

Short communication

**First record and a new synonymy of *Poecilus beesoni* (Coleoptera: Carabidae) from Iran**

**J. Muilwijk**

Naturalis Biodiversity Center, PO box 9517, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands.

\*Corresponding author, E-mail: Jan.Muilwijk@gmail.com

چکیده

گونه *Poecilus beesoni* (Andrewes, 1927) که از کنار دریاچه ایذه در استان خوزستان جمع‌آوری شده است برای اولین بار از ایران گزارش می‌شود. برای شناسایی، نمونه‌های هولوتایپ این گونه و گونه *P. affinis* (Ali, 1967) مطالعه شدند. هم‌چنین گونه *Poecilus affinis* به عنوان سینونیم گونه *Poecilus beesoni* پیشنهاد می‌گردد.

In order to accurately identify the *Poecilus* species (Fig. 1) of Iran with the label “Iran Khuzestan/lake Izeh/ 1-IV-2007/ Muilwijk leg.”, the holotypes of *P. beesoni* (Andrewes, 1927) and *P. affinis* (Ali 1967) were studied. Both species have been originally described from Iraq based on single females. A male cotype of *P. beesoni* housed in the Natural History Museum, London, with the label “Basra/ 13-VI.1926/ Schmidt e./ H.E. Andrewes det.” was studied as well.

According to Ali (1966, 1967), *P. affinis* differs from *P. beesoni* in having three compressed basal antennomeres and weakly punctated pronotum. The second antennomere in *P. beesoni* is clearly less compressed than the third antennomere

As shown in Figure 2, only the third antennomere is clearly compressed in *P. affinis*. The pronotal punctation in the both holotypes of *P. affinis* and *P. beesoni* are also identical. Therefore, I consider *P. affinis* as a junior synonym of *P. beesoni*.

The species *Poecilus beesoni* has been collected from Izeh, a city in the Iranian province of Khuzestan and is newly recorded from Iran. This species was known from Iraq (Löbl & Smetana, 2003; Azadbakhsh & Nozari, 2015).

The colouration and pronotal punctation of *P. beesoni* are the result of intraspecific variation. The Iranian specimens are slightly more bluish than specimens from Iraq. Most Iranian specimens shine green along lateral side of the pronotum. Colour in *P. beesoni* (as in more *Poecilus* species) is rather variant; for example the cotype of *P. beesoni* is more bluish than *P. affinis*. Punctuation of basal fovea is always present. In some individuals the punctation of pronotum exceeds laterally to anterior side.

**Acknowledgement**

The author expresses his sincere thanks to Beulah Garner (Natural History Museum, London) for sending the holotypes for this study.



**Fig. 1.** FiHabitus of *Poecilus beesoni* from Izeh.



**Fig. 2.** *P. affinis* antennomeres I-III.

**References**

- Ali, H. A.** (1966) A key to the Carabidae (Insecta, Coleoptera) of Iraq. *Iraq Natural History Museum Publication* 23, 1–38.
- Ali, H. A.** (1967) New species of Carabidae (Insecta: Coleoptera) from Iraq. *Bulletin of the Biological Research Centre, University of Baghdad* 1, 12–29.
- Andrewes, H. E.** (1927) Zur Erforschung des Persischen Golfes. (Beitrag Nr. 2). Carabidae (Col.). *Entomologische Mitteilungen* 16, 142–148.
- Azadbakhsh, S., & Nozari, J.** (2015) Checklist of the Iranian Ground Beetles (Coleoptera; Carabidae). *Zootaxa* 4024 (1), 1–108.
- Löbl, I., & Smetana, A.** (Eds.) (2003) *Catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera. Volume 1. Archostemata - Myxophaga - Adephaga*. 819 pp. Stenstrup: Apollo Books.

*Received:* 13 February 2017

*Accepted:* 1 March 2017