

The bee genus *Colletes* Latreille (Hymenoptera: Apidae: Colletinae) in the Arabian Peninsula, including the description of the female of *C. arabicus*

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Abstract. A list of species of the bee genus *Colletes* (Hymenoptera: Apidae) known from the Arabian Peninsula is given. The female of *C. arabicus* is described for the first time. Of the twelve known species, two belong to Afrotropical species groups, whilst the others are of Palaearctic origin.

Kurzfassung. Es wird eine Übersicht der von der Arabischen Halbinsel bekannt gewordenen Arten der Bienengattung *Colletes* (Hymenoptera: Apidae) samt Funddaten gegeben. Das Weibchen von *C. arabicus* wird erstmals beschrieben. Von den zwölf bekannt gewordenen Arten gehören zwei afrotropischen Verwandtschaftsgruppen an, die übrigen sind paläarktischen Ursprungs.

Key words. Arabian Peninsula, bees, systematics, faunistics.

Introduction

The bee fauna of the Arabian Peninsula is poorly investigated (e.g. BAKER 1972, 1996, DATHE 1995, POPOV 1951) and many new species remain to be discovered. This is especially true for the bee genus *Colletes*, which contains 200 currently known species from the Palaearctic region (KUHLMANN 2000, 2002a, b, 2003a, b, KUHLMANN & DORN 2002). Bees of this genus are especially diverse in xeric climates, and many species can be expected to occur in the Arabian Peninsula. But for many years only two *Colletes* species were known to occur in this region: *C. inconspicuus*, an endemic of the islands of Sokotra and Abd-el-Kuri (KIRBY 1900, NOSKIEWICZ 1936), and *C. yemensis* from the vicinity of Sana'a (NOSKIEWICZ 1929, 1936). From bees collected mainly in Saudi Arabia and Oman, I recently described five new species (KUHLMANN 2002a, 2003a). The intention of this publication is to present an up-to-date summary of the *Colletes* fauna of the Arabian Peninsula and to describe the hitherto unknown female of *C. arabicus*.

Material and methods

Most of the specimens recorded here were studied from various museum collections, and some were collected during an expedition to Oman in December 2003 organised by M. OHL, Museum für Naturkunde of the Humboldt University, Berlin. The specimens dealt with here are deposited in the following public and private collections: AMNH (American Museum of Natural History, New York), BMNH (The Natural History Museum, London), IBPW (Institute of Biology and Pedology, Far East Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Vladivostok), NHMB (Naturhis-