

REVUE SUISSE DE ZOOLOGIE
SWISS JOURNAL OF ZOOLOGY

tome 121 fascicule 3, septembre 2014

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Editorial Announcement:

New format and reduction of subscription prices for 2015

An unexpected occurrence - a case study on an intergeneric hybrid in giant snakes

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An unexpected occurrence - a case study on an intergeneric hybrid in giant snakes. - In recent years an increasing number of studies have identified cases of interspecific hybrids in reptiles, but intergeneric hybridisation, especially in snakes, is still only rarely known. In the current study we used several methods, SEM recordings, morphometrics, and both mitochondrial and nuclear gene analyses, to identify and analyse an intergeneric hybrid as a representative case study for the challenges related to this phenomenon. We here present evidence of intergeneric hybridisation between species of two well-studied boid genera: *Eunectes* (*E. notaeus*) and *Boa* (*B. constrictor*). For the intergeneric hybrid specimen the nuclear gene analyses result in its intermediate and separate phylogenetic position whereas morphological analyses clearly show that only some characteristics are intermediate, while other characters can be clearly assigned to either one of the parental species. The indistinct morphological character states and the conflicting phylogenetic position based on the genetic data show that such a hybrid can be extremely difficult to identify in situ and furthermore, those results can lead to false assumptions about the real identity and recognition of hybrids, e.g. when modern barcoding methods are used for fast and easy taxon-identification. Therefore, better recognition, identification and long term observations of both interspecific and intergeneric hybrids are needed to properly assess and preserve the current biodiversity.

Un événement inattendu - étude d'un cas d'hybridation intergénérique de serpents géants. - Récemment, un nombre croissant d'études ont permis d'identifier des hybridations interspécifiques chez les reptiles, mais les cas d'hybridation intergénériques demeurent rares, tout particulièrement chez les serpents. Dans notre étude, nous utilisons plusieurs méthodes modernes: microscopie SEM, morphométrie et analyses génétiques des gènes mitochondriaux et nucléaires, afin d'identifier et d'analyser un hybride intergénérique qui permettra de soulever les problématiques scientifiques liées à ce type d'hybridation. Nous présentons ici des arguments en

faveur d'un cas d'hybridation intergénérique entre deux genres néotropicaux bien connus: *Eunectes* (*E. notaeus*) et *Boa* (*B. constrictor*). Les résultats de l'analyse des gènes nucléaires placent ce spécimen hybride intergénérique dans une position intermédiaire entre ses parents mais distincte phylogénétiquement alors que l'analyse morphologique montre clairement que seuls certains caractères sont intermédiaires, alors que d'autres peuvent être clairement assignés à l'une ou l'autre des deux espèces parentales. Les caractères morphologiques non diagnostics d'un taxon connu et la position phylogénétique conflictuelle obtenue par les données génétiques montre que ce type d'hybride intergénérique peut se révéler extrêmement difficile à identifier in situ. Une identification erronée est alors fortement probable plutôt que la détection de la nature hybride du spécimen, surtout lorsque les méthodes modernes de barcoding seront utilisées pour des identifications faciles et rapides. De ce fait, une meilleure connaissance et un suivi à long terme de tous les hybrides à la fois interspécifiques et intergénériques sera nécessaire afin d'identifier correctement la biodiversité actuelle pour appréhender sa conservation avec plus d'efficacité.

Keywords: Barcoding - BDNF - *Boa constrictor* - *Eunectes notaeus* - hybridisation - mtDNA - phylogeny - RAG1 - SEM - speciation.

The Far Eastern species of *Thinobius* Kiesenwetter, 1844 (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae, Oxytelinae) lacking female modified genital appendage

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The Far Eastern species of *Thinobius* Kiesenwetter, 1844 (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae, Oxytelinae) lacking female modified genital appendage. - The Far Eastern members of *Thinobius* Kiesenwetter, 1844 without female modified genital appendage are reviewed. Besides the previously described Japanese (*T. ootsukai* Naomi, 1995 and *T. yabakeinis* Naomi, 1995) and Russian (*T. zerchei* Gildeikov, 1998) species, the genus is reported from Korea for the first time, with three species described here as new: *T. injae* sp. nov. (Injae-gun district), *T. schillhammeri* sp. nov. (Seorak-san), *T. paraminor* sp. nov. (Injae-gun district), belonging to three different species groups, respectively. Another taxon, *T. shavrini* sp. nov. is described from the USA (Alaska) and Russia (Chita area) and is believed to have a distribution connecting these locations. *T. delicatulus* is reported from Romania, while by the correction of an earlier record *T. hummleri* is mentioned from Mongolia. The male genital characters are illustrated for all species by line drawings, colour plates show the habitus of the new taxa, SEM images depict external morphology of all species.

Keywords: East Palaearctic - Nearctic - Romania - *Thinobius* - taxonomy - new species.

***Edaphus* von Japan (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae)**

118. Beitrag zur Kenntnis der Euaesthetinen

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***Edaphus* from Japan (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae) 118th Contribution to the knowledge of Euaesthetinae.** - 22 new species and new records of the genus *Edaphus* Motschulsky are described from Japan (exclusive the South Japanese islands): *Edaphus bishamon* sp. n. (Honshu), *E. bosatsu* sp. n. (Honshu), *E. daimio* sp. n. (Shikoku), *E. haniwa* sp. n. (Shikoku), *E. kanzeon* sp. n. (Kyushu), *E. mikado* sp. n. (Shikoku), *E. peramicus* sp. n. (Shikoku), *E. perangustus* sp. n. (Honshu), *E. percongruus* sp. n. (Kyushu), *E. pergracilis* sp. n. (Shikoku), *E. pergratus* sp. n. (Honshu), *E. perillustris* sp. n. (Honshu), *E. permacer* sp. n. (Honshu), *E. permolestus* sp. n. (Kyushu), *E. perparvus* sp. n. (Kyushu), *E. persubtilis* sp. n. (Kyushu), *E. perplexabilis* sp. n. (Kyushu, Shikoku), *E. perpropinquus* sp. n. (Shikoku), *E. persimplex* sp. n. (Shikoku), *E. sakura* sp. n. (Kyushu), *E. samurai* sp. n. (Kyushu), *E. shogun* sp. n. (Shikoku, Honshu), and *E. tanuki* sp. n. (Honshu). An identification key to the species is provided.

Key words: Coleoptera - Staphylinidae - *Edaphus* - new species - taxonomy - Japan.

Nouvelles indications de Cetoniinae (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae) pour la péninsule Arabique

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New findings of Cetoniinae (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae) for Arabian Peninsula. - Presence of *Aethiessa floralis* (Fabricius, 1787), *Protaetia (Potosia) cuprea ignicollis* (Gory & Percheron, 1833), *Tropinota squalida pilosa* (Brullé, 1832) and *Tropinota ilariae* Dutto, 2007 are reported for the first time from Saudi Arabia. Some of these species might have been accidentally imported and seem now acclimatized.

Keywords: Cetoniidae - *Potosia* - *Aethiessa* - *Tropinota* - Arabian Peninsula.

New species and new records of the spider genus *Otacilia* Thorell, 1897 (Araneae, Corinnidae) from Southeast Asia

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New species and new records of the spider genus *Otacilia* Thorell, 1897 (Araneae, Corinnidae) from Southeast Asia. - Five species of *Otacilia* Thorell, 1897 were collected from tropical forests of Southeast Asia. *Otacilia bifurcata* sp. n. and *O. truncata* sp. n. are described from evergreen hill forests of northern Thailand. *Otacilia papilla* sp. n. is described from Sumatra, Indonesia. An additional specimen of *O. parva* Deeleman-Reinhold, 2001 was obtained, and the female internal genitalia are re-illustrated. *Otacilia kao* Jäger & Wunderlich, 2012, previously only known from its type locality in Thailand, is recorded from Vietnam for the first time.

Keywords: Thailand - Sumatra - Indonesia - Vietnam - new record - biodiversity.

Two new species of *Pseudolathra* Casey from Borneo (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Paederinae)

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Two new species of *Pseudolathra* Casey from Borneo (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Paederinae). - Two new staphilinid beetles from Borneo are described and illustrated: *Pseudolathra borneensis* n. sp. and *P. lanceolatus* n. sp.

Keywords: Taxonomy - new species - Coleoptera - Borneo - Sabah - Malaysia.

An annotated list of the Orthoptera (Insecta) species described by Adolf Nadig with an account of the type material housed in the Muséum d'histoire naturelle de Genève

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An annotated list of the Orthoptera (Insecta) species described by Adolf Nadig with an account of the type material housed in the Muséum d'histoire naturelle de Genève. - Adolf Nadig was an amateur entomologist who accumulated an important collection of Orthoptera and described 32 species or subspecies, principally from the southern slopes of the Alps and from North Africa. He left his collection to the Muséum d'histoire naturelle de Genève, where it is kept as a separate collection under the terms of the gift. The names of his taxa are listed alphabetically, the sex, verbatim label data and condition of the primary type specimens is given, along with their location within the collection.

Keywords: Ensifera - Caelifera - Insubric region - Mahgreb - type catalogue.

First records of the order Siphonophorida from Madagascar and Mauritius (Diplopoda)

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First records of the order Siphonophorida from Madagascar and Mauritius (Diplopoda). - The first records of the colobognathan millipede order Siphonophorida from Madagascar and Mauritius are presented. Specimens representing both families of the order, Siphonophoridae and Siphonorhinidae, were discovered on Madagascar. The specimens were collected from 18 rainforest and montane rainforest localities using primarily the Winkler or Berlese extraction methods. The limited number of specimens (mostly less than 5) available from each site and the difficult taxonomic state of the order prevented the naming of any of the specimens. Specimens from one locality could be studied in more detail using SEM, and were tentatively determined as members of the Asian genus *Siphonorhinus* Pocock, 1894, presently known only from Asia. Four additional Siphonophorida samples representing at least two different species came from three localities on Mauritius, providing the first record of the order from the island. All Siphonophorida specimens should be carefully examined before taxonomic description attempts, as some might represent widespread tropical tramps.

Keywords: Human introduction - rainforest - Siphonorhinidae - Siphonorhinus.

Current status of the Crocodile Lizard *Shinisaurus crocodilurus* Ahl, 1930 in Vietnam with implications for conservation measures

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Current status of the Crocodile Lizard *Shinisaurus crocodilurus* Ahl, 1930 in Vietnam with implications for conservation measures.

- The Crocodile Lizard *Shinisaurus crocodilurus* Ahl, 1930 is a monotypic species, with a distribution range restricted to small and isolated areas in southern China and northern Vietnam. Habitat destruction and illegal poaching are the main causes of alarming population declines and even extinction of some wild populations in China. While the Chinese population was estimated to comprise only 950 individuals in 2004, the existing status of the Vietnamese population remains unknown, since its discovery in 2002. Our work provides the first estimation of the population size of *S. crocodilurus* in Vietnam, which is essential baseline data for future conservation strategies. Our field research revealed a dramatically small population size of less than 100 mature individuals. This value falls substantially below published threshold sizes of several thousand individuals, required for the long-term persistence of a species. Our research highlights the urgent need to improve the conservation activities for this species in its natural habitats and suggests means for a translocation program to restore (minimum viable sizes of) the wild populations in northern Vietnam.

Keywords: Population size - PIT tags - MVP - Conservation planning - Restoration - Southeast Asia - Yen Tu Mountain.

Observations on *Hydractinia aculeata* (Hydrozoa, Cnidaria)

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Observations on *Hydractinia aculeata* (Hydrozoa, Cnidaria). - Two living colonies of the uncommon hydroid *Hydractinia aculeata* (Wagner, 1833) found in the Balearic Islands are described and depicted. The relationships to other similar hydractiniids producing medusoids are discussed. Partial sequences of the mitochondrial 16S RNA gene were determined in order to allocate the species to its correct genus within a recent classification scheme based on a molecular phylogeny of the family. The 16S sequences did not permit to associate the species to a known genus of this new classification because the lineage was rather distinct from all other genus-level clades. The species was thus left temporarily in the genus *Hydractinia*.

Keywords: Mediterranean - Hydractiniidae - hermit crabs - morphology - medusoid.