

Insects of Saudi Arabia

Diptera: Fam. Tabanidae

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Abstract: The fauna of Saudi Arabia includes now nine species of Tabanidae. *Tabanus fumidus* Austen, *T. leleani turkestanicus* Olsufjev, *T. sabuletorum* Loew are recorded for the first time. *T. biguttatus* Wiedemann and *Haematopota coronata* Austen are Ehiopian elements, the seven other species are Palaearctic. A comparison is established with the faunas of other countries, viz. Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

Tabanidae مزدوجہ الاجنحہ : عائلۃ
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الخلاصہ : اصحت المجموعہ الحيوانية العربية السعودية تحوى تسعة انواعا من عائلۃ Tabanidae ذكر منها لاول مره كل من *Tabanus fumidus* و *T. leleani turkestanicus* ، *T. sabuletorum* اما الانواع *T. biguttatus* و *Haematopota coronata* فتعود الى منطقة الانتشار الحشيه بينما الانواع السبعه الباقية فتعود الى منطقة الانتشار الاسيويه - الاروبيه . كما يحوى المقال على مقابله مجموعات حيوانيه لعدة بلدان : تركيا ، ايران ، افغنستان ، سوريا ، لبنان ، فلسطين ، الاردن ، العراق والمملكه العربية السعوديه .

INTRODUCTION

Thanks to the kindness of Dr M. Brancucci of the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Bale, Switzerland, I have been able to study a collection of Tabanidae from Saudi Arabia which includes three species not previously recorded from that country. These are *Tabanus fumidus* Austen, *T. leleani turkestanicus* Olsufjev and *T. sabuletorum* Loew. The opportunity is taken here to summarize present knowledge concerning the composition of the Saudi-Arabian fauna of Tabanidae and to compare this fauna with that of other countries in the Near and Middle East.

LIST OF SAUDI-ARABIAN SPECIES

1. *Atylotus farinosus* (Szilady). Recorded by MOUCHA (1976).
Distribution: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia.
2. *A. pallescens* (Walker). Recorded by MOUCHA (1976).
Distribution: Saudi Arabia only.
3. *Tabanus albifacies* Loew. Recorded by LECLERCQ (1966).
Distribution: Algeria, Lybia, Egypt, Israel, Iran, Saudi Arabia.

4. *T. arabicus* Macquart. Recorded by MOUCHA (1976).
Distribution: Turkey, Iraq, Saudi Arabia.
5. *T. biguttatus* Wiedemann. Recorded by OLDROYD (1954).
Distribution: Afrotropical region, Southern Arabia.
6. *T. fumidus* Austen. Barjsharfa, ♀, 17.II.1980 (W. Büttiker).
Distribution: U.S.S.R., Afghanistan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia.
7. *T. leleani turkestanicus* Olsufjev. Riyadh, ♂, 26.I.1980; 17 km S Khaybar, 680 m, 12 ♀, 26.IV.1979 (KAU-NHMB Exp. N Hedjaz, 1979).
Distribution: U.S.S.R., Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia.
8. *T. sabuletorum* Loew. 17 km S Khaybar, 680 m, ♀, 26.IV.1979 (KAU-NHMB Exp. N Hedjaz, 1979); Riyadh, ♀, 9.IX.1978 (A.S. Talhouk); Hufuf, ♀, 21.IV.1980.
Distribution: U.S.S.R., Mongolia, Saudi Arabia.
9. *Haematopota coronata* Austen. W Shuqub/Turabah, 1250 m, ♂, 6.IV.1980, ♂, 21.IV.1980 (W. Büttiker); Al Mindak 10 km E, ♀, 9.IV.1980 (W. Büttiker); Wadi Wajj 18 km SW Taif, 1800 m, ♀, 4.X.1979 (W. Büttiker). Also recorded by Oldroyd (1952).
Distribution: Northern Chad, Somalia, Israel, Iran, Yemen, Saudi Arabia.

DISCUSSION

The Palaearctic tabanid fauna presently includes 548 species. In the recent catalogue of Leclercq and Olsufjev (1981) the subspecies *Tabanus ansarii gedrosiae* Abbassian is listed, but this should be regarded as a distinct species – *T. gedrosiae* Abbassian – according to Jezek (1980). Ten Palaearctic species and one subspecies not listed in the catalogue are: *Nemorius baghdadensis* Jezek, 1977; *Hybomitra cyanops* (Brauer, 1880); *Atylotus pallescens* (Walker, 1871); *A. niveipalpis* (Bigot, 1880); *Tabanus arfaai* Abbassian, 1966; *T. hashemii* Jezek, 1981; *T. ilchanii* Jezek, 1981; *T. safavii*, Jezek, 1981; *T. yasujensis* Jezek, 1981; *T. zeirü* Jezek, 1981 and *T. eggeri mianjangalensis* Jezek, 1981 (*tinctus* Abbassian, nec Walker).

The number of species now known to occur in various countries in the Near and Middle East is as follows: Turkey: 127; Iran: 101; Afghanistan: 31; Syria: 24; Lebanon: 6; Israel: 36; Jordan: 8; Iraq: ca 44; Saudi Arabia: 9.

This tabulation has been made on the basis of records from a number of sources, only the most important of which are listed in the bibliography of this paper. For Iraq, not all of the species noted in the catalogue of Abul-Hab (1980) are reliably recorded. Apart from the synonymies which should be noted the identification of certain species requires confirmation. *Atylotus agrestis* Wiedemann is a principally Afrotropical species. Reference to the work of OVAZZA, CAMICAS & PICHON (1968) provides the correct determination: *Atylotus agrestis* auct., nec Wiedemann = *A. quadrifarius* (Loew).

The poorly known tabanid fauna of Saudi Arabia merits further investigation. Two of the species – *Tabanus biguttatus* Wiedemann and *Haematopota coronata* – Austen, already recorded from the Aden area (OLDROYD, 1952 and 1954), are of Afrotropical origin. The other seven species are Palaearctic.

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