



A checklist of the Kateretidae and Nitidulidae of Iran (Coleoptera: Cucujoidea)

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Abstract

The current knowledge of the geographic distribution of short-winged flower beetles and sap beetles (Kateretidae and Nitidulidae, respectively) from Iran is summarized. In total, 84 species of Nitidulidae (in 22 genera and 5 subfamilies: Epurinae, Carpophilinae, Cryptarchinae, Nitidulinae, Meligethinae) and 6 species of Kateretidae (in 4 genera: *Brachyleptus* Motschulsky, *Brachypterolus* Grouvelle, *Brachypterus* Kugelann, *Kateretes* Herbst) are listed. *Brachyleptus discolor* Reitter, *Brachypterus glaber* (Newman) (both Kateretidae), *Epuraea distincta* (Grimmer), *Soronia oblonga* (Brisout), *Lamiogethes bidens* (Brisout), *Lamiogethes medvedevi* (Kirejtshuk), *Sagittgethes devillei* (Grouvelle) and *Xerogethes rotundicollis* (Brisout) (Nitidulidae) are new records for Iran.

Key words: Coleoptera, sap beetles, short-winged flower beetles, checklist, Iran

Introduction

Nitidulidae Latreille, 1802, also known as sap beetles, are one of the largest and most diverse families belonging to the superfamily Cucujoidea and suborder Polyphaga. The family contains about 230 genera and more than 3000 species, widely distributed in all zoogeographical regions. Sap beetles are small beetles whose trophic and habitat requirements are extremely varied, utilizing a multitude of dietary niches.

Kateretidae Erichson, 1846, also known as short-winged flower beetles, are a small family of small-sized beetles, containing approximately 108 species in 16 genera. Until recently, Kateretidae were considered to be a subfamily in Nitidulidae, but were elevated to family status by Audisio (1984) and Kirejtshuk (1986). Our present knowledge of Iranian Kateretidae and Nitidulidae is based on several entomological expeditions which visited Iran. The most important were the Czechoslovak-Iranian expeditions in 1970 and 1973 (Jelínek 1981). In later years appeared a few publications with new records (Audisio 1991; Jelínek 1982a, 1982b). This paper presents previously unpublished data from the third Czechoslovak-Iranian expedition to Iran in 1977. Specific locations were given by Hoberlandt (1983). The aim of this paper is to summarize all available data on Iranian sap beetles and short-winged flower beetles.

Materials and methods

The published data on Kateretidae and Nitidulidae in Iran are summarized from previous reports as well as some original material collected from different regions of the country. The catalogue comprises the following data: the valid taxon name, synonymy, and published records with provincial distribution (see Fig. 1) or, when this information is not available, "Iran (no locality cited)" is given. The system, nomenclature, synonymy, and distribution follow Audisio (1993b) and Jelínek & Audisio (2007). The taxonomy, nomenclature, and extra-Iranian distribution used here follow the *Catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera* (Jelínek & Audisio 2007), except for *Meligethes* Stephens and relatives, which conform to the recent work of Audisio *et al.* (2009). The list of species is given alphabetically together with synonymies and distribution data. Also, the following acronyms of museums and depositories are used:

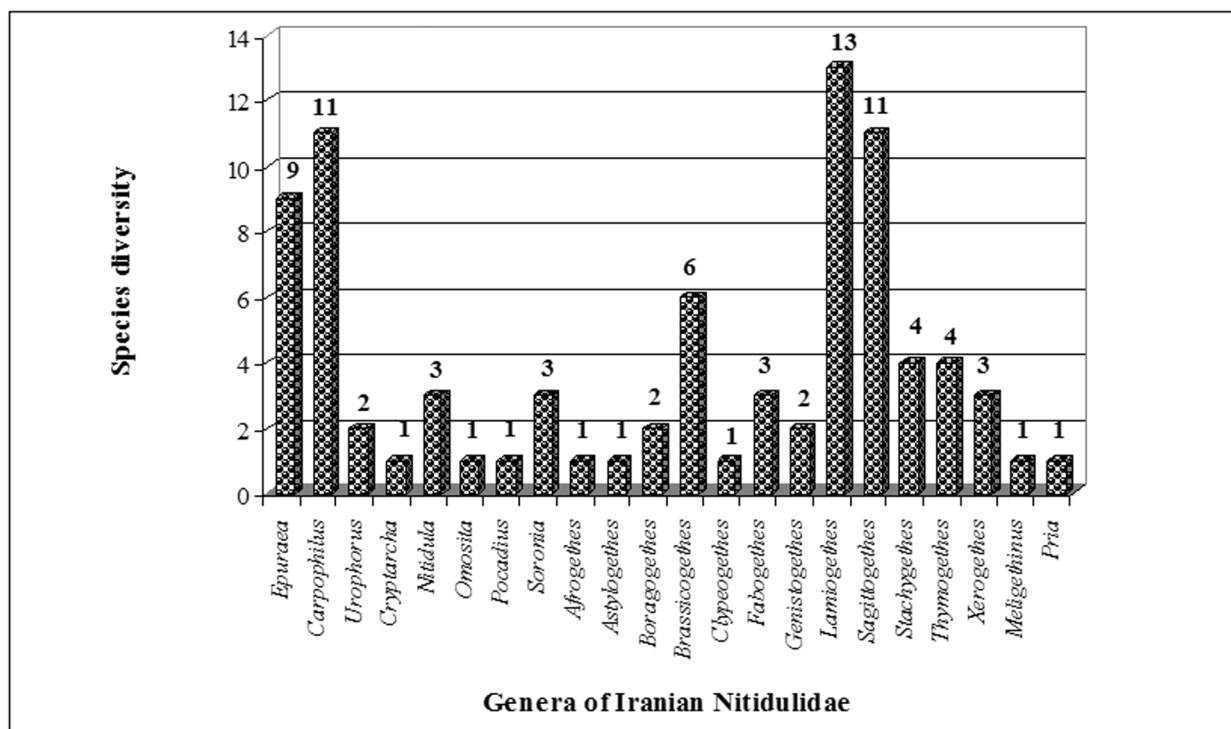


FIGURE 2. Species diversity of the genera of Iranian Nitidulidae.

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