

## A new species of the genus *Odonteus* (Coleoptera: Geotrupidae) from northern Pakistan

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### Abstract

A remarkable new species, *Odonteus gandhara* Carpaneto & Mignani, **n. sp.**, is described from northern Pakistan. The holotype (adult male) and the paratype (adult female) are illustrated and compared with *O. armiger* (Scopoli, 1772) and *O. orientalis* Mittal, 1998, the only two species of this genus recognized in the Old World. Both *O. armiger* and *O. orientalis* have the eye not completely divided by the canthus and have a sensory area on the external side of the last antennomere (this character has never been discussed in the literature until now). These two character states in *O. armiger* and *O. orientalis* compel emendations to the definition of the genus. The new species has a great zoogeographical relevance because similar species occur in North America (*O. obesus* LeConte, 1859 and *O. falli* Wallis, 1928), and probably represents a relict species endemic to the Himalayan range.

**Key words:** *Odonteus*, systematics, new species, zoogeography, Pakistan, Himalayan range, Palearctic Region

### Introduction

The genus *Odonteus* Samouelle, 1819, comprises 12 species (Howden 1955, Mittal 1998), 10 of which occur in the Nearctic Region (Canada, the United States, and Mexico). Only two species belong to the Palearctic fauna: *O. armiger* (Scopoli, 1772), widespread throughout Europe, and *O. orientalis* Mittal, 1998 which was described based on a single female from northern India (Himachal Pradesh). Both the nomenclature and systematics of this genus are strongly debated by European and American specialists. As for nomenclature, two generic names have been used for the same group of species by different authors: *Bolboceras* Kirby, 1819, used as senior synonym by many authors (*e.g.*, Cartwright 1953,