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Agabus palaestinus (ZIMMERMANN) - a junior synonym of *Agabus faldermanni* ZAITZEV (Coleoptera: Dytiscidae)

G. Wewalka

Abstract

Agabus palaestinus (ZIMMERMANN, 1934) is shown to be a synonym of *Agabus faldermanni* ZAITZEV, 1927. A lectotype is designated for *A. faldermanni*.

Agabus faldermanni ZAITZEV

Agabus (*Gaurodytes*) *faldermanni* ZAITZEV 1927, Trav. Sta. biol. Caucase Nord 2: 22.

Gaurodytes palaestinus ZIMMERMANN 1934, Monogr. d. paläarkt. Dytisciden 5: 28 (= syn.nov.). - ZAITZEV 1953, Fauna USSR Coleoptera 6: 230.

Gaurodytes faldermanni, GSCHWENDTNER 1939, Monogr. d. paläarkt. Dytisciden 10: 19. - ZAITZEV 1953, Fauna USSR Coleoptera 6: 241.

Agabus palaestinus, WEWALKA 1986, Entom. Basiliensia 11: 279.

Lectotypus: (by present designation): ♂, Skobelevka, distr. Shusha, Azerbaydzan, USSR, 26.9.1915 leg. R. Rodionov in coll. Zool. Inst. Acad. Sciences, Leningrad.

Additional material studied:

USSR: Kaukasus, leg. Maljushenco, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ in coll. Zool. Inst. Acad. Sciences, Leningrad.

TURKEY: Prov. Urfa, Karaçadag, west of Diyarbakir, 28.5.1987, leg. M. Jäch, coll. Nat.- hist. Mus. Vienna; Prov. Nevsehir, 5 km northeast Ürgüp. 23.7.1987, leg. G. Wewalka.

ISRAEL: Mt. Hermon 2000 m, 6.5.1975, leg. A. Freidberg, coll. Tel Aviv University.

The study of the lectotype of *Agabus faldermanni* ZAITZEV has convinced me that this species is a senior synonym of *Agabus palaestinus* (ZIMMERMANN). No significant differences could be found between the lectotype and the alleged holotype of *A. palaestinus* from "Palästina" (♂), deposited in the Zimmermann collection (Zool. Staatssammlung, Munich). This specimen is labeled "nov spec" in the handwriting of Zimmermann and was determined as "*Agabus palaestinus* ZIMMERMANN" by Guignot in 1954.

The species can easily be distinguished from related species by the dense and sharp longitudinal wrinkles at the posterior margin of the last two sternites in both sexes.

The reasons why the synonymy of *A. palaestinus* and *A. faldermanni* has not been recognized earlier are probably due to some misleading statements in the descriptions of both species. ZIMMERMANN (1934) erroneously wrote that the protarsal claws of the ♂ are simple in *palaestinus*. However, the inner claws are broadened at the base and produced into an obtuse denticle in the basal third. ZAITZEV (1953) mentioned both species but placed them in different species groups. While he referred *palaestinus* to the *guttatus* group he put *faldermanni* close to *paludosus* (F.). Though he stated that *faldermanni* resembles *biguttatus* ab. *nigricollis* ZOUBKOFF he came to the conclusion that *faldermanni* cannot be placed in this group often defined as subgenus *Dichonectes* GUIGNOT because the row of dots at the anterior margin of the pronotum is only slightly interrupted in the middle. However, in my opinion *A. faldermanni* belongs to the *guttatus* group because of the formation of the prosternal process which is quite broad and flat

and because of the male pro- and mesotarsi which have setae with suckers only on the two basal articles. The third article is only provided with short simple setae. Also the aedeagus (figs. 1 - 3) are closer related to species of the *guttatus* group than to the *paludosus* group.

Ecology: specimens collected by the author were found in pools of a drying up rivulet.

Distribution: USSR: Azerbaydzhan, Caucasus; central and eastern Turkey; western Iran; Israel.



Figs. 1 - 3: Aedeagus of *Agabus faldermanni* ZAITZEV, lectotype: 1) lateral view of penis; 2) dorsal view of penis; 3) right paramere.

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Zusammenfassung

Durch das Studium von Typenmaterial von *Agabus faldermanni* ZAITZEV (1927) und *Agabus palaestinus* (ZIMMERMANN) (1934) wurde deren Synonymie festgestellt. Ein Lectotypus von *A. faldermanni* wurde festgelegt.

References

- ZIMMERMANN, A. 1934: Monographie der paläarktischen Dytisciden, 5. Colymbetinae 1. Teil - reprint of Koleopt. Rundsch. 20: 1 - 78.
- ZAITZEV, F. A. 1953: Fauna USSR, Coleoptera 4, Amphizoidae, Hygrobiidae, Haliplidae, Dytiscidae, Gyrinidae. - Academy of Sciences of USSR, p.: 1 - 401.

Address of the author: Prof. Dr. Günther Wewalka, Kandlgasse 19 - 21, A - 1070 Vienna, Austria.

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Autor(en)/Author(s): Wewalka Günther

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