

# Distribution of the tiger beetle *Megacephala* (*Grammognatha*) *euphratica* in Egypt, the Middle East and Central Asia (Coleoptera: Cicindelidae)

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**Abstract:** The distribution of the tiger beetle *Megacephala euphratica* in Egypt, the Middle East and Central Asia is analysed and localities are listed by subspecies. New locality records are presented for *M. e. euphratica* from Turkey (Aegean coast in the Izmir-Selçuk area, Mediterranean coast within the deltas of Göksu, Seyhan/Ceyhan and Asi nehri), Syria (Dayr az Zawar), inland Saudi Arabia (Riyâd and Buraydah) and for *M. e. armeniaca* from Kazakhstan (Lake Aydarkul').

**Kurzfassung:** Die Verbreitung des Sandlaufkäfers *Megacephala euphratica* in Ägypten, dem Mittleren Osten und Zentralasien wird analysiert und mit einer nach Unterarten geordneten Fundortliste aufgezeigt. Neue Fundorte von *M. e. euphratica* werden aus der Türkei (Ägäisküste im Gebiet Izmir - Selçuk, Mittelmeerküste in den Deltas des Göksu, Seyhan/Ceyhan und Orontes), Syrien (Dayr az Zawar), dem inneren Saudi-Arabien (Riyâd und Buraydah) sowie von *M. e. armeniaca* aus Kasachstan (Aydarkul'-See) präsentiert.

**Key words:** Coleoptera, Cicindelidae, *Megacephala euphratica euphratica*, *Megacephala euphratica armeniaca*, distribution, Egypt, Middle East, Central Asia.

## Introduction

Most recently the Mediterranean and North African distribution of *Megacephala euphratica* has been revised by CASSOLA (1981). However, CASSOLA's distribution map covers only the western part (reaching from Morocco and Spain to Israel) of the huge range of this conspicuous tiger beetle species. Within the eastern Mediterranean region, CASSOLA gave only a few records from Greece, Cyprus, Israel and Egypt. The aim of the present work is to provide a synopsis of the numerous and widely scattered distribution data, and thereby to give an overview of the eastern range of the species.

## Methods

Regarding the subspecific division, I follow WERNER (1999) who recently synonymized *Tetracha euphratica* var. *nigra* Horn, 1899 (type locality: Cairo) and *Megacephala euphratica aida* Mandl, 1959 (type locality: Djibouti) with the nominate subspecies. Accordingly, *M. euphratica* comprises only two subspecies, the Mediterranean-Arabian nominate subspecies and the predominantly Central Asian *M. e. armeniaca* Castelnau, 1834. Both subspecies are distinguished by their dorsal colouration, which is metallic green in *M. e. euphratica* and bluish-green in *M. e. armeniaca*.