

# Distribution of the tiger beetle *Lophyridia aphrodisia* (Baudi, 1864) on the Turkish Mediterranean coast (Coleoptera, Cicindelidae)

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**Abstract.** The tiger beetle *Lophyridia aphrodisia* is reported from several new localities along the Turkish Mediterranean coast. The Turkish distribution of the subspecies *cypricola* extends from Kalkan in the west to Boğsak near the Göksu delta in the east. The subspecies *aphrodisia* is known only from two localities in the eastern part of the Çukurova (Karataş and Yumurtalık). Habitats observed at the new localities correspond well with those reported in the literature.

**Kurzfassung.** Der Sandlaufkäfer *Lophyridia aphrodisia* wird von mehreren neuen Fundorten entlang der türkischen Mittelmeerküste gemeldet. Die türkische Verbreitung der Unterart *cypricola* reicht demnach von Kalkan im Westen bis nach Boğsak beim Göksu-Delta im Osten. Die Nominatunterart ist nur von zwei Fundorten aus der Osthälfte der Çukurova bekannt (Karataş und Yumurtalık). Die an den neuen Fundorten beobachteten Habitate stimmen gut mit den bisher bekannten Literaturdaten überein.

**Key words.** Habitat, distribution, Cyprus, Turkey, Syria, Middle East.

## Introduction

The tiger beetle *Lophyridia aphrodisia*, a highly specialized inhabitant of seashore rocks (HORN 1931, CASSOLA 1983), has a small and apparently fragmented distribution in the eastern Mediterranean (Sicily, Rhodes, Cyprus, Mediterranean coast of Turkey and Syria; HORN 1931, CASSOLA 1983, WIESNER 1992, CASSOLA 1999). The species was first recorded from Turkey by CASSOLA (1983) at Karataş in the Seyhan-Ceyhan delta south of Adana. Subsequently it was also mentioned from Kalkan at the western part of the Mediterranean coast of Turkey (KORELL 1988, KORELL 1994). These two populations represent two subspecies: while the Karataş locality seems to be the westernmost outpost of the small distribution area of *L. aphrodisia aphrodisia* (Baudi, 1864) (reaching from Latakia in Syria into Turkey), specimens from Kalkan belong to *L. a. cypricola* (Mandl, 1981) which is known from Rhodes and Cyprus (KORELL 1988, KORELL 1994). The distribution gap between the two Turkish localities is approximately 520 km (air distance). I discovered several *Lophyridia aphrodisia* populations in that area during two field trips in 1996 and 1997, which now give us a better understanding of the distribution of the two subspecies along the Turkish Mediterranean coast.