

Ground beetles of the Akrotiri peninsula, Cyprus

(Coleoptera: Carabidae)

Kevin Austin, Christodoulos Makris, Emma Small

Abstract. The Carabidae fauna of the Akrotiri peninsula situated in the south of Cyprus is described using historic and recent survey records. 105 species of Carabidae have been recorded representing 43% of the known ground beetle fauna on Cyprus. Four species are endemic to Cyprus, but widespread on the island. 7 species have been recorded from no other area on the island and 15 are known from no more than two further localities outside the peninsula. The most unique species assemblage on the peninsula is found in the extensive reedbeds around Fasouri.

Key words. Carabids, zoogeography, biogeography, faunistics, salt lake.

Introduction

Almost all the major contributors to the known Cyprus ground beetle fauna have collected from the peninsula at some time. These include the visiting French coleopterists Compte. PIOCHARD DE LA BRULERIE (1875) and Claude JEANNE (1986), and the resident entomologists TH. SHIAKIDES, G. MAVROMOUSTAKIS whose records are published in part in G. GEORGIOU (1977). In the last 20 years the area has probably been more intensively surveyed than at any time previous, and contributors include the resident G. GEORGIOU (unrelated to the previous cited author), the visiting American entomologist R WARD and these authors (MAKRIS et al. 2008, AUSTIN et al. 2008). Although certain smaller discrete areas of habitat e.g. Germosogeia dam (10 km north-west of the peninsula) have probably been more exhaustively surveyed, there is little doubt that the peninsula represents the best studied landscape scale habitat mosaic for Carabidae on the island. It is not surprising therefore that more species are recorded from this area than any comparably sized location on the island. Numbers quoted are based on an arbitrary boundary for the peninsula which includes all the WSBA east of Kourion, together with the boundary settlements of Erimi, Trachoni and Kolossi and the Zakaki marsh area around the new Port. This paper provides an up to date account of the known Carabidae fauna of the peninsula and includes information on some of the more important locations. A full systematic list of the Carabidae of the peninsula is provided at the end of this paper. Nomenclature for species follows LOBL & SMETANA (2003).

The study area

The Akrotiri peninsula is located south-west of the southern port town of Limassol. The peninsula is situated within the boundaries of the British Western Sovereign Base Area (WSBA) of Akrotiri, an area governed by the United Kingdom under an arrangement that dates from the establishment of the Republic of Cyprus in 1960. A large part (2171 ha) of the peninsula is a classified RAMSAR site.