian fauna of Alleculinae.