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The Cholevinae of Romania (exclusive of Leptodirini) (Coleoptera, Leiodidae) with special reference to the hypogeal records

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Abstract

The first catalogue of the Romanian Cholevinae (excluding Leptodirini) is presented, based on revised and new records. The overall distribution and distribution in Romania are documented for every species, with particular reference to subterranean environment (caves and subterranean superficial environment). Epigeal and hypogeal records are listed separately. Thirty two of forty nine species group taxa recorded in the Romanian fauna occur both in the epigeal and subterranean environment, 14 of them frequently recorded in the latter. Many species, dependant on the subterranean environment during certain stages of their life cycle, are considered troglophilic or subtroglophilic: *Choleva cisteloides dacica* Jeannel 1922, *Ch. glauca* Britten, 1918, *Catops picipes* Fabricius, 1792, *C. longulus* Kellner, 1846 and *C. tristis* Panzer, 1874. The Romanian fauna of Cholevinae is more similar to that of the Central Europe than the Balkan Peninsula.

Key words: small carrion beetles, faunistics, zoogeography, Romania

Introduction

The species included in the subfamily Cholevinae (Leiodidae) have been intensively studied in Europe. However, in comparison with the fauna of the Balkan Peninsula or that of the Central Europe, very well studied in the past century (Horion 1951; Szymczakowski 1959, 1962, 1965 etc.) and continuously updated by faunistic studies (Merkl 1992; Jelinek 1993; Růžička 1995 etc.), the Romanian fauna of Cholevinae (excepting the Leptodirini) remained poorly known. The species lists are incomplete or inaccurate, published in old works (Petri 1912, 1926; Jeannel 1936 etc.) and need to be updated.

The aim of the present study is to check, update and correct all the faunal data on the Romanian Cholevinae and present them as a catalogue, with local distributional maps, followed by a zoogeographic analysis. The present paper does not include the tribe Leptodirini which has been intensively studied and geographically well localised for the Romanian fauna (Jeannel 1924; Decou 1964; Decou & Negrea 1969; Nitzu & Ilie 2004; Moldovan *et al.* 2007; Racovitza 2010). The information on distribution of the Cholevinae in Romania is substantially updated, especially based on records in subterranean habitats.

For each species, the epigeal and hypogeal records are presented separately.

Material and methods

All published records of Cholevinae referring to the Romanian fauna were inventoried and updated. The oldest papers (such as Kuthy 1896; Seidlitz 1891; Elmer 1921) were checked in order to verify the first records for possible errors, detect doubtful records, and complement the old Hungarian names of localities with respective Romanian names.

The UTM (Universal Transverse Mercator) system was used to illustrate the distribution of species. Romania is situated in the UTM grid zones 34T, 35T, 34U and 35U. The geographic coordinates of the sites are given in MGRS format, omitting the UTM zone designation letter. Each MGRS square is defined by a UTM code formed