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A new subgenus and species of the genus *Hedyphanes* Fischer von Waldheim, 1820 (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Helopini) from Israel and Egypt

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Abstract

A new species, *Hedyphanes chikatunovi* sp. n., is described from southern Israel (Negev, Gerofit) and Egypt (Northern Sinai). These localities represent the southwestern limit of the distribution of the genus. The new species is placed in a new monotypic subgenus, *Microhedyphanes* subgen. n.

Key words: Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, Helopini, *Hedyphanes*, new subgenus, new species, Israel, Egypt

Species of the genus *Hedyphanes* Fischer von Waldheim, 1820 are widespread in Anatolia, Transcaucasia, Iran, Iraq, and Middle Asia. Two species, *H. cribripennis* Lucas, 1854 and *H. helopinus* Gemminger, 1870 (= *H. helopioides* Lucas, 1854, nom. preocc.) from Crete, are likely to be included in the genus *Raiboscelis* Allard, 1876 as Lucas compared these new species with *Raiboscelis azureus* (Brullé, 1832). Study of types will be necessary for determining their generic position. After earlier revisions (Faldermann 1837; Allard 1876, 1877; Seidlitz 1896; Reitter 1914, 1922), smaller taxonomic changes were made and new species were described from Middle Asia (Bogachev 1963; Medvedev 1978; Medvedev & Nepesova 1985), Iran (Medvedev 1976; Nabozhenko 2005b), and the Caucasus (Nabozhenko 2002; Abdurakhmanov & Nabozhenko 2011). Evolutionary trends and relationships of the genus were considered in Nabozhenko (2005a, 2006).

Hedyphanes is currently not divided into subgenera, but Iablokoff-Khnzorian (1964) described the subgenus *Coelophanes* with type species *H. laticollis* Fischer von Waldheim in Ménétrés, 1832. Later this subgenus was synonymized with the nominative subgenus (Nabozhenko 2005b).

We studied material from the Tel Aviv University (Israel) and the Staatliches für Naturkunde Stuttgart (Germany), and found a new species of the genus *Hedyphanes*. For this species, the subgenus *Microhedyphanes* is erected (Table 1). *Hedyphanes* (*Microhedyphanes*) *chikatunovi* sp. n. inhabits the Negev and Sinai deserts. These localities (Fig. 1) represent the southwestern limit of the generic distribution.

Hedyphanes (*Microhedyphanes*) *chikatunovi*, sp. n.

(Figs 1–2)

Description. Male. Body yellow-rufous, often semitransparent, slender, dorsally glabrous, ventrally pubescent. Head, pronotum shining, elytra dull. Anterior margin of clypeus distinctly widely sinuate, its angles strongly projected. Head widest at the level of eyes and genae. Eyes weakly transverse, oval, anterior margin very weakly sinuate. Ratio of head width at level of eyes to distance between eyes 1.4. Genae angulate, visibly projected. Outer margin of head between genae and clypeus weakly sinuate. Punctuation of head moderately coarse, dense (diameter of punctures subequal to distance between them) or very sparse and fine (diameter of punctures 3–4 times as short as distance between them), punctures round. Antennae comparatively short, 3 apical antennomeres extending