

Rearing the third stage larva of *Cueta luteola* Hölzel, 1972 (Neuroptera: Myrmeleontidae) for the first time in Iran

by Alinaghi Mirmoayedi

Abstract. Larvae of the antlion *Cueta luteola* were collected from Hassanabad Sananadaj, in western Iran. For the first time in Iran the 3rd stage larvae were reared through to the imago stage. The different parts of the larva such as head, mandibles and antennae, are described and illustrated. A description of the wings and genitalia of the male imago are also given.

Kurzfassung. Larven des Ameisenlöwen *Cueta luteola* wurden in Hassanabad Sananadaj im westlichen Iran gesammelt. Larven des 3. Stadiums wurden im Iran erstmals bis zum Imago aufgezogen. In dieser Mitteilung werden Kopf, Mundwerkzeuge und Fühler der Larve beschrieben und abgebildet. Außerdem wird eine Beschreibung der Flügel und der Genitalien des männlichen Imagos gegeben.

Key words. Rearing, description, larva, imago, Iran, Middle East.

Introduction

Antlions (family Myrmeleontidae) are familiar to many people through the funnel-shaped pitfall traps constructed in the sand by some species. These are made by larvae to capture prey, and they direct food to the jaws of the larvae (MANSELL 1988). HÖLZEL (1972) described *Cueta luteola* Hölzel, 1972 from Iran, based on the imago (male holotype and female paratype). The specimens studied by HÖLZEL were collected from Ghasre-shirin, a town located in the Kermanshah province in western Iran by an amateur insect collector in 1965. The third stage larva of this species has not yet been described. I collected the third stage larva from Sanandadj in western Iran and reared it in the laboratory, and can thus provide a description of the morphological characters of the larva.

Material and methods

Third stage larvae of *Cueta luteola* were collected from Hassanabad Sananadaj at 1300 m (47°03'N, 35°17'E) on 6.7.2001. The larvae were kept at 25°C/0.5°C and a photoperiod of 16L/8D with 60% RH. Larvae were put in glass containers filled with soil from their natural habitat and were fed with ants. Pupation duration and the time of emergence of the imago were recorded. The description of the 3rd stage larva is based on the exuvia of the third stage larva left in the cocoon (Fig. 1). Comparisons were made with the holotype and the paratype of *Cueta luteola* which are deposited in the Insect Collection of the Department of Plant Protection, College of Agriculture, Razi University, Kermanshah.