

Scientific note

First record of the Filter-Feeding Water Beetle *Spercheus emarginatus* (Schaller, 1783) in Uzbekistan

(Coleoptera, Spercheidae)

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The faunistic knowledge about the water beetle fauna of Uzbekistan is still very fragmentary. In 2004, 2005 and 2009 the first author had the opportunity to collect on several spots in and around the capital Tashkent. Based on these samplings new country records have been published in Hendrich & Hendrich (2005) and Shaverdo et al. (2021). In addition, we here report the discovery of the Filter-Feeding Water Beetle *Spercheus emarginatus* (Schaller, 1783) (Fig. 1) in Uzbekistan.

The Spercheidae (Erichson, 1837) or “Filter-Feeding Water Beetles” within the Hydrophiloidea are a small aquatic beetle family with 18 species and 2 subspecies known, distributed around the world except the Nearctic realm. The widest diversity is found in the Oriental and African tropical regions. Two species occur in Australia: *S. watsi* Hebauer, 1999 and *S. platycephalus* MacLeay, 1825 which also occurs on some islands of Southeast Asia (Hebauer 1999). Two species have been described from South America (Hebauer 1997, Archangelsky 2001) and six species and one subspecies are known from the Palaearctic region (Przewoźny 2022).

Spercheus emarginatus (Schaller, 1783)

Dytiscus emarginatus Schaller, 1783: 327.

Spercheus emarginatus (Schaller, 1783): Przewoźny 2022: 10.

Known distribution. The species is widespread in the Palaearctic region. From France, Central Europe, eastwards to Poland, the Baltic States and Russia, as far as southern Siberia and Russia Far East, in south-eastern Europe from most countries, passing through Turkey, Iran to Kazakhstan and Tajikistan (Przewoźny 2022).



Fig. 1. Habitus (dorsal) of *Spercheus emarginatus* from Tashkent Botanical Garden. Length of beetle: 6.1 mm.

Material studied. 2 specimens, “Uzbekistan, Tashkent “Botanickeskiy sad” [botanical garden], 23.–28.6.2005, ponds, E. & L. Hendrich leg. Loc. 4”; 1 specimen, “Uzbekistan, Tashkent, Bektemir, 450 m, Chirchiq floodplains, 19.–21.IV.2009, 41°16'07.01" N 69°23'06.19" E, shallow pool, E. & L. Hendrich leg.”. **First record for Uzbekistan.**

All three specimens are stored in the Zoologische Staatssammlung München (ZSM).

Identification. The specimens were identified based on specimens deposited in ZSM, specimens collected by both authors in Germany, Hungary and Slovakia, and with the publication of Hebauer (1997).

Habitat. The three specimens from the Botanical garden were collected with the help of a kitchen strainer among exposed mats of floating grasses, in a shallow, eutrophic and nutrient-rich artificial pond. The single specimen from Bektemir was obtained among detritus and emerged vegetation at the edge of a shallow floodplain pool near the river Chirchiq.

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