

MIENIS, H.K.:

A first record of Oxychilus cyprius from Jordan and Israel
- Az Oxychilus cyprius első előfordulása Jordániában és Izraelben

ABSTRACT: Oxychilus/Hirania/cyprius /L.PFEIFFER, 1847/, /Fam.Zonitidae/ is reported from Birketain, Jordan and the Nahal Tanninim Nature Reserve, Israel. At both localities this synanthropic species was found near remains of Roman settlements. These finds constitute the first records of O. cyprius from Jordan and Israel.

The Zonitid Oxychilus /Hirania/ cyprius /L.PFEIFFER, 1847/ was described exactly 140 years ago. Yet, the anatomy of specimens from Cyprus remained unknown so far. This is rather unfortunate because in the last 30 years specimens supposed to belong to O.cyprius have been recorded from a large number of widely separated areas in S.E.Europe and Asia Minor: Yugoslavia, Albania, Greece and Crete /RIEDEL, 1983/, Kea /RIEDEL and MYLONAS, 1981/, Naxos, Amorgos, Kos and Samos /RIEDEL, 1983/, Chios /RIEDEL, 1983/ and BAR and BUTOT, 1986/, Rhodes /MAASLEN, 1981, and RIEDEL, 1983/ and Turkey /RIEDEL, 1959, 1983, and STOJASPAL, 1986/. Yet, any proof that we are indeed dealing here with material conspecific with the true Cyprian species is lacking.

In the mollusc collection of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem /HUJ/ are two samples of Zonitidae which are also referable to the O.cyprius complex sensu RIEDEL /1983/. Since they form a considerable extension of the known range of this species, they are discussed here briefly.

One sample was collected by the late Prof. GEORG HAAS on 20 November 1945 near Birketain, Jerash, Jordan /HUJ 35695/20, det. A. RIEDEL/. He came across these specimens in a shaded area, where they were hiding under wet stones near the springs. The specimens were apparently collected alive, but unfortunately not preserved in alcohol.

A second sample, consisting of a single shell only, was recently found by the author under a large stone just west of the Roman bridge in the Nahal Tanninim Nature Reserve, south of Kibbutz Ma'agan Mikhael on 7 September 1986 /HUJ 1264/1/. It is a bleached, but well preserved shell. In spite of a thorough search on the same spot in April 1987 no additional specimens could be traced.

All the shells from Jordan and Israel are slightly flatter than a specimen collected by Mr. GERT LINDLER in October 1986 on Cyprus, Paphos, in an old excavation

near Odeum /HUY 36707/1/. However, they seem to fit quite well into the range of shell variability as shown by the specimens figured by RIEDEL /1983:plt.1,figs.1-12/.

Both samples, from Birketaim and the Nahal Tanninim Nature Reserve, were found near the remains of former Roman sites. Pure coincidence or did the Romans play indeed a role in the distribution of this species? A search for it at other former Roman sites in the Levant may turn out worthwhile.

So far O.cyprius was not known from the mollusc fauna of either Jordan /PETNEY and HUSET, in print/ or Israel /MIENIS, 1982/. Further investigations have to show whether viable populations of this introduced species are still present in Jordan and Israel.

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ÖSSZEFOGLALÁS

Az Oxychilus /Hiremia/ cyprius /L.PFEIFFER, 1847/ /Zonitidae/ előfordulásáról számol be a cikk Birketaimből /Jordánia/ és a Nahal Tanninim természetvédelmi területéről /Izrael/. Ez a szünantróp faj mindkét helyen római települések romjai mellől került elő. A példányok az O.cyprius első jordániai illetve izraeli előfordulását bizonyítják.

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HENK K. LIENIS

Mollusc Collection,
Zoological Museum,
Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Jerusalem
Israel