

# Diptera: Fam. Tabanidae of Saudi Arabia (Part 2)

M. Leclercq

Abstract: Five species of horse-flies are recorded for the first time: *Tabanus camelarius* Austen, *T. cordiger* Meigen, *T. leucostomus* Loew, *T. mordax* Austen, *T. sufis* Jaennicke. The fauna of Saudi Arabia now includes fourteen species of Tabanidae.

Keywords: Diptera, Tabanidae, faunistics, zoogeography.

شائبة الاجنحة في المملكة العربية السعودية  
عائلة الحرسيات  
(الجزء الثاني)

م . لكلك

خلاصة : تم تسجيل خمسة انواع من ذباب الخيل لأول مرة وهي : *T. camelarius* و *T. cordiger* و *T. leucostomus* و *T. mordax* و *Tabanus sufis* . اما الآن فتحتوي مجموعة حيوانات المملكة العربية السعودية على ١٤ نوعا من الحرسيات .

## INTRODUCTION

Thanks to the kindness of Dr. M. Brancucci of the Natural History Museum, Basle, Switzerland, I have been able to study a second collection of Tabanidae from Saudi Arabia obtained from Prof. W. Büttiker which includes five species not previously recorded from that country. These are: *Tabanus camelarius* Austen, *T. cordiger* Meigen, *T. leucostomus* Loew, *T. mordax* Austen and *T. sufis* Jaennicke.

## LIST OF SPECIES

### *Tabanus camelarius* Austen, 1911

*Tabanus camelarius* Austen, 1911. – Bull. ent. Res. 2: 173.

Material: Al Wahbah, ♀, 3.–4.VI.1982.

Distribution: Khor Arbaat in the Red Sea Hills of the Sudan, Southern end of the Dead Sea in Palestine, Saudi Arabia.

### *Tabanus cordiger* Meigen, 1820

*Tabanus cordiger* Meigen, 1820. – Syst. Besch. 2: 47.

Material: Wadi Nimar, 1500 m alt., ♀.

Distribution: from England through Scandinavia and the Leningrad region as far as the Ural mountains, most countries in Europe, Morocco, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Turkey, Armenia, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Mediterranean islands. (BAEZ & PORTILLO 1981, CHVALA et al. 1972, KADDOU 1967, LECLERCQ 1966).

***Tabanus leucostomus* Loew, 1858**

*Tabanus leucostomus* Loew, 1858. – Ofvers. Kongl. Vetensk. Akad. Forhandl. Stockholm 15: 336.

Material: Wadi Aridah, 1480 m alt., ♀, 9.–10. IX. 1983; Wadi al Amer, 2400 m alt., ♀, 18.–19. IX. 1983.

Distribution: Natal, Nyasaland, Rhodesia, Uganda, Zanzibar, Sudan, Ethiopia, Northern Nigeria, Northern French Cameroune, Saudi Arabia.

***Tabanus mordax* Austen, 1911**

*Tabanus mordax* Austen, 1911. – Bull. ent. Res. 2: 175.

Material: Wadi Qust, 1390 m alt., ♀, 22. IX. 1983; Wadi Turabah, 1470 m alt., ♀, 15.–16. IX. 1980.

Distribution: Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Read Sea Hills, Iran (*T. mordax bouroumandi* Jezek), Saudi Arabia.

***Tabanus sufis* Jaennicke, 1867**

*Tabanus sufis* Jaennicke, 1867. – Abhandl. Senckenberg Naturforsch. Ges. 6: 332.

Material: Wadi Harran, 220 m alt., ♀, 12.–23. V. 1983; Wadi Aridah, 1480m alt., 3 ♀, 9.–10. IX. 1983.

Distribution: south and east of Sahara, Mauritania, Gambia, Northern Nigeria and Tchad, Sudan, Ethiopia, Egypt, Read Sea to the oases of the western desert, Jordan valley to Palestine, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia.

***Haematopota coronata* Austen, 1908**

*Haematopota coronata* Austen, 1908. – Ann. Mag. nat. Hist. 8: 100, 279.

Material: Khoda, 1890 m alt., ♂, 30. IX. 1982; Wadi Majarish, 1000 m, ♀, 11. XI. 1983; Wadi Dhiyan, 1050 m alt., ♀, 13.–14. IX. 1983; Wadi Nimar, 1500 m alt., 4 ♀, Jebel Ibrahim, 1540 m alt., ♀, 10.–11. IX. 1983; Makkah, 2 ♀, 10. XI. 1982.

Distribution: Northern Tchad, Somalia, Palestine, Iran, Yemen, Saudi Arabia.

## DISCUSSION

The number of species now known to occur in Saudi Arabia is 14: two of Afrotropical origin, *Tabanus biguttatus* Wiedemann and *Haematopota coronata*; four from the non-forested parts of the Ethiopian Region, *Tabanus camelarius*, *T. leucostomus*, *T. mordax*, and *T. sufis*. These species belong to the *Tabanus sufis* group of OLDROYD (1954) which includes 17 species, and although some of them are widely distributed through the African savannas, the *sufis* group is the one which has the closest connection with the arid area. Eight are Palearctic: *Atylotus farinosus* (Szilady), *A. pallescens* (Walker), *Tabanus albifacies* Loew, *T. arabicus* Macquart, *T. cordiger*, *T. fumidus* Austen, *T. leleani turkestanicus* Olsufjev, and *T. sabuletorum* Loew.

Regarding *Tabanus mordax*, OLDROYD (1954) writes that it is “apparently” without eye-band in life. From two specimens studied from Saudi Arabia one is without an eye-band while the other one has an eye-band. *T. mordax bouroumandi* Jezek has one band (JEZEK, 1981).

The tabanid fauna of Saudi Arabia needs further investigation.

## REFERENCES

- BAEZ, M. & M. PORTILLO, 1981. *Los Tabanidos de las Islas Canarias (Diptera, Tabanidae)*. Boletín de la Asociación española de Entomología 5: 87–91.
- CHVALA, M., L. LYNEBORG & J. MOUCHA, 1972. *The Horse-Flies of Europe (Diptera, Tabanidae)*. Entomological Society of Copenhagen, Hampton, England, E. W. Classey Ltd., 500 pp.

- JEZEK, J., 1981. *Results of the Czechoslovak-Iranian entomological expedition to Iran*. Acta entomologica Musei Nationalis Pragae 4: 51-74.
- KADDOU, I.K., 1967. *A checklist of some insect fauna of Iraq*. Biological Research Center, Baghdad, publication n° 1: 1-44.
- LECLERCQ, M., 1966. *Révision systématique et biogéographique des Tabanidae (Diptera) paléarctiques II. - Tabaninae*. Mémoires de l'Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Bruxelles, deuxième série, 80: 1-235, 91 cartes, XIX pls.
- LECLERCQ, M., 1982. *Insects of Saudi Arabia Diptera: Fam. Tabanidae*. Fauna of Saudi Arabia 4: 447-449.
- OLDROYD, H., 1954. *The Horse-Flies (Diptera : Tabanidae) of the Ethiopian Region II. - Tabanus and related genera*. London, British Museum (Natural History): 341 pp.

Author's address:

Dr. Marcel Leclercq, 41 rue du Prof. E. Malvoz, 4610 Beyne- Heusay, Belgique.