

ON THE SCAPHIDIIDAE (COLEOPTERA) OF ISRAEL

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The Scaphidiidae are staphylinoid beetles associated with fungi or slime molds. Their greatest diversity is to be found in the tropics. Six genera, including 22 species, are recorded from the western part of the Palaearctic region, but only a few of them occur in the drier areas of the southern and eastern Mediterranean. None was ever recorded from North Africa east of Tunisia, neither from Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon.

Scaphium immaculatum (Olivier) was the only species known from Israel (Lobl, 1974). The present paper reports on the three species now known to occur in Israel, two of which were recently collected by C. Besuchet and the author. In addition, some hitherto unpublished records complement the known distribution of these beetles.

Scaphium immaculatum (Olivier)

This thermophilous species is often found in oak forest litter. The range of its distribution covers the whole northern Mediterranean area, northern Algeria and Tunisia, Middle and Eastern Europe (where it appears sporadically), Turkey, Lebanon and Israel. In Israel it was recorded from Safed, Upper Galilee (Lobl, 1974). One specimen was collected on 19.IV. 1982 in oak leaf litter at Montfort, Upper Galilee (Besuchet and Lobl). An old specimen from Jerusalem is deposited in the Hungarian Natural History Museum. A specimen labelled "Ain Zhalta, 1200 m, V.1966, leg. G. Fagel" and deposited in the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, Geneva constitutes the first record of a scaphidiid for Lebanon.

Scaphidium quadrimaculatum Olivier

This species exhibits remarkable ecological adaptability. It is widespread and common over most of Europe, Turkey, and as far east as Altai, but is not known to occur in North Africa. The only specimen from Israel that I have seen was found in or around Jerusalem and is deposited in the Hungarian Natural History Museum.

Baeocera schirmeri Reitter

This species has a large, but apparently disjunct, distribution. It has been reported so far from Corsica, Italy, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Azerbaijan. The following are new records: Israel: 1 specimen, Golan, Mahjar (about 2 km north of lake Kinneret, some

200 m below sea level), at a creek, in partly rotten vegetation, 27.IV.1982 (Besuchet and Löbl); Romania: 1 specimen labelled "Tulcea, Murighion, 6.VI.1972, leg. A. Senglet"; Iran: 10 specimens labelled "Guilan, Galudah, Gandar Pahlevi, 4.VII.1973, leg. A. Senglet; all deposited in Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Geneva.

All 3 species of *Baeocera* Erichson (= *Sciatropes* Blackburn, *Eubaeocera* Cornell) that inhabit Europe and the Mediterranean region are rare and poorly represented in collections. They are possible relicts of an ancient subtropical or tropical fauna: *B. schirmeri* Reitter appears to be more closely related to *B. myrmidon* (Achard) of Japan and Taiwan than to any other known species; *B. nobilis* Reitter may be derived from the Oriental *brevicornis*-group; *B. kapfereri* Reitter seems to be related to the Himalayan *hamifer* Löbl and Japanese *curtula* Achard.

Another 2 species of Scaphidiidae may be expected to occur in Israel, namely *Scaphisoma corcyricum* Löbl and *Baeocera nobilis* Reitter. The former is known from Yugoslavia, Greece, Turkey and Cyprus, and the latter from Corsica, Italy, Tunisia, Algeria (*nobilis* s. str.) and Turkey (*nobilis besucheti* Löbl).

REFERENCES

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