

Contribution to the Curculionidae (Coleoptera) of Jordan

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Abstract. A total of 51 species of weevils (Curculionidae: Coleoptera) is recorded from Jordan, as a result of the examination of 526 specimens collected since 1974 and preserved in the University of Jordan Insects Museum. The distribution in Jordan, number of specimens examined, available host or collecting method, and collecting dates are given for each species.

Kurzfassung. Insgesamt 51 Arten von Rüsselkäfern (Curculionidae: Coleoptera) werden aus Jordanien gemeldet, basierend auf der Untersuchung von 526 Exemplaren, die seit 1974 gesammelt und in der Insektenkollektion der University of Jordan verwahrt werden. Für alle Funde bzw. Arten werden Verbreitung in Jordanien, Anzahl der gesammelten Exemplare, Nahrungspflanzen und Sammlungsdaten gegeben.

Key words. Weevils, beetles, distribution, Middle East.

Introduction

The Curculionidae, the snout beetles or weevils, form a very large group of phytophagous Coleoptera. They are characterized by the distinct, usually long and slender, snout, the generally geniculate antennae inserted on the snout, and the generally compact antennal club. The Curculionidae fauna of Jordan is poorly known and very few studies can be found in the literature. For example, SHARAF et al (1983) reported one species, *Sitophilus granarius* (L.), and COLONNELLI (1987) listed 25 species, which were collected in Jordan by J. KLAPPERICH, all of them belonging to the subfamily Ceutorhynchinae.

Despite the poor knowledge of Jordanian weevils, several studies have been carried out in areas surrounding Jordan. From Palestine, BODENHEIMER (1937) listed 219 species. From Egypt, ALFIERI (1976) listed 351 species. From Iraq, DERWESH (1965) listed 54 species, ABDUL RASSOUL (1976) 25 species, and AL-ALI (1977) 28 species. From the Arabian Peninsula, AL-HOUTY (1989) reported 23 species from Kuwait, COLONNELLI (1984) 8 species (four of them as new to science), WANAT (1990) 24 species, and CALDARA (1993) 11 species.

The objective of this paper is to contribute to our knowledge of the Curculionidae of Jordan by presenting a list of species collected in Jordan since 1974 and preserved in the University of Jordan Insects Museum. The specimens were collected by the author and many entomology students. Representative specimens of each collected species were sent to Enzo COLONNELLI (University of Rome, Italy) for identification. In the list below, the species are listed alphabetically. Geographic names follow the Gazetteer of Jordan (ANONYMOUS 1990). After each locality, dates are arranged chronologically according to the month. The number in parentheses after "material" gives the number of specimens examined. The number of