

***Georissus persicus* sp. nov. from Iran, with notes on the
West-Palaeartic species of the *G. laeicollis* group
(Coleoptera: Georissidae)**

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Abstract. *Georissus persicus* sp. nov. belonging to the *G. laeicollis* group is described from Iran (Khuzestan and Fars Provinces). Relevant characters of the new species are illustrated and the species is compared with *G. laeicollis* Germar, 1831 and *G. trifossulatus* Motschulsky, 1843. The latter species is redescribed and its lectotype is designated.

Keywords. Coleoptera, Hydrophiloidea, Georissidae, *G. laeicollis* group, new species, lectotype designation, Iran, Georgia, Palaeartic Region

Introduction

The hydrophiloid family Georissidae includes 78 described species accommodated in a single genus *Georissus* Latreille, 1809. Adults and larvae usually inhabit wet muddy or sandy banks of running as well as standing waters. They occur in all zoogeographic regions, with the highest number of species known from the Old World tropics (HANSEN 1999). The tropical fauna was partly revised by DELÈVE (1967a,b,c, 1969, 1972, 1974a,b). Fauna of the Palaeartic Region remains largely neglected, with recent papers concerning only the fauna of Japan (SATÔ 1972, NAKANE 1995). The European and Near Eastern fauna of *Georissus* was until recently considered very species deficient, containing five widely distributed species, *G.* (s. str.) *crenulatus* (Rossi, 1794), *G.* (s. str.) *substriatus* Heer, 1841, *G.* (*Neogeorissus*) *caelatus* Erichson, 1847, *G.* (*N.*) *costatus* Castelnau, 1840, and *G.* (*N.*) *laeicollis* Germar, 1831. One additional species of dubious status, *G.* (*N.*) *trifossulatus* Motschulsky, 1843 was recorded from Georgia and Egypt (MOTSCHULSKY 1843, ALFIERI 1976).

However, a new species of *Georissus* was discovered recently in the United Arab Emirates (FIKÁČEK & TRÁVNÍČEK 2009). Another new species was surprisingly discovered in the material collected between 2008–2010 by the second author of this paper as well as in the