

**Confirmed occurrence of *Hydroscapha granulum*
in Iran, with notes on its biology
(Coleoptera: Myxophaga: Hydroscaphidae)**

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Abstract. During 2008 and 2009, a study of the hygropetric fauna was carried out in the provinces of Fars and Mazandaran in Iran. Fifteen hygropetric sites were sampled and the *Hydroscapha* specimens were recorded at twelve of them. All specimens collected were identified as *Hydroscapha granulum* (Motschulsky, 1855). Taxonomic and distributional features of this species, also some remarks regarding the ecological preferences are provided. Our study represents the first records of *Hydroscapha granulum* in Iran confirmed by the study of male genitalia.

Keywords. Myxophaga, Hydroscaphidae, *Hydroscapha granulum*, distribution, morphology, hygropetric habitats, bionomics, Iran, Palaearctic Region

Introduction

The family Hydroscaphidae belongs to the suborder Myxophaga whose representatives usually inhabit hygropetric habitats. Hydroscaphidae contains minute beetles that generally inhabit algal mats over which a thin water film flows (VANIN et al. 2005). The family comprises 3 genera: *Scaphydra* Reichardt, 1973 (3 species from southeastern Brazil), *Yara* Reichardt & Hinton, 1976 (2 species from Brazil and Panama), and *Hydroscapha* LeConte, 1874 with approximately 18 described species from Palaearctic, Afrotropical, Nearctic and Oriental Regions (FIKÁČEK & ŠÍPKOVÁ 2009; HALL 2000; HALL & SHORT 2010; JÄCH 1995; LÖBL 1994, 2003; MADDISON 2001; VANIN et al. 2005).