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## **A new *Thorictus* GERMAR, 1834 species from Sultanate of Oman (Coleoptera, Dermestidae, Thorictinae)**

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**A b s t r a c t :** A new species, *Thorictus omanensis* nov.sp. from Sultanate of Oman, is described, illustrated and compared with similar species from the Arabian Peninsula. The new species was collected in a nest of *Lepisiota omanensis* SHARAF & MONKS, 2016 (Hymenoptera, Formicidae).

**K e y w o r d s :** taxonomy, new species, description, Coleoptera, Dermestidae, Thorictinae, *Thorictus*, Sultanate of Oman.

### **Introduction**

The myrmecophilous dermestid genus *Thorictus* GERMAR, 1834 currently includes 172 species and subspecies known from the Palaearctic, Oriental and Afrotropical Regions (HÁVA 2015, 2020). Three species are known from the Arabian Peninsula (ABDEL-DAYEM et al. 2017, HÁVA 2010, 2020, ). While examining myrmecophilous dermestid specimens from Sultanate of Oman, a new species of *Thorictus* GERMAR, 1834 has been determined and is described below.

### **Material and methods**

The size of the beetles or of their body parts can be useful in species recognition and thus, the following measurements were made:

total length (TL) – linear distance from anterior margin of pronotum to apex of elytra, pronotal width (PW) – maximum linear transverse distance and elytral width (EW) – maximum linear transverse distance. All measurements are given in millimetres. Locality labels are cited in the original version.

Specimens of the species described here are provided with a red, printed labels with text as follows: "HOLOTYPE [or PARATYPE, respectively] *Thorictus omanensis* sp. nov. Jiří Háva det. 2020".

Male genitalia were not studied. The differential diagnosis of the aedeagi is often problematical and interspecific variation is currently very poorly defined (JOHN 1963). The two species groups considered here were stated by JOHN (1963).

Acronyms of type depositories:

- JHAC ..... Jiří Háva, Private Entomological Laboratory & Collection, Únětice u Prahy, Prague-West, Czech Republic;  
 JPPC ..... Jan Pelikán, private collection, Hradec Králové, Czech Republic;  
 NMPC ..... National Museum, Praha, Czech Republic;  
 TKPC ..... Tomáš Kopecký, private collection, Jablonné nad Orlicí, Czech Republic.

## Taxonomy

### *Thorictus omanensis* nov.sp. (Figs. 1-2)

**Type material:** Holotype (♂): N Oman, Al Batinah, N.Gov. Sohar, 14 km SW, 24-25.3.2019, lgt. Jan Pelikán / 24°12'18.172"N 56°38'43.868"E, 116 m, wadi desert, individual coll., in anthill, (NMPC). Paratypes (52 spec.): same locality data as holotype [Jan Pelikán or Tomáš Kopecký lgt.], (18 JHAC, 21 JPPC, 13 TKPC).

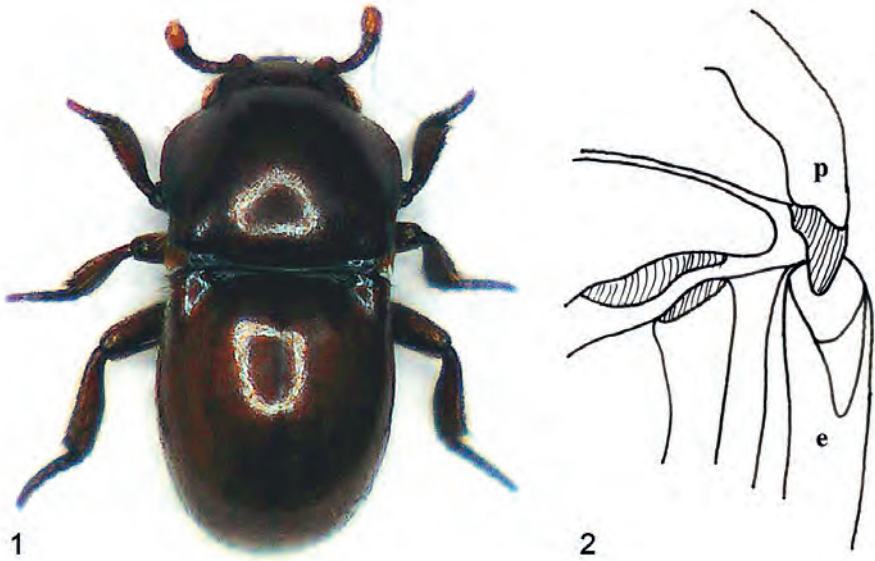
**Description:** Body small (Fig. 1), castaneous brown, covered with short, yellow setae on dorsal surface and short setae on ventral surface. Measurements (mm): TL 1.82, PW 0.93, EW 0.90. Head finely punctate with very short, yellow, recumbent setae. Labial palpi entirely brown. Antennae brown, with 11 antennomeres, antennal club compact, with 3 antennomeres, terminal antennomere with short yellow setae. Lateral eyes on head with very small granules. Pronotum as finely punctate as head, covered with short, yellow, recumbent setae. Lateral margin of pronotum without finely dentate. Posterior angles with long, yellow setae. Ventral posterior pronotal angles with yellow setae. Scutellum small, triangular, without setae. Elytra very finely punctate, covered with short, recumbent, yellow setae; lateral sides with yellow, erect setae; two depressions present in anterior half near scutellum. Epipleuron finely punctate, anterior angles with very small protuberance; protuberance finely punctured without yellow setae. Prosternum finely punctate. Mesosternum with small, foveolate punctures. Metasternum finely punctate. Visible abdominal sternites very finely punctate, covered with very short, recumbent, yellow setae. Striation on first visible abdominal ventrite long. Legs brown, covered with short, yellow setae.

**Variability:** Measurements (mm): TL 1.82-1.90, PW 0.92-0.97, EW 0.90-0.97.

**Differential diagnosis:** The known Arabian species *Thorictus arabicus* HÁVA, 2010 and *Thorictus foreli* WASMANN, 1894 belongs to "*Thorictus castaneus* species group", *Thorictus peyerimhoffi* CHOBOUT, 1904 to "*Thorictus orientalis* species group". The new species belongs to "*Thorictus orientalis* species group", according to characters stated by JOHN (1963); from the Arabian species differs by its very small body form and ventral setae on the margin of the thorax.

**Etymology:** Toponymic, named after Sultanate of Oman.

**Bionomy:** Type specimens collected in an ant nest of *Lepisiota omanensis* SHARAF & MONKS, 2016 (Formicidae, Hymenoptera). This species is known from Oman and United Arab Emirates (SHARAF et al. 2016).



**Figs. 1-2.** *Thorictus omanensis* nov.sp.: (1) habitus, dorsal aspect; (2) setation on margin of thorax, ventral aspect (p - pronotum, e - epipleuron).

**Tab. 1.** List of *Thorictus* species from Arabian Peninsula.

	Kuwait	Saudi Arabia	Yemen		Oman	United Arab Emirates	Qatar
			Continental Yemen	Socotra Island			
<b>S u b f a m i l y Thorictinae</b>							
<b>T r i b e Thorictini</b>							
<i>T. castaneus</i> species group							
<i>Thorictus arabicus</i> HÁVA, 2010		*					
<i>Thorictus foreli</i> WASMANN, 1894		*?					
<i>T. orientalis</i> species group							
<i>Thorictus omanensis</i> <b>nov.sp.</b>					*		
<i>Thorictus peyerimhoffi</i> CHABAUT, 1904		*					

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## Zusammenfassung

Eine neue Art *Thoricus omanensis* nov.sp. aus dem Oman wird beschrieben, illustriert und mit ähnlichen Arten der Arabischen Halbinsel verglichen. Die neue Art wurde in einem Nest von *Lepisiota omanensis* SHARAF & MONKS, 2016 gesammelt (Hymenoptera, Formicidae).

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