



## The Meloidae (Coleoptera) of the United Arab Emirates with an updated Arabian checklist

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### Table of contents

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Abstract .....                | 1  |
| Introduction .....            | 2  |
| Material and methods .....    | 2  |
| Results .....                 | 5  |
| Subfamily Eleticinae .....    | 5  |
| Tribe Derideini .....         | 6  |
| Subfamily Meloinae .....      | 6  |
| Tribe Lyttini .....           | 6  |
| Tribe Cerocomini .....        | 9  |
| Tribe Epicautini .....        | 10 |
| Tribe Mylabrini .....         | 11 |
| Subfamily Nemognathinae ..... | 30 |
| Tribe Horiini .....           | 30 |
| Tribe Nemognathini .....      | 30 |
| References .....              | 31 |

### Abstract

This is the first contribution on the blister beetles (Meloidae) of the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.), but new records from all countries of the Arabian Peninsula are also included, with the addition of some species never recorded before from this region, thus updating the previous checklist. Two species from U.A.E. are described: *Hycleus pirata* **n. sp.** (distributed also in Oman) and *Hycleus dunalis* **n.sp.**, both belonging to different groups of species characterized by an unmodified mesosternum. *Mylabris (Mylabris) desertica* **n.sp.**, *Hycleus pintoii* **n.sp.**, and *Hycleus fraudulentus* **n. sp.** from Saudi Arabia, are also described. The following species previously referred to different mylabrine genera are here included in the genus *Hycleus* as new combinations: *H. arabicus* (Pallas, 1781), *H. borchmannianus* (Kaszab, 1983), *H. graciosus* (Marseul, 1870), *H. ligatus* (Marseul, 1870), *H. pseudobrunnipes* (Kaszab, 1983), *H. scabratus* (Klug, 1845), *H. scapularis* (Klug, 1845). *Coryna pitcheri* Kaszab, 1983 is doubtfully referred to *Hycleus*. The new synonymies *Deridea notata minor* Kaszab, 1960 = *Deridea notata* Thomas, 1897, *Mylabris bimaculata* Klug, 1845 = *Hycleus sexmaculatus* (Olivier, 1811), and *Zonabris rugosissima* Pic, 1909 = *Hycleus aestuans* (Klug, 1845), are proposed. New information on the relationships of several species, particularly of the genera *Lydomorphus* and *Hycleus*, are also provided.

**Key words:** Meloidae, Arabian Peninsula, United Arab Emirates, checklist, new species, taxonomy, faunistics