

Description of a new *Pygopleurus* species (Col.: Glaphyridae), with a list of recorded species of the genera *Pygopleurus* and *Eulasia* from Iran

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Abstract

A new species of the family Glaphyridae, *Pygopleurus deuvei* sp. n., is described from Iran and compared with its closely-related species. This species was collected during a joint expedition conducted by Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris (MNHN) and Insect Taxonomy Research Department, Iranian Research Institute of Plant Protection, Iran in June 2002. Moreover, a list of the Iranian species of the genera *Pygopleurus* Motschulsky and *Eulasia* Truqui is provided.

Key words: *Pygopleurus*, *Eulasia*, Glaphyridae, Iran

چکیده

در این مقاله، گونه‌ی *Pygopleurus deuvei* sp. n. از سخت بال‌پوشان خانواده‌ی Glaphyridae، از ایران برای دنیای علم توصیف شده و با گونه‌ی نزدیک به آن مورد مقایسه قرار می‌گیرد. این گونه در سفر تحقیقاتی مشترک محققان موزه‌ی تاریخ طبیعی پاریس و بخش تحقیقات رده‌بندی حشرات مؤسسه تحقیقات گیاهپزشکی کشور، در ماه‌های خرداد و تیر سال ۱۳۸۱ جمع‌آوری گردید. همچنین، لیستی از گونه‌های *Pygopleurus* Motschulsky و *Eulasia* Truqui که از ایران گزارش شده‌اند، ارائه می‌گردد.

واژگان کلیدی: *Pygopleurus*, *Eulasia*, Glaphyridae، ایران

Introduction

Although the Palearctic fauna of scarab beetles has been studied over the past few decades (Medvedev, 1951, 1952; Paulian, 1959; Paulian & Baraud, 1982; Baraud, 1985, 1992) but none of them was dealing with the Middle East fauna in general or Iranian fauna in particular. The richness of the Iranian fauna appears only through papers with simple descriptions, faunistic list, or general revisions of various groups. The long-term project of surveying the Iranian fauna of scarab beetles requires the improvement of our knowledge of the species which occur in this country, by the study of the material available in collections and describing the newly discovered species.

Materials and methods

In June 2002, a French-Iranian entomological expedition team composed of S. Serri, M. Mofidi-Neyestanak and A. Hajesmailian (Iranian Research Institute of Plant Protection, Tehran), and T. Deuve and O. Montreuil (Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris), conducted an expedition to collect scarab beetles in Talysh and Elbourz mountain ranges along the Caspian coast, in Mazandaran, Gilan, Ardabil and East Azarbayjan provinces.

Five species of Glaphyridae, viz. *Eulasia azerbaijanica* (Petrovitz), *Eulasia chrysopyga* (Faldermann), *Pygopleurus cyaneoviolaceus* Motschulsky, *Pygopleurus transcaucasicus* (Petrovitz) and *Pygopleurus deuvei* **sp. n.**, were collected during this trip, of which the latter species is here described as new to science.

***Pygopleurus deuvei* sp. n.**

(Figs 1-4)

Description – 13.5-15 mm. Male. Body black, head, pronotum and scutellum purple blue or blue, elytrae yellowish brown, the epipleural and sutural margins black with metallic dark blue shines. Antennal club and maxilla reddish brown. Legs with metallic dark blue shines. Pygidium, sternites V and VI, apex and sides of propygidium reddish (fig.1).

Posterior part of the clypeus, head and disc of pronotum with long white setae. Side of pronotum with long dark setae. Epipleural margin and apex of elytral suture with long black setae. Disc of elytrae with short black setae and with long yellowish setae between the scutellum and humeral calus, and along the elytral suture. Underside with long yellowish setae, except pro- and mesocoxae, and disc of pro- and mesofemora bearing long black setae.

Anterior margin of clypeus feebly sinuated, anterior angles and lateral margins rounded, disc strongly punctuated, longitudinal keel absent. Head, pronotum and scutellum rugose, covered with indistinct vermicular wrinkles and dense puncture. Posterior angles of pronotum broadly rounded, broadest in the middle. Elytra apically rounded, not truncated. Protibiae tridentated, the median tooth close to the basal. Protarsal claws shorter than the others, feebly curved.

Female unknown.

Diagnosis – The new species belongs to the fourth group as it has been defined by Baraud (1989). It is close to *P. psilotrichius* (Faldermann), but it differs mostly by the colour pattern of the abdomen and by the shape of the paramera, which have the dorsal line sinuated in lateral view, the apex more elongated in frontal view, and strongly constricted before apex in dorsal view.

Collected on Papaveraceae in the middle of the day.

Etymology – This species is dedicated to Dr. Thierry Deuve (Paris Museum), specialist of Carabidae.

Type material – Holotype: male; Gilan: Barrehsar, Damash, 1800 m, 13.vi.2002, leg. O. Montreuil & S. Serri, *in coll.* O. Montreuil; Paratypes: 2 males, same data as holotype, *in coll.*

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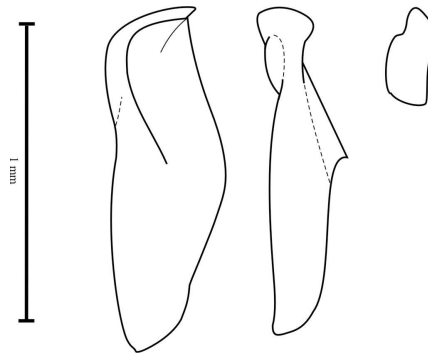
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Figures 1-4. *Pygopleurus devei* sp. n., male; 1. habitus; 2. aedeagus, lateral view; 3. aedeagus, dorsal view; 4. left paramera, lateral and dorsal view of apex.

List of the species of *Pygopleurus* and *Eulasia* recorded from Iran

This list is established after the data given in the original description of the different species and after the works of Petrovitz (1957, 1958, 1965, 1980), Baraud (1968, 1989, 1990) and Nikodym & Král (1998). The richness of the Iranian fauna for these two genera is high, and equivalent richness can be found only in Turkey.

***Pygopleurus* Motschulsky**

- Pygopleurus banghaasi* (Reitter)
- Pygopleurus basalis* (Reitter)
- Pygopleurus cyaneoviolaceus* Motschulsky
- Pygopleurus devei* **sp. n.**
- Pygopleurus distinctus* (Faldermann)
- Pygopleurus immundus* (Reitter)
- Pygopleurus mardiensis* Baraud
- Pygopleurus psilotrichius* (Faldermann)
- Pygopleurus cyanescens* (Reitter)
- Pygopleurus zagrosensis* Nikodym & Král

***Eulasia* Truqui**

- Eulasia aurantiaca* (Reitter)
- Eulasia azerbaijanica* (Petrovitz)
- Eulasia bodemeyeri* (Petrovitz)
- Eulasia bombyliiformis* (Pallas)
- Eulasia chrysopyga* (Faldermann)
- Eulasia naviauxi* (Baraud)
- Eulasia nitidinitis* Baraud
- Eulasia persidis* Baraud
- Eulasia praeusta* (Champenois)
- Eulasia (Rudeulasia) chalybaea* (Faldermann)
- Eulasia (Rudeulasia) genei* Truqui
- Eulasia (Rudeulasia) papaveris* (Sturm)
- Eulasia (Rudeulasia) speciosa* (Champenois)
- Eulasia (Rudeulasia) straussi* (Ganglbauer)

Eulasia (Rudeulasia) carinata Baraud

Eulasia (Rudeulasia) pulchra (Reitter)

Eulasia (Vittateulasia) vittata ssp. *lineata* (Castelnau)

Eulasia (Vittateulasia) vittata ssp. *persica* Petrovitz

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