

# Contribution to the knowledge of the Scarabaeoidea (Coleoptera) of Jordan

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**Abstract:** 37 species of Scarabaeoidea are recorded from Jordan, and 27 of them are recorded for the first time as a result of the examination of more than 1700 specimens of Scarabaeoidea deposited in the University of Jordan Insects Museum, some Italian Museums and private collections. Another 24 species are included from literature records. Global distribution, collecting sites in Jordan, and available biological or ecological notes are provided.

**Kurzfassung:** Es werden Nachweise von 37 Arten von Scarabaeoidea für Jordanien mitgeteilt, wovon 27 neu für das Land sind. Grundlage der Arbeit ist die Untersuchung von über 1700 Exemplaren von Scarabaeoidea, die in der University of Jordan, einigen Museen in Italien sowie privaten Sammlungen aufbewahrt werden. Weitere 24 Arten werden aufgrund von Literaturangaben aufgelistet. Für jede Art werden Gesamtverbreitung, die Fundstellen in Jordanien sowie fallweise biologische und ökologische Beobachtungen mitgeteilt.

**Key words:** Scarabaeoidea, faunistics, Jordan, Middle East.

## Introduction

There are several studies dealing with the Scarabaeoidea of the territories adjacent to Jordan. From Palestine, BODENHEIMER (1937) listed 185 species. PETROVITZ (1971, 1973) described many taxa and CHIKATUNOV & PAVLICEK (1997) published a catalogue of 386 species from Palestine and surrounding areas. Different groups of Arabian Scarabaeoidea were studied during recent last decades e.g. by ENDRÖDI (1980), KUIJTEN (1980), PAULIAN (1980), PIT-TINO (1984), SABATINELLI & PONTUALE (1998), SCHOLTZ (1980), and ZUNINO (1979, 1981). From Iraq, DERWESH (1965) and ABDUL RASSOUL (1976) listed many species. Finally, a comprehensive list of the Coleoptera of Egypt including Scarabaeoidea was published by ALFIERI (1976). Despite this work, little information on the Scarabaeoidea fauna of Jordan is available in the literature. Only SHARAF et al. (1983) listed a few species in a preliminary study of the coleopteran fauna of Jordan, and BARAUD (1988, 1989) and MITTER (1996) described a few species from Jordan.

The aim of this paper is to provide a first comprehensive catalogue of the species of Scarabaeoidea of Jordan based on the examination of a large series of specimens. This material is preserved in the University of Jordan Insects Museum, some Italian Natural History Museums and some private collections. In addition we have included all species previously recorded in Jordan as available in the literature. Global distribution, collecting sites in Jordan and available biological notes about each species are presented. The collecting sites and their coordinates are listed in Tab. 1.