

**RESULTS OF CZECHOSLOVAK-IRANIAN ENTOMOLOGICAL
EXPEDITION TO IRAN 1970**

**Coleoptera: Erotylidae, Biphyllidae, Colydiidae, Cerylonidae,
Endomychidae, Sphindidae**

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In the present paper are listed several families of Coleoptera Cucujoidea, collected during the first Czechoslovak-Iranian expedition to Iran in 1970. Results of this expedition are completed by data about older material deposited in the National Museum, Praha (NMP) and some beetles recently collected in Iran by Mr. Holzschuh and Ressler and deposited in Coll. Holzschuh, Wien (CH). Apart from Colydiidae recently studied by Dajoz (1971, 1973), only sparse data about the occurrence of some species in Iran may be found in Horion (1960, 1961). Most species have, however, been already recorded from the immediately neighbouring territory of USSR (Talysh Mts. and Lenkoran in Azerbaijan SSR).

EROTYLIDAE***Triplax collaris* (Schaller, 1783)**

Distribution: Central and southeast Europe, Caucasus, Iran (Horion, 1960).

Material examined: N. Iran, valley of river Hazar Chay S. Amol, 400 m, 23. to 24. VII. 1970 (Loc. n. 69), 18 spec. — Elborz Mts., Kelardasht plain, Rudbarak, 1850–2400 m, 13. VIII. 1970 (Loc. n. 92), 26 spec. — Ala dagh, Bodjnurd, 1033 m, Hauser lgt., 1 spec. (NMP).

***Dacne pontica* Bedel, 1867**

Distribution: Southeast Europe, Caucasus, Talysh, Iran (Horion, 1960).

Material examined: N. Iran, Robat-e Qozlog S. Gorgan, 500 m, 26. VII. 1970 (Loc. n. 74), 3 spec. — Shah M. Reza Wildlife Park pr. Dasht, 650 m, 27.–30. VII. 1970 (Loc. n. 77), 1 spec. — Gol-e Loveh, 30 km E. Minudasht, 750 m, 21.–27. IV. 1974, Holzschuh and Ressler lgt., 1 spec. (CH) — Kopet dagh Mts., Siaret (Ziarat), 1 spec. (NMP).

BIPHYLLIDAE***Biphyllus lunatus* (Fabricius, 1792)**

Distribution: South and Central Europe, North Africa, Caucasus, South Siberia. New to Iran.

Material examined: N. Iran, Robat-e Qozlog S. Gorgan, 500 m, 26. VII. 1970 (Loc. n. 74), 1 spec.

***Diplocoelus fagi* Guérin, 1838**

Distribution: South and Central Europe, North Africa, Caucasus, Talysh. New to Iran.

Material examined: N. Iran, valley of river Hazar Chay S. Amol, 400 m, 23. to 24. VII. 1970 (Loc. n. 69), 1 spec. — Golestan forest, 50—70 km E. Minudasht, 450—700 m, Holzschuh and Ressler lgt., 1 spec. (CH).

COLYDIIDAE

***Pycnomerus terebrans* (Olivier, 1750)**

Distribution: Southern Europe westward to France and northward to Germany and Czechoslovakia; Caucasus, Talysh, Iran (Dajoz, 1971).

Material examined: Robat-e Qozlog, 500 m, 26. VII. 1970 (Loc. n. 74), 94 spec. — Gorgan, 18.—19. IV. 1974, Holzschuh and Ressler lgt., 1 spec. (CH) — Astrabad (Gorgan), 1 spec. (NMP) — Kopet dagh Mts., Siaret (Ziarat), 1150 m, V. 1899, Hauser lgt., 2 spec. (NMP).

***Dechomus sulcicollis* (Germar, 1824)**

Distribution: Southeast Europe and Italy, Caucasus, Iran (Dajoz 1971, 1973).

Material examined: Robat-e Qozlog S. Gorgan, 500 m, 26. VII. 1970 (Loc. n. 74), 18 spec. — Gol-e Loveh, 30 km E. Minudasht, 750 m, 21.—27. IV. 1974, Holzschuh and Ressler lgt., 1 spec. (CH) — Kopet dagh Mts., Siaret (Ziarat), 1160 m, VI. 1899, Hauser lgt., 2 spec. (NMP).

***Ceropachys brevipennis* Reitter, 1882**

Distribution: Caucasus, Iran. New to Iran.

Material examined: N. Iran, valley of river Hazar Chay, S. Amol, 400 m, 23. to 24. VII. 1970 (Loc. n. 69), 4 spec.

***Endophloeus exsculptus* Germar, 1847**

Distribution: Crimea, Caucasus, Caspian territory.

Material examined: N. Iran, Robat-e Qozlog S. Gorgan, 500 m, 26. VII. 1970 (Loc. n. 74), 2 spec. — Elborz Mts., Kelardasht plain, Rudbarak, 1850—2400 m, 13. VIII. 1970 (Loc. n. 92), 1 spec.

***Lastrema verrucicollis* (Reitter, 1880)**

Distribution: Talysh, Caspian territory, Turkestan.

Material examined: N. Iran, Behshahr, 25. VII. 1970 (Loc. n. 72), 1 spec. — Robat-e Qozlog S. Gorgan, 500 m, 26. VII. 1970 (Loc. n. 74), 1 spec. — Kopet dagh Mts., Siaret (Ziarat), 1160 m, VI. 1899, Hauser lgt., 1 spec. (NMP).

Note: The species, originally described in the genus *Pycnomerus* Er. is by misunderstanding listed twice in the Catalogue by Winkler (1926): once as *Penthelispa verrucicollis* Reitt. from Iran (p. 746), and once as *Lastrema verrucicollis* Reitt. from Caucasus and Turkestan (p. 749).

***Niphopelta imperialis* Reitter, 1882**

Distribution: Caspian territory, Iran (Dajoz, 1971, 1973).

Material examined: N. Iran, Robat-e Qozlog, S. Gorgan, 500 m, 26. VII. 1970, (Loc. n. 74), 15 spec. — Elborz Mts., Kelardasht plain, Rudbarak, 1850—2400 m, 13. VIII. 1970 (Loc. n. 92), 1 spec. — Gol-e Loveh, 30 km E. Minudasht, 750 m, 21.—27. IV. 1974, Holzschuh and Ressler lgt., 1 spec. (CH) — Kopet dagh Mts., Siaret (Ziarat), 1160 m, VI. 1899, Hauser lgt., 2 spec. (NMP).

***Bitoma iranica* Mařan, 1954**

Distribution: North Iran.

Material examined: N. Iran, Robat-e Qozlog S. Gorgan, 500 m, 26. VII. 1970 (Loc. n. 74), 92 spec. — Feyzabad, 25 km E. Gorgan, 27. VII. 1970 (Loc. n. 75), 2 spec. — Shah M. Reza Wildlife Park pr. Dasht, 650 m, 27.—30. VII. 1970 (Loc. n. 77), 2 spec. — Elborz Mts., Kelardasht plain, Rudbarak, 1850—2400 m, 13. VIII. 1970 (Loc. n. 92), 5 spec. — Iran, Elborz Mts., 40 spec. (NMP, type material) — Kopet dagh Mts., Siaret (Ziarat), 1160 m, V. 1899, Hauser lgt., 3 spec. (NMP).

Note: Validity of *B. iranica* Mařan has been already verified by Dajoz (1971), who published some differences between it and the closely related European *B. crenata* (F.). Observations by Horion (1961) about occurrence of *B. crenata* (F.) in Iran must in fact concern *B. iranica* Mařan, as the specimens mentioned by Horion (1961) (Kopet dagh, Siaret, Hauser lgt., Museum Frey) originate from the same series as those of *B. iranica* Mařan in the National Museum, Praha (see above). According to revision of the extensive material of the both species under question in NMP, the following distinguishing characters may be given:

B. iranica Mařan

Upper surface strongly shining.

Sculpture of pronotum analogous to that of *B. crenata*, but more accentuated. Disc with more or less distinct and impressed median longitudinal furrow.

The third interstrie usually only in basal and apical portions distinctly carinate.

The red humeral spots regularly mutually connected in their posterior halves, i. e. part of suture always red.

Interval between short scutellar stria and the first regular one usually more conspicuously carinate than the rest of sutural interval.

B. crenata (F.)

Upper surface rather dull, only feebly shining.

Sculpture of pronotum more obsolete, disc flat or slightly impressed, without short median longitudinal furrow.

The entire third interstrie feebly and equally carinate.

Apart from scarce aberrant specimens the entire suture of elytra black, dividing the red humeral spots.

Interval between the short scutellar stria and the first regular stria on elytra as elevated as the rest of sutural interval.

***Aulonium trisuleum* (Geoffroy, 1775)**

Distribution: Central and southern Europe. New to Iran.

Material examined: Shah M. Reza Wildlife Park pr. Dasht, 650 m, 27.—30. VII. 1970 (Loc. n. 77), 1 spec.

***Colydium elongatum* Fabricius, 1792**

Distribution: North Africa, Europe, Caucasus, Asia Minor, Talysh, Iran (Dajoz, 1973).

Material examined: N. Iran, Robat-e Qozlog, S. Gorgan, 500 m, 26. VII. 1970 (Loc. n. 74), 7 spec. — Gol-e Loveh, 30 km E. Minudasht, 750 m, 21.—27. IV. 1974, Holzschuh and Ressler lgt., 1 spec. (CH).

CERYLONIDAE

***Philothermus conicicollis* (Reitter, 1882)**

Distribution: Caspian territory.

Material examined: N. Iran, Robat-e Qozlog, S. Gorgan, 500 m, 26. VII. 1970 (Loc. n. 74), 16 spec. — Shah M. Reza Wildlife Park pr. Dasht, 650 m, 27.—30. VII. 1970 (Loc. n. 77), 2 spec.

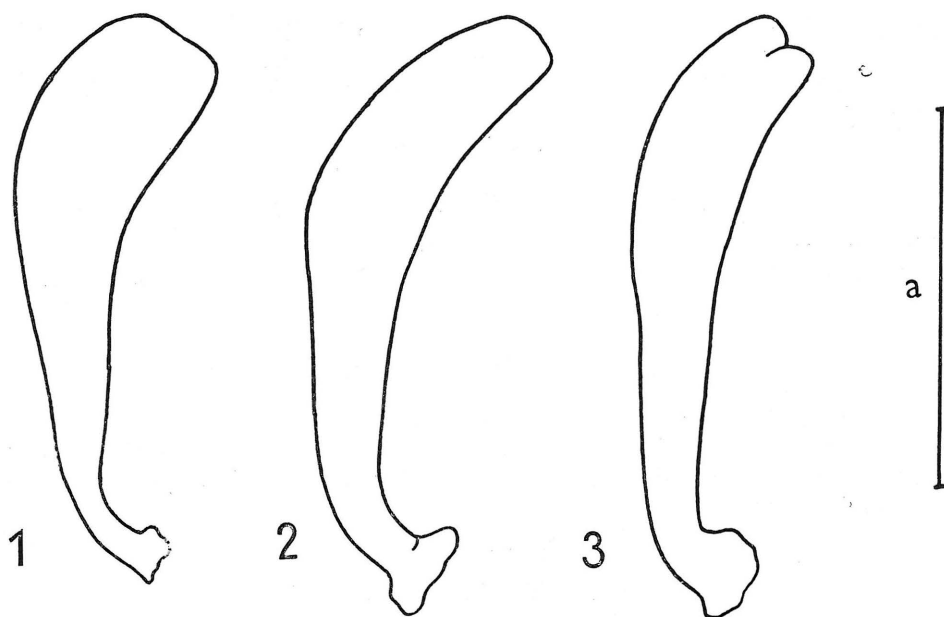
Note: This species has been transferred from *Cerylon* Latr. to *Philothermus* Aubé already by Heinze (1944) together with some other species originally placed in *Cerylon* and characterized by slender antennae with long segments II. and III., procoxal cavities open posteriorly, prosternal process broad and rounded at the apex and carinate mesosternum. The European species of this complex, *P. evanescens* (Reitt.) and *P. semistriatus* (Perris) have repeatedly been transferred to *Philothermus* by Vogt (1971).

***Cerylon caspicum* sp. n.**

Head small, rather finely dispersely punctate, shining. Antennal segments II. and III. rather short, about 1.5 times longer than wide, segments IV. to VIII. each nearly as long as wide, their width slightly and gradually increasing distad. Segment IX. distinctly wider than the preceding ones, transverse. Antennal club broadly regularly oval.

Pronotum feebly transverse, 1.05—1.15 times wider than long, sides straight, subparallel, only at the anterior angles moderately curved inwards. Anterior angles feebly prominent, blunt, anterior margin very shallowly arcuately emarginate. Posterior angles more or less rectangular, basal margin flatly arcuate in the middle. Disc of pronotum very flatly convex transversely, almost flat, with short, distinctly transverse and shallow paired impressions at the base of pronotum. Punctures of pronotum distinctly larger than those of the head, separated by more than one diameter, spaces between them smooth and shining. Prosternal process widest at the apex, broadly truncate, procoxal cavities completely closed.

Elytra at the base as wide as pronotum, moderately dilated posteriorly, widest at about one third of their length and from there moderately narrowed towards the simultaneously rounded apex, 1.50—1.65 times as long as their combined width. Disc of elytra between the fifth striae almost flat, median portion of suture feebly elevated.



Figs. 1—3: Lateral view of aedeagus in *Cerylon deplanatum* (Gyll.) (fig. 1), *C. impressum* Er. (fig. 2) and *C. caspicum* sp. n. (fig. 3). Scale a = 0.3 mm.

Each elytron with 8 striae, the eighth stria much finer than the other ones, those rather deep, closely punctate, only just at the apex somewhat obsolete. Sutural lines converging posteriorly and deeper incised at the apex. Intervals of elytra smooth and shining, the sutural one with row of very fine sparse punctures.

Male genitalia as figured (Fig. 3).

Smooth, shining, rusty to pitchy brown. Length 1.7—2.3 mm.

Type material: Holotypus, 1 ♂, N. Iran, Shah M. Reza Wildlife Park, env. of Dasht, 650 m, 27.—30. VII. 1970 (Loc. n. 77). In National Museum, Praha (Inv. n. 26527). Paratypes: N. Iran, valley of river Hazar Chay S. Amol, 400 m, 23. to 24. VII. 1970 (Loc. n. 69), 1 spec. — Robat-e Qozlog S. Gorgan, 500 m, 26. VII. 1970 (Loc. n. 74), 14 spec. — Shah M. Reza Wildlife Park pr. Dasht, 650 m, 27.—30. VII. 1970 (Loc. n. 77), 5 spec. In National Museum, Praha (Inv. n. 26528—26537), Plant Pests and Diseases Research Institute, Tehran and Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle. Paris. Gol-e Loveh, 30 km E. Minudasht, 750 m, 21.—27. IV. 1974, Holzschuh and Ressler lgt., 1 spec. (coll. Holzschuh, Wien).

Differential diagnose: Combining characters mentioned above, *Cerylon caspicum* sp. n. with its almost flat pronotum and short, thick aedeagus is most closely related to the European species *C. impressum* Er. and *C. deplanatum* Gyll., especially to the former one. It differs, however, from *C. impressum* Er. by the form of pronotum, which is widest at the base, with subparallel sides and very short, shallow, distinctly transverse prebasal impressions in *C. caspicum* sp. n., whilst slightly narrowed posteriorly with conspicuous impressions which are as long as wide, in *C. impressum*

Er. Also aedeagus of *C. caspicum* is less curved and reaches its maximum width much closer to the apex than in *C. impressum* (Figs. 2—3). *C. deplanatum* (Gyll.) is distinctly more flat with pronotum very distinctly narrowed posteriorly and has different aedeagus (Fig. 1).

ENDOMYCHIDAE

Mycetina apicalis (Motschulsky, 1835)

Distribution: Caucasus, Talysh. New for Iran.

Material examined: N. Iran, valley of river Hazar Chay S. Amol, 400 m, 23. to 24. VII. 1970 (Loc. n. 69), 5 spec.

Hylaia podagrica Guérin, 1857

Distribution: Caucasus, Talysh. New for Iran.

Material examined: N. Iran, valley of river Hazar Chay S. Amol, 400 m, 23. to 24. VII. 1970 (Loc. n. 69), 4 spec. — Robat-e Qozlog S. Gorgan, 500 m, 26. VII. 1970 (Loc. n. 74), 2 spec.

SPHINDIDAE

Sphindus dubius (Gyllenhal, 1808)

Distribution: Europe, Caucasus, North Africa, Talysh. New to Iran.

Material examined: Shah M. Reza Wildlife Park pr. Dasht, 650 m, 27.—30. VII. 1970 (Loc. n. 77), 1 spec.

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