

The westernmost record of *Neptosternus circumductus*, and a review of Dytiscidae (Coleoptera) of Baluchistan (Iran, Pakistan)

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Abstract. *Neptosternus circumductus* Régimbart, 1899 has been found in south-eastern Iran, which represents the westernmost record of the Oriental members of the genus *Neptosternus* Sharp, 1882. The lectotype of *N. circumductus* is designated, and its male genitalia as well as the variability of the elytral pattern are illustrated, based on additional material from the Sistan va Baluchestan province of Iran. In addition, a list of species and new distributional data are published for the predaceous diving beetles (Dytiscidae) of the Baluchistan region (Sistan va Baluchestan province in Iran and Baluchistan province in Pakistan). The following first national records are given: *Hyphoporus aper* Sharp, 1882 from Iran and Pakistan; *Nebrioporus indicus* (Sharp, 1882), *Neptosternus circumductus*, and *Peschetiulus quadricostatus* (Aubé, 1838) from Iran; *Laccophilus maindroni persicus* Brancucci, 1983 from Pakistan. The occurrence of *Laccophilus inefficiens* (Walker, 1859) in Iran is confirmed. Altogether 23 species of the family Dytiscidae are now known from Baluchistan.

Keywords. Dytiscidae, *Neptosternus*, first records, zoogeography, India, Iran, Pakistan, Oriental region, Palaearctic region

Introduction

The term Baluchistan (or Baluchestan) originates from the name of the influential 'Baluch' tribe inhabiting an upland area currently divided among three countries (Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan). In terms of water beetles, this territory remains one of the least investigated areas in the Palaearctic region. There is no comprehensive work dealing with the Dytiscidae of Baluchistan. McCULLERS (1976) mentioned only two species from Iranian Baluchistan. One additional endemic species from the genus *Deronectes* Sharp, 1882, was recently described from Iranian Baluchistan by FERY & HOSSEINIE (1998). From Pakistan, several data on