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A new species of *Gymnocnemia* Schneider, 1845 from Morocco with additional diagnostic data for the genus (Neuroptera, Myrmeleontidae)

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Abstract

Gymnocnemia editaerevayae nov. sp. is described from the High Atlas Mountains in Morocco and compared to *Gymnocnemia variegata* Schneider, 1845. Descriptions of male genitalia and male and female terminalia of *G. variegata* are provided. Both species are illustrated.

Key words: biodiversity, Morocco, Antlions, North Africa, Atlas Mountains

Introduction

Approximately 100 species of Myrmeleontidae are presently known from North Africa, from Morocco to Egypt (Aspöck *et al.*, 2001; Güsten, 2003). The fauna of the former country comprises about 40 species but recent records (Aspöck & Aspöck, 2009; Faucheux *et al.*, 2012; Pantaleoni *et al.*, 2012), as well as this publication, show that this fauna remains incompletely described.

Gymnocnemia Schneider, 1845 is a Mediterranean genus that comprised only one species, *G. variegata* Schneider, 1845 distributed from Spain to Israel and Switzerland and extending its area of distribution to Ukraine, South-west Russia and Turkmenistan (Stange, 2004). Among the Nemoleontini, it is characterized by the slender forelegs being longer than the middle and hind legs and the absence of tibial spurs, which differentiates it from the genus *Megistopus* Rambur, 1842.

This publication deals with the description of a new species, *Gymnocnemia editaerevayae* nov. sp., collected in the High Atlas Mountains of Morocco. It provides supplementary data to the original description of *G. variegata* and to the characterization of the genus.

Material and methods

To examine the terminalia and genitalia, the abdomen was removed from the body, treated with a cold 5% KOH solution and rinsed in distilled water. It was then transferred to glycerine in a microvial for further examination and preservation. For photographs, the abdomen was placed in glycerine on a microscope slide cavity. Habitus photographs were taken using a digital camera Canon® EOS 450D equipped with a Canon® macro lens EFS 60 mm and fixed on a stand. Photographs of morphological characters and genitalia were taken using a Leica® M205C stereo microscope equipped with a JAI® AT-200GE digital camera. The photographs were processed with Archimed® and retouched with Adobe Photoshop® software.

Systematics

Characterization of the genus *Gymnocnemia*. The genus *Gymnocnemia* exhibits synapomorphies that