

Distribution and habitats of the tiger beetle *Megacephala euphratica* in the Çukurova Delta, southern Turkey (Coleoptera: Cicindelidae)

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Abstract. The distribution of the tiger beetle *Megacephala euphratica euphratica* in the Çukurova Delta is analyzed and new locality records within the delta are presented. The data indicate that the species is abundant and widely distributed, inhabiting mainly salt marsh habitats. Brief information on the habitat is given and the possible distribution of the species along the Mediterranean coast of Turkey is discussed.

Kurzfassung. Die Verbreitung des Sandlaufkäfers *Megacephala euphratica euphratica* im Çukurova-Delta wird analysiert und neue Fundorte werden vorgestellt. Die Daten zeigen, dass die Art häufig und weit verbreitet ist, und hauptsächlich Salzwiesen bewohnt. Eine kurze Beschreibung der Habitate wird gegeben und die mögliche Verbreitung an der türkischen Mittelmeerküste diskutiert.

Key words. Insecta, Turkey, Mediterranean coast, salt marshes, distribution, habitat.

Introduction

Most recently the distribution of *Megacephala euphratica euphratica* Latreille & Dejean, 1822 in Turkey has been described by CASSOLA (1999) and FRANZEN (2001). The species had first been mentioned from Turkey by KORELL (1988), who found a pair of elytra in the Göksu Delta. During 1996 and 1997, FRANZEN (2001) collected specimens at several localities which were the first reliable records from Turkey, including one location in the Çukurova Delta (Tuzla). The aim of the present work is to discuss the habitats and provide detailed distribution data for *M. e. euphratica* within the Çukurova Delta, which possesses similarities with the other river deltas in Turkey and may thus provide insight into the distribution of the species in Turkey.

Methods

A first survey for *M. e. euphratica* within the delta was made in early 2001, before the end of April, in order to determine potential habitats. Sampling was then concentrated on these habitats by visiting the various sites at irregular intervals between May and August. During each sampling date, larval burrows were excavated for the presence of larvae. The diameter of burrow openings was also measured to differentiate the instars. In addition, plant species present at the habitats were sampled for a vegetation analysis. Since the adults are active after sunset, they were collected during the night by at least two persons walking through the habitat with the aid of a portable fluorescent light.