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A study on Crabronidae and Megachilidae (Hymenoptera: Apoidea) from West Azarbaijan province, Northwest of Iran

Najmeh SAMIN & Nil BAGRIACIK

Abstract

The families Crabronidae and Megachilidae (Hymenoptera: Apoidea) of West Azarbaijan province (northwest of Iran) are studied in this paper. Of Crabronidae, totally 17 species from 12 genera (*Ammatomus* A. COSTA, *Astata* LATREILLE, *Bembecinus* A. COSTA, *Cerceris* LATREILLE, *Ectemnius* DAHLBOM, *Lestica* BILLBERG, *Nysson* LATREILLE, *Oxybelus* LATREILLE, *Palarus* LATREILLE, *Tachysphex* KOHL, *Tachytes* PANZER, and *Trypoxylon* LATREILLE), and for Megachilidae, in total 19 species from 11 genera (*Anthidium* FABRICIUS, *Archianthidium* MAVROMOUSTAKIS, *Chelostoma* LATREILLE, *Eoanthidium* POPOV, *Hoplitis* KLUG, *Icteranthis* MICHENER, *Lithurgus* BERTHOLD, *Megachile* LATREILLE, *Osmia* PANZER, *Paraanthidium* FRIESE, and *Stelis* PANZER) were collected and identified.

Key words: Hymenoptera, Apoidea, Crabronidae, Megachilidae, West Azarbaijan, Iran.

Zusammenfassung

Vorliegende Arbeit behandelt die Fauna der Crabronidae and Megachilidae (Hymenoptera: Apoidea) der Provinz Azarbaijan im Nordwesten des Irans. Bei den Crabronidae gelang der Nachweis von 17 Arten aus den 12 Gattungen *Ammatomus* A. COSTA, *Astata* LATREILLE, *Bembecinus* A. COSTA, *Cerceris* LATREILLE, *Ectemnius* DAHLBOM, *Lestica* BILLBERG, *Nysson* LATREILLE, *Oxybelus* LATREILLE, *Palarus* LATREILLE, *Tachysphex* KOHL, *Tachytes* PANZER, and *Trypoxylon* LATREILLE, von Megachilidae wurden 19 Arten der 11 Gattungen *Anthidium* FABRICIUS, *Archianthidium* MAVROMOUSTAKIS, *Chelostoma* LATREILLE, *Eoanthidium* POPOV, *Hoplitis* KLUG, *Icteranthis* MICHENER, *Lithurgus* BERTHOLD, *Megachile* LATREILLE, *Osmia* PANZER, *Paraanthidium* FRIESE und *Stelis* PANZER.

Introduction

Crabronidae (Hymenoptera) is the largest of the spheciform families (YILDIRIM 2011) and includes solitary digger wasps, which are common in temperate regions all over the world. It is represented by about 9000 species in the world (BOHART & MENKE 1976; GOULET & HUBER 1993; PULAWSKI 2012). The fauna of Iranian Crabronidae was poorly studied (ESMAILI & RASTEGAR 1974; EBRAHIMI 2005; GHAZI-SOLTANI et al. 2006; FALLAHZADEH et al. 2009; SAKENIN et al. 2010; SAMIN et al. 2015), while Iran is a large country with various geographical regions and climates and so diverse fauna of these insects is expected to be in this country.

Megachilidae (Hymenoptera) is a large family of specialized, morphologically rather uniform bees found throughout the world. The front wings without exception have two marginal cells, and the stigma is small. The pollen-collecting scopula of all nonparasitic females is located on the abdominal sternum (STEPHEN et al. 1969; ÖZBEK & ZANDEN 1992). They are mostly moderate-sized (around the size of a honey bee, ranging from 5 mm to 19 mm), stout-bodied and black or yellow, white and reddish maculation bees (BANAZAK & ROMASENKO 1995). The members of megachilid bees are typical long-tongued bees, so are very good pollinators of wide variety of cultivated and wild plants, especially legume crops (FREE 1970; KLOSTERMEYER 1982). The fauna of Iranian Megachilidae was studied well (e.g. ESMAILI & RASTEGAR 1974; MIRABZADEH et al. 1991; EBADI 1995; TALEBI et al. 1995; MODARRES AWAL 1997; MIRABZADEH & IMANI 1998; IMANI & TIRGARI 1998; IZADI et al. 1998; IZADI et al. 1999; MIRABZADEH et al. 2000; IMANI 2000a; IMANI 2000b; IZADI et al. 2000; KARIMPOUR et al. 2002; IZADI et al. 2004; IZADI et al. 2006; KHAGHANINIA et al. 2010; TAVAKKOLI et al. 2010; KHAGHANINIA et al. 2011; KHODAPARAST et al. 2011; KHODAPARAST & MONFARED 2012; KESHTKAR et al. 2012; RASEKH ADEL et al. 2012a; RASEKH ADEL et al. 2012b; RASEKH ADEL et al. 2012c; SALEHI SARBIJAN et al. 2012; MONFARED & KHODAPARAST 2012; MONFARED et al. 2012; KHODAPARAST & MONFARED 2013; NADIMI et al. 2013).

In this paper, the fauna of Crabronidae and Megachilidae of West Azarbaijan province (located in North West of Iran, bordering with Turkey, Iraq and Armenia, and the

provinces of East Azerbaijan, Zanjan and Kurdistan) is studied. West Azarbaijan province covers an area of 43,660 km², and the climate of the province is largely influenced by the rainy winds of the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean. According to existing meteorological data, local temperatures vary within the province. The highest temperature reaches 34 °C in July, and the lowest temperature is -16 °C in January.

Materials and Methods

The specimens of this faunistic investigation were collected from different regions of West Azarbaijan province using common handy entomological net and Malaise trap. The collected specimens were placed in ordinary paper envelopes after killing them in cyanid bottle in order to bring them in laboratory. The collection thus brought was placed in a desiccators (having water at its bottom) for about 24 h in order to soak and soften them. Thereafter, they were pinned using 0, 1 and 2 mounted pins and their wings and legs set on appropriate setting boards to facilitate morphological studies. Classification of Crabronidae follows that of PULAWSKI (2012), and for Megachilidae, BANASZAK & ROMASENKO (1998) and MICHENER (2007).

Results

In total 17 species of Crabronidae from 12 genera and 19 species of Megachilidae from 11 genera are studied in this paper as the fauna of West Azarbaijan province. The list of species is given below. Species names within genera are arranged alphabetically.

Family C r a b r o n i d a e

Genus *Ammatomus* A. COSTA, 1859

Ammatomus coarctatus (SPINOLA, 1808)

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : West Azarbaijan province: Ourmieh, 1♂, June 2010. West Azarbaijan province: Myandoab, 2♂♂, September 2010.

Genus *Astata* LATREILLE, 1796

Astata kashmirensis NURSE, 1909

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : West Azarbaijan province: Oshnavieh, 1♂, July 2009.

Genus *Bembecinus* A. COSTA, 1859

Bembecinus tridens (FABRICIUS, 1781)

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : West Azarbaijan province: Khoy, 2♀♀, April 2010. West Azarbaijan province: Ourmieh, 1♂, July 2010.

Genus *Cerceris* LATREILLE, 1802

***Cerceris bracteata* EVERSMAAN, 1849**

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : West Azarbaijan province: Khoy, 1 ♀, 1 ♂, April 2010. West Azarbaijan province: Salmas, 2 ♀ ♀, April 2011.

***Cerceris ruficornis* (FABRICIUS, 1793)**

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : West Azarbaijan province: Myandoab, 1 ♀, September 2010. West Azarbaijan province: Ourmieh, 1 ♀, April 2011.

***Cerceris sabulosa* (PANZER, 1799)**

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : West Azarbaijan province: Myandoab, 3 ♀ ♀, 2 ♂ ♂, September 2010. West Azarbaijan province: Salmas, 4 ♀ ♀, 2 ♂ ♂, April 2011.

Genus *Ectemnius* DAHLBOM, 1845

***Ectemnius massiliensis* (KOHL, 1883)**

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : West Azarbaijan province: Oshnavieh, 1 ♀, 2 ♂ ♂, July 2009.

Genus *Lestica* BILLBERG, 1820

***Lestica subterranea* (FABRICIUS, 1775)**

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : West Azarbaijan province: Mahabad, 1 ♀, spring 2009.

Genus *Nysson* LATREILLE, 1802

***Nysson interruptus* (FABRICIUS, 1798)**

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : West Azarbaijan province: Khoy, 1 ♂, April 2010.

Genus *Oxybelus* LATREILLE, 1796

***Oxybelus quatuordecimnotatus* JURINE, 1807**

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : West Azarbaijan province: Mahabad, 1 ♀, 3 ♂ ♂, spring 2009. West Azarbaijan province: Ourmieh, 1 ♂, May 2011.

Genus *Palarus* LATREILLE, 1802

***Palarus variegatus* (FABRICIUS, 1781)**

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : West Azarbaijan province: Salmas, 1 ♂, April 2011.

Genus *Tachysphex* KOHL, 1883

***Tachysphex incertus* RADOSZKOVSKY, 1877**

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : West Azarbaijan province: Mahabad, 1 ♂, spring 2009. West Azarbaijan province: Ourmieh, 2 ♂ ♂, July 2010

***Tachysphex pulcher* PULAWSKI, 1967**

Material examined: West Azarbaijan province: Makoo, 1♂, August 2009.

***Tachysphex panzeri* (VANDER LINDEN, 1829)**

Material examined: West Azarbaijan province: Myandoab, 2♂♂, September 2010.
West Azarbaijan province: Ourmieh, 1♂, June 2010.

Genus *Tachytes* PANZER, 1806

***Tachytes argyreus* (F. SMITH, 1856)**

Material examined: West Azarbaijan province: Makoo, 2♀♀, August 2009. West Azarbaijan province: Ourmieh, 1♀, April 2011.

***Tachytes obsoletus* (ROSSI, 1792)**

Material examined: West Azarbaijan province: Mahabad, 1♂, spring 2009. West Azarbaijan province: Khoy, 1♀, 1♂, April 2010.

Genus *Trypoxylon* LATREILLE, 1796

***Trypoxylon figulus* (LINNAEUS, 1758)**

Material examined: West Azarbaijan province: Ourmieh, 2♀♀, 2♂♂, June 2010.

Family M e g a c h i l i d a e

Genus *Anthidium* FABRICIUS, 1805

***Anthidium (Gulanthidium) anguliventre* MORAWITZ, 1888**

Material examined: West Azarbaijan province: Salmas, 1♀, April 2011.

***Anthidium (Anthidium) cingulatum* LATREILLE, 1809**

Material examined: West Azarbaijan province: Myandoab, 2♀♀, September 2010.

***Anthidium (Anthidium) florentinum* (FABRICIUS, 1775)**

Material examined: West Azarbaijan province: Ourmieh, 1♀, 1♂, June 2010.

Genus *Archianthidium* MAVROMOUSTAKIS, 1939

***Archianthidium pubescens* (MORAWITZ, 1872)**

Material examined: West Azarbaijan province: Mahabad, 1♀, 2♂♂, spring 2009.

Genus *Chelostoma* LATREILLE, 1809

***Chelostoma (Chelostoma) emarginatum* (NYLANDER, 1856)**

Material examined: West Azarbaijan province: Oshnavieh, 1♀, July 2009.

Genus *Eoanthidium* POPOV, 1950

Eoanthidium (Eoanthidium) aff. judaeense (MAVROMOUSTAKIS, 1945)

Material examined: West Azarbaijan province: Myandoab, 1 ♀, September 2010.

Genus *Hoplitis* KLUG, 1807

Heriades (Rhopaloheriades) clavicornis MORAWITZ, 1875

Material examined: West Azarbaijan province: Khoy, 1 ♂, April 2010. West Azarbaijan province: Ourmieh, April 2011.

Hoplitis (Alcidamea) leucomelana (KIRBY, 1802)

Material examined: West Azarbaijan province: Salmas, 2 ♀ ♀, 1 ♂, April 2011.

Genus *Icteranthidium* MICHENER, 1948

Icteranthidium cimbiciforme (SMITH, 1854)

Material examined: West Azarbaijan province: Ourmieh, 2 ♀ ♀, 1 ♂, April 2011.

Genus *Lithurgus* BERTHOLD, 1827

Lithurgus chrysurus FONSCOLOMBE, 1834

Material examined: West Azarbaijan province: Ourmieh, 1 ♀, June 2010.

Genus *Megachile* LATREILLE, 1802

Megachile albonotata RADOSZKOWSKI, 1886

Material examined: West Azarbaijan province: Ourmieh, 1 ♀, 1 ♂, June 2010.

Megachile (Xanthosarus) lagopoda (LINNAEUS, 1761)

Material examined: West Azarbaijan province: Myandoab, 2 ♀ ♀, September 2010.

Megachile (Xanthosarus) maritima (KIRBY 1802)

Material examined: West Azarbaijan province: Mahabad, 1 ♀, spring 2009.

Megachile (Pseudomegachile) rubripes MORAWITZ, 1875

Material examined: West Azarbaijan province: Oshnavieh, 1 ♀, July 2009. West Azarbaijan province: Ourmieh, 1 ♂, April 2011.

Genus *Osmia* PANZER, 1806

Osmia (Helicosmia) caerulescens (LINNAEUS, 1758)

Material examined: West Azarbaijan province: Mahabad, 2 ♀ ♀, 2 ♂ ♂, spring 2009.

Osmia (Helicosmia) dives MOCSÁRY, 1877

Material examined: West Azarbaijan province: Khoy, 2 ♀ ♀, April 2010.

***Osmia (Odontanthocopa) ligurica* MORAWITZ, 1868**

Material examined: West Azarbaijan province: Myandoab, 1♂, September 2010.

Genus *Paraanthidium* FRIESE, 1898

***Paraanthidium (Paraanthidium) interruptum* (FABRICIUS, 1781)**

Material examined: West Azarbaijan province: Oshnavieh, 2♀, July 2009. West Azarbaijan province: Ourmieh, 3♀, April 2011.

Genus *Stelis* PANZER, 1806

***Stelis denticulata* FRIESE, 1889**

Material examined: West Azarbaijan province: Mahabad, 1♀, 1♂, spring 2009.

Discussion

In this faunistic research, in total 17 species of Crabronidae and 19 species of Megachilidae were collected from some regions of West Azarbaijan province. Additionally many other specimens were collected which will be identified in future. This investigation indicates that the fauna of these beneficial insects is diverse in mentioned region, and carrying on the faunistic surveys is necessary toward finding new distribution data, new country records and probably new species.

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Authors' addresses:

Najmeh SAMIN

Young Researchers and Elite Club

Science and Research Branch,

Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran

E-mail: n_samin63@yahoo.com

Nil BAGRIACIK

Department of Biology, Faculty of Science and Art

Niğde University, 51100 Niğde, Turkey

E-mail: bagriacik@hotmail.com

Buchbesprechung

ADLBAUER K. & R. BECK, 2015: **Katalog und Fotoatlas der Bockkäfer Äthiopiens (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae)**. Taita Publishers Hradec Králové Tschechische Republik, 312 Seiten, Format 220 x 280 mm, Fester Einband, Text Deutsch. ISBN: 978-80-902734-2-9.

Bockkäfer sind wohl die Käferfamilie, die unzählige Käferforscher, egal ob Profis oder Amateure, mindestens einmal in ihrem Leben in ihren Bann gezogen haben. Mit über 26.000 bisher beschriebenen Arten gehören die Cerambycidae zu den artenreichsten Familien unter den Käfern. Und ständig werden neue Arten entdeckt. Von vielen Regionen der Erde, insbesondere der an Bockkäfern artenreichen Tropen und Subtropen existieren bis heute keine zusammenfassenden monografischen und vor allem gut bebilderten Arbeiten, was den Einstieg in die Erforschung dieser faszinierenden Tiergruppe stark erschwert.

Eine dieser Lücken schließt nun dieses großzügig gestaltete Werk, was alle bisher aus dem Land gemeldeten 561 Arten auf 870 Fotos präsentiert. Karl Adlbauer aus Graz ist ein seit Jahren ausgewiesener Spezialist der afrikanischen Bockkäferfauna und Robert Beck, der einen Großteil der abgebildeten Arten in den letzten 20 Jahren in Äthiopien selbst gesammelt hat, ein seit Jahren engagierter Amateurentomologe aus München.

Das Buch gliedert sich in einen kurzen einführenden Teil, mit dem Verzeichnis der Subtriben, einer Einleitung und dem Sammlungsverzeichnis, und geht dann in den umfangreichen Katalogteil über. Alle Arten werden mit ihrem aktuellen Namen aufgeführt, darunter sind die Angaben zur Synonymie aufgelistet. Von sehr vielen Taxa werden, vor einem leicht grauen Hintergrund, auf gut ausgeleuchteten und tiefenscharfen Fotos, beide Geschlechter vorgestellt. Hier muss man dem Verlag, der auf dem Gebiet der coleopterologischen Bildbände bereits über eine langjährige Erfahrung verfügt, wirklich ein Kompliment machen, da eine solche Reproduktion nicht selbstverständlich ist. Alle Tiere im Katalogteil sind sehr gut präpariert und kommen daher in ihrer Form und Farbe ästhetisch sehr gut zur Geltung. 130 dieser Arten bzw. Unterarten sind für die äthiopische Fauna endemisch und nicht wenige sind bisher nur einmal an einem Fundort gesammelt worden. Es folgen 42 eindrucksvolle Fotos von typischen Lebensräumen, die dem Betrachter die landschaftliche Schönheit und Vielfalt Äthiopiens vor Augen führen. Anschließend findet man eine Fotogalerie aller Arten, von denen die Autoren nur das historische Typenmaterial vorzuliegen hatten, sowie einige Tafeln mit acht Arten, die die Autoren bisher nur den Gattungen zuordnen konnten. Mit weiteren Neubeschreibungen ist also zu rechnen. Das Werk schließt mit zwei Tafeln lebend abgelichteter Arten, einer Liste der nur aus Äthiopien (und Eritrea bzw. Djibouti) bekannten Taxa, dem Literaturverzeichnis und den bebilderten Kurzbiografien der beiden Autoren.

Da Ackerbau, Viehzucht und Rodung gerade in diesem Teil Afrikas auch die Lebensräume holzbewohnender Käfer immer weiter einschränken, bleibt leider zu befürchten, dass man viele dieser Arten in nicht allzu ferner Zukunft nur noch in diesem Buch bewundern kann. Ein sehr schönes Werk, das nicht nur echten Bockkäferspezialisten sondern allen Käferfreunden oder auch allgemein an der Insektenfauna Afrikas interessierten Entomologen zu empfehlen ist.

Dr. Lars Hendrich, Zoologische Staatssammlung München

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Maximilian SCHWARZ, Konsulent f. Wissenschaft der Oberösterreichischen Landesregierung, Eibenweg 6, A-4052 Ansfelden, Austria; maximilian.schwarz@liwest.at.

Redaktion: Fritz GUSENLEITNER, Biologiezentrum Linz, f.gusenleitner@landesmuseum.at;
Roland GERSTMEIER, Lehrstuhl f. Zoologie, TU München, gerstmei@wzw.tum.de;
Thomas WITT, Tengstraße 33, D-80796 München, thomas@witt-thomas.com;
Berthold CLEWING, Akademischer Verlag München, avm@druckmedien.de;
Harald SULAK, Museum Witt München, h.sulak@atelier-sulak.de.

Mitarbeiter: Karin TRAXLER, Biologiezentrum Linz, bio.redaktion@landesmuseum.at;
Heike REICHERT, Museum Witt München, heike_reichert66@web.de;
Erich DILLER, Zool. Staatssammlung München, erich.diller@zsm.mwn.de.

Adresse: Entomofauna, Redaktion und Schriftentausch Thomas WITT, c/o Museum Witt München,
Tengstr. 33, 80796 München, Deutschland, thomas@witt-thomas.com;
Entomofauna, Redaktion c/o Fritz GUSENLEITNER, Lungitzerstr. 51, 4222 St. Georgen/Gusen,
Austria, f.gusenleitner@landesmuseum.at.

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