

A review of Ripiphoridae in the Arabian Peninsula (Coleoptera: Tenebrionoidea)

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Abstract. Distribution of the Ripiphoridae (Coleoptera: Tenebrionoidea) in the Arabian Peninsula is evaluated. Six species belonging to the genera *Macrosiagon* Hentz, 1830 and *Ripiphorus* Bosc, 1791 are figured and keyed, and the distribution of each species is mapped. Including new and previously published records, the Ripiphoridae are now reported from 19 localities of the Arabian Peninsula and offshore islands. Coordinates for each exact locality are given.

Key words. Coleoptera, Tenebrionoidea, Ripiphoridae, Ripiphorinae, *Macrosiagon*, *Ripiphorus*, faunistics, Arabian Peninsula, Palaearctic Region

Introduction

The Ripiphoridae (Coleoptera: Tenebrionoidea) are a cosmopolitan group of parasitoids, whose biogeography is only poorly understood. Only scarce distributional data are usually available because of their cryptic way of life in larval stages and short-lived adults. The Arabian Peninsula plays an important role in the understanding of their distribution in the Old World, as it is a transitional zone among three main zoogeographical realms: Afrotropical, Oriental and Palaearctic.

The aim of this paper is to provide basis for further studies of the Ripiphoridae in this part of Asia and to make further research easier for those students who are not familiar with these rarely collected beetles. Each species is keyed and figured based on specimens collected in the Arabian Peninsula, with emphasis on colour variability and also on sexual dimorphism where appropriate. Distribution of each species in the Arabian Peninsula is mapped and the coordinates of all traceable localities are provided.

Material and methods

Photographs of specimens were taken using an Olympus Camedia C-5060 digital camera attached to an Olympus SZX9 binocular microscope. Partially focused images of each specimen were combined using Helicon Focus 3.20.2.Pro software.

Geographical coordinates of localities are added according to ENCARTA (2000) wherever possible. The map of the Arabian Peninsula was downloaded from the On-line Map crea-