

Acridoidea (Orthoptera) of Jordan

by Ahmad Katbeh-Bader

Abstract: As a result of the examination of more than 1600 specimens of Acridoidea (grasshoppers), a total of 49 species and subspecies are recorded from Jordan, 8 of them for the first time. Distribution in Jordan and in the world, number of specimens examined, and collecting dates are given for each species. Available biological or ecological data are provided.

Kurzfassung: Als Ergebnis einer Untersuchung von 1600 Exemplaren von Heuschrecken (Acridoidea) werden für Jordanien insgesamt 49 Arten und Unterarten nachgewiesen, 8 davon zum ersten Mal. Für jede Art werden die Verbreitung in Jordanien und in der Welt, die Anzahl der untersuchten Exemplare, die Sammeldaten sowie vorhandene biologische und ökologische Beobachtungen mitgeteilt.

Key words: Grasshoppers, Acridoidea, Jordan, Middle East.

Introduction

There are few publications on the Acridoidea of Jordan in the literature. HART (1891) reported four species from Ghor es Safi at the southern end of the Dead Sea. GIGLIO-TOS (1893, 1894) published a list of species of Orthoptera collected by E. FESTA in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Palestine (cited by MASSA & FONTANA 1998). POPOV & KEVAN (1979) reported *Poecilocerus bufonius* from Jordan, and POPOV (1981) *Paraeuprepcnemis festae* (Giglio-Tos, 1893) from the east bank of Jordan, Petra, and Wadi Shuai'b. MASSA (1995) studied the Middle Eastern genera *Prionosthenus* Bolivar and *Ocneropsis* Uvarov including material from Jordan. AMR et al. (1997) reported seven species from Al Azraq Oasis in the eastern desert of Jordan. MASSA & FONTANA (1998) studied the Orthoptera specimens collected from several Middle Eastern countries and preserved in Italian Museums. They listed 77 taxa of Orthoptera and described *Pezotettix sorbinii* as a new species from Jordan.

Currently, only the Acridoidea of Palestine may be considered well known, while both the Ensifera and the whole orthopterofauna of Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Iran are still incompletely or scarcely known (MASSA & FONTANA 1998). The objective of this study is to contribute to the knowledge of the Acridoidea of Jordan by presenting an annotated checklist of the collected species, and to establish a collection of the grasshoppers of Jordan at the University of Jordan Insects Museum (UJIM) to serve as baseline data for future studies.

Material and methods

A countrywide survey of the Acridoidea of Jordan was carried out. Weekly field trips were conducted to collect grasshoppers from the different parts of Jordan during the year 2000. All specimens are preserved at the UJIM. This survey was supported by the Deanship of Scientific Research at the University of Jordan. Specimens collected previously and preserved in the UJIM