

## HYDROPHILIDAE OF IRAQ ( INSECTA , COLEOPTERA )

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### ABSTRACT

This work reports thirty three Iraqi species and one subspecies of Hydrophilidae , distributed in eleven genera under four subfamilies . Of them two species namely *Laccobius gracilis* Motsch . and *Laccobius syriacus* Guilleb . are new records for Iraq . The locality data were mentioned for each species .

### INTRODUCTION

Hydrophilid fauna of Iraq rather imperfectly known till now , the total number of species so far recorded is 31 . The first published record for this family was that of Kuwert ( 1886 ) , who described a new species from Iraq . Subsequently , in 1888 and 1890 Kuwert described another four species and Knisch ( 1914 ) described one . Holdhaus ( 1919 ) added records of three species . Knisch again referred in his catalogue to some of Kuwert's species and to his own species from Iraq , but did not refer to Holdhaus recorded species. No more records were reported until Balfour-Browne in 1939 and 1951 who mentioned two species and one subspecies. Derwesh (1963) reported 13 species based on materials deposited in the Department of Entomology , Ministry of Agriculture, Iraq, nine of which were not previously recorded. Eight more species have been added for the Iraqi fauna of Hydrophilidae by Kaddou (1967) , Shalaby *et al.* (1967) ,Khalaf and Al-Omar (1974) and Abdul-Rassoul *et al.*(1987). The present report together with all above records bring the total number of species known from Iraq to 33.



## MATERIALS AND METHODS

over the past five years we have examined a number of collection of Hydrophilid beetles from Iraq, some of these resulted from our own collection during field trips, others were sent to us by colleagues and friends. A part from a few records of insects taken at light, the bulk of the collections were made from habitats. Published records were also carefully examined. Although the collection made few additions to the Iraqi list, nevertheless they are of value as a contribution to our very scanty knowledge of the distribution of Hydrophilidae within the country.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The following list of Hydrophilid species represent the update known species of this family excluded the species of Hydraenidae which have not been yet studied. Following the name of each species the reference recorded that species was mentioned and their localities were arranged as well.

Family Hydrophilidae

Subfamily Spercheinae

*Spercheus* Kugel.

*Spercheus* sp. Abdul - Rassoul *et al.* 1987, Rashdiya ( Baghdad ).

Subfamily Helophorinae

*Helophorus* F.

*H. nubilus* F. Kuwert, 1886 (= *Helophorus mesopotamiae* Kuw. ), Euphrates; Knisch, 1924.

*H. micans* Fald. Khalaf and Al - Omar, 1974; our collection from Bab Al - Muadham, Yusufiya ( Baghdad ), Suwaira ( Kut ).

*H. brevipalpis creticus* Kiesw. Holdhaus, 1919 (= *H. creticus* Kiesw. ) Sarsang.

*H. angustatus* Motsch. Shalaby *et al.*, 1967, Abu - Ghraib; our collection from Bab Al - Muadham, Waziriya, Amriya, Rashdiya ( Baghdad ), Mousl, Hatra ( Mosul ), ( Nasiriya ), Rumaitha, Sawa lake ( Samawa ).

*H. mervensis* Sem. Abdul - Rassoul *et al.*, '987, Bab Al - Muaham, Amriya, Abu - Ghraib, Rashdiya ( Baghdad ).

Subfamily Sphaeridiinae

*Cercyon* Leach.

*C. terminatus* Marsh. Abdul - Rassoul *et al.*, 1987, Karrada ( Baghdad ).

Subfamily Hydrophilinae

*Paracymus* Thoms.

*P. caucasicus* Kuw. Derwesh, 1963, Abu - Ghraib ( Baghdad ).



*Laccobius* Er .

*L. gracilis* Motsch . New Record , Amriya ( Baghdad ) .

*L. sinuatus* Motsch . Holdhaus , 1919 , Sarsang , ( Dohuk ) , Assur ( Mosul ) .

*L. syriacus* Guilleb . New Record , Bab Al - Muadham ( Baghdad ) , Rahhaliya ( Ramadi ) , Al - Azair ( Amara ) .

*Enochrus* Thoms .

*E. apicinotus* ( Kuw . ) Kuwert , 1888 ( = *philydrus apicinolus* Kuw . ) , Baghdad ; Knisch , 1924 .

*E. ater* Kuw . Knisch , 1924 ; Balfour - Browne , 1951 ; our collection from : Al - Ubidi , Basmaïya ( Baghdad ) ; Suwaira ( Kut ) , Ain - Tamr ( Karbala ) , Rahhaliya ( Ramadi ) .

*E. bicolor* F. Derwesh , 1963 , Abu - Graib ( Baghdad ) , our collection from : Basmaïya , Salman pak ( Baghdad ) , Kana ' n ( Diyala ) , Balad ( Salahddin ) , Musaiyib ( Hilla ) , Hindiya , Ain - Tamr ( Karbala ) .

*E. esuriens* Walk . Derwesh , 1965 , Abu - Ghraib ( Baghdad ) , our collection from : Bab Al - Muadham , Rashdiya ( Baghdad ) , Kana ' n ( Diyala ) , Suwaira ( Kut ) .

*E. politus* Kust . Derwesh , 1963 , Abu - Graib ( Baghdad ) , our collection from : Al - Ubidi , Zaafaraniya , Basmaïya , Rashdiya , Yusufiya ( Baghdad ) , Suwaira ( Kut ) , Ain - Tamr ( Karbala ) , Rahhaliya ( Ramadi ) .

*E. mesopotamiae* ( Kuw . ) Kuwert , 1890 ( = *philydrus mesopotamiae* Kuw . ) ; Knisch , 1924 .

*Sternolophus* Sol .

*S. decens* Zaitz . Derwesh , 1963 , Aub - Graib ( Baghdad ) , Nasiriya ; Kaddou , 1967 .

*S. rufipes* ( F. ) Khalaf and Al - Omar , 1974 .

*S. solieri* Lap . Abdul - Rassoul et al . , 1987 , Karrada , Rashdiya ( Baghdad ) , Samara ( Salahddin ) .

*Hydrophilus* Leach .

*H. mesopotamiae* ( Knisch ) Knisch , 1914 ( = *Hydrous mesopotamiae* Knisch ) , Mosul ; Knish , 1924 ; Derwesh , 1963 , Abu - Graib ( Baghdad ) , Basra , Nasiriya ; Kaddou , 1967 ; Khalaf and Al - Omar , 1974 ; Abdul - Rassoul , 1976 , Karrada ( Baghdad ) .

*Hydrochara* Berth . ( = *Hydrophilus* Leach . )

*H. flavipes* Steven Derwesh , 1963 , Abu - Graib ( Baghdad ) , Sulaimaniya ; Kaddou , 1967 ; Khalaf and Al - Omar , 1974 ; Abdul - Rassoul , 1976 , Karrada ( Baghdad ) , Karbala ; our collection from : Karrada ( Baghdad ) , Abu - Sukhair ( Najaf ) , Karbala , Nasiriya .

*Berosus* Leach .

*B. asiaticus* Kuw . Kuwert , 1888 , Baghdad ; Knisch , 1924 .

*B. bispinosus* Boh . Kaddou , 1967 , Baghdad .

*B. indicus* Motsch . Shalaby et al . , 1967 , Hilla

*B. spinosus* Stev . Dewesh , 1963 , Abu - Ghraib ( Baghdad ) , Nasiriya ; Khalaf and Al - Omar , 1974 ; our collection from : Bab Al - Muadham , Zaafaraniya , Basmaïya ,



- Rashdiya , Yusufiya , Salman pak ( Baghdad ) , Kana'n ( Diyala ) , Musaiyib ( Hilla ) ,  
 Hindiya ( Karbala ) , Dawar Al - Gharbi ( Kut ) , Sawa lake ( Samawa ) , Mosul .  
*B. spinosus schusteri* Kuw. Balfour - Browne , 1936 .  
*B. affinis* Brulle Abdul - Rassoul *et al.* , 1987 , Yusufiya ( Baghdad ) :  
*B. luridus* ( L . ) Derwesh , 1963 , Hilla .  
*B. nigriceps* F . Kuwert , 1890 ( = *paraberosus nigriceps* Kuw . ) ; Knisch , 1924 , ( =  
*nigriceps* Kuw . ) ; Balfour - Browne , 1951 ; Derwesh , 1963 , Abu - Ghraib ( Baghdad )  
 , Hilla ; Khalaf and Al - Omar , 1974 ; our collection from : Basmaya , Rashdiya , Salman  
 pak , Yusufiya ( Baghdad ) , Kana'n ( Diyala ) , Faluja ( Ramadi ) , Musaiyib ( Hilla ) ,  
 Hindiya ( Karbala ) , Dawar Al - Gharbi ( Kut ) .  
*B. pulchellus* Mad . Derwesh , 1963 , Hilla .

On the present list , as a whole , the following observation may be made . These species  
 have not seen to range very far north in Iraq but are apparently widely distributed in the  
 central and southern part . The largest number of species is found at the beginning of summer,  
 when the weather grows warmer . Some of them were very common having been taken at  
 some of the above localities even in larger numbers of individuals such as *B. spinosus* , *B.*  
*nigriceps* and *P. relaxus* , but few of these species were found to be very rare and are known  
 only from occasional records of the past hundred year . Holdhaus ( 1919 ) species of  
*Helophorus deplanatus* Waltl . is not represented in the current report , It is as well missing in  
 Knisch's 1924 catalogues . The authors surely believed that the fauna of Hydrophilidae of Iraq  
 reported in the present paper does not represent the actual fauna of Iraq since this matter  
 needs more investigations .

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