

Catalogue of the beetles (Coleoptera) in Israel and adjacent areas: 3. Chrysomelidae (except Alticinae)

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Abstract. This catalogue of leaf beetles (Chrysomelidae) without the Alticinae lists 204 species recorded from Israel and adjacent areas. All these species belong to the subfamilies Donacinae (2 species), Orsodacninae (1 species), Zeugophorinae (1 species), Criocerinae (6 species), Clytrinae (58 species), Cryptocephalinae (56 species), Eumolpinae (8 species), Chrysomelinae (33 species), Galerucinae (22 species), Hispinae (3 species), and Cassidinae (14 species). 84% or 171 species were collected from localities within Israel. The primary sources of data forming the basis of this catalogue were the beetle collection preserved in the National Insect Collection in Tel Aviv University, Israel, the beetle collection of I. LOPATIN, and published records. The catalogue also includes information on the distribution of the listed species in Israel and the Levant, and, if known, on their host plants as well.

Kurzfassung. Dieser Katalog der Blattkäfer (Chrysomelidae) mit Ausnahme von Alticinae umfasst 204 aus Israel und aus den Nachbarländern dokumentierte Arten. Sie gehören alle zu den Unterfamilien Donacinae (2 Arten), Orsodacninae (1 Art), Zeugophorinae (1 Art), Criocerinae (6 Arten), Clytrinae (58 Arten), Cryptocephalinae (56 Arten), Eumolpinae (8 Arten), Chrysomelinae (33 Arten), Galerucinae (22 Arten), Hispinae (3 Arten) und Cassidinae (14 Arten). 84% oder 171 dieser Arten wurden innerhalb Israel gesammelt und die Fundorte werden aufgelistet. Die wichtigsten Datenquellen, die für den Katalog benutzt wurden, sind die Nationale Insektensammlung der Tel Aviver Universität, die Sammlung von I. LOPATIN und verschiedene Veröffentlichungen. Der Katalog umfasst auch Informationen über die Verbreitung der aufgeführten Arten in Israel und der Levante, und – soweit bekannt – Daten über ihre Wirtspflanzen.

Key words. Leaf beetles, distribution, host plants, Israel, Palestine, Levant.

Introduction

The leaf beetles (Chrysomelidae) rank among the most speciose families of all living organisms (SANTIAGO-BLAY 1994). LOPATIN (1984b) estimated that there are about 50,000 described chrysomelid species worldwide, arranged in 19 subfamilies (SEENO & WILCOX 1982), but this figure will undoubtedly increase, in the Middle East as elsewhere. 17 new species of Chrysomelidae, excluding Alticinae, have been described from Israel and Jordan during the last 10 years, a number representing 8% of the species listed in our catalogue. This fact alone indicates that the taxonomy and faunistics of leaf beetles in the Middle East are far from being satisfactorily known, let alone their biology and ecology.

The first leaf beetle species from the region of present-day Israel and adjacent areas were reported in the second half of the 19th century (BAUDI 1894, HART 1891, HEYDEN 1899,