

Two new species of the genus *Erodius* Fabricius, 1775 from Oman and Syria

(Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Pimeliinae)

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Abstract. *Erodius (Dimeriseis) omanensis* sp. n. from Oman and *Erodius (Dirosis) pesvalgus* sp. n. from Syria are described as being new to science and are illustrated.

Key words. Tenebrionidae, *Erodius* Fabricius, 1775, Oman, Syria, new species.

Introduction

The western Palaearctic genus *Erodius* Fabricius, 1775 consists of 76 species with numerous subspecies in 5 subgenera (LÖBL et al. 2008). Two collections of Tenebrionidae by H. J. BREMER in Oman in 1996 and by Mrs. Zepure ELEYJIAN ADJAMIAN in Syria in 2009 were examined, and two new *Erodius* species are described in this study from this material.

Acronyms. ZEA-AUC: private collection of Z. ELEYJIAN ADJAMIAN in Aleppo University Collection, Aleppo. – ML: private collection of M. LILLIG, Saarbrücken. – HJB-ZSM: collection of Hans J. BREMER, now in Zoologische Staatssammlung München. – ZSM: Zoologische Staatssammlung München.

Erodius (Dimeriseis) omanensis sp. n. (Figs 1A-E)

Material. Holotypus ♂. Oman, Muscat, Sanddünen, nahe Meer [sand dunes, near the sea], 26.-28.iii.1996, H. J. BREMER leg. / abends herumlaufend [running around in the evening] (HJB-ZSM). – Paratypes. Data like holotype, 12 ♂, 10 ♀ (9 ♂, 7 ♀ HJB-ZSM, 3 ♂, 3 ♀ ML); Oman, Muscat, Sanddünen, nahe Meer [sand dunes, near the sea], 26.-28.iii.1996, H. J. BREMER leg. / nach Sonnenaufgang [after sunrise], 9 ♂ (6 HJB-ZSM, 3 ML), 34 ♀ (24 HJB-ZSM, 10 ML); Oman, Ja'lan, südliche [southern] Wahiba, 10 km N Al Ashkharah, 21°88'N 59°56'E, 21.-22.iii.1996, H. J. BREMER leg., 2 ♂ (1 HJB-ZSM, 1 ML), 11 ♀ (8 HJB-ZSM, 3 ML).

Description. Shape. Broad-oval, strongly arched. Pronotum narrower than elytra. Male: length 9-15 mm, width 5.1-9.5 mm, height 4.5-8.0 mm. Female: length 9.5-13.5 mm, width 6.0-9.0 mm, height 5.0-8.0 mm. Females are usually wider than males.

Colour. Shining black. Antennae, labrum, palpi, knees and tarsi mostly lighter.

Head. Labrum distally emarginate, with yellow bristles. Clypeus broadly emarginate, beside of the rounded fore angles impressed, transversely rugose; frons granulated, granules of the vertex mostly laterally, disc almost smooth. Eye oval, convex, projecting from head