

A new tribe record for the Darkling Beetle fauna of Iran (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae)

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Members of the tribe Scaurini Billberg, 1820, have been systematically studied by Solier (1838), Reitter (1914), Koch (1935, 1958), Peyerimhoff (1948), Español (1954, 1960), Antoine (1953, 1954), Kocher (1958, 1964), Reymond (1956 a, 1956 b) and Labrique (1992, 1995 a, 1995 b, 1995 c, 2001, 2004, 2006). The tribe is recorded from the Mediterranean region, South Africa (Koch 1958), USA: California, Arizona and Texas as well as Mexico (Kaszab, 1982). They are recognized by lack of wings, the keeled eye, conical maxillary palp and hairless antennae with a lengthened last segment and a ridged thorax base (Reitter, 1914). Many species are lapidicolous and myrmecophilous, simulating *rigor mortis* when disturbed. Some species are troglobite (Antoine 1953).

Genus *Scaurus* Fabricius 1775 is recognized by blunt end-segment of maxillary palp and toothed femur. Males are generally bigger and more robust than females and are distinguished by stronger claviform, dentate profemur, and longer anterior legs. *S. puncticollis* (Fig. 1) is recognized by harsh and dense pronotal punctures, robust rows of punctures between elytral ribs, and joined basal parts of lateral and humeral ribs.

Scaurus spp. are distributed through the Mediterranean region in North Africa (Peyerimhoff 1948), Iberian Peninsula (Español 1960), Balearic archipelago (Español 1954), South France (Paulian 1946), Corse (Portevin 1934), Italy and the islands Sardinia, Sicily (Aliquo et al. 2007), Malta and Cyprus (Kaszab, 1982). *Scaurus puncticollis* Solier 1838, described from Egypt, redescribed by Allard (1882) as a new species from Mesopotamia (Iraq). This widely distributed species has been recorded from Morocco: Antoine (1953, 1954), Kocher (1958, 1964), Reymond (1956 a, 1956 b), Algeria, Tunisia, Libya (Peyerimhoff 1948), Egypt (Koch 1935), Khartoum of Sudan (Lillig & Bremer, 2002), Cyprus, Israel, Saudi Arabia (Kaszab 1982) and Arax valley of Armenia (Richter 1945).

The localities of examined specimens in Iran are as follows:

	Locality	Date	Collector	Collection
1	BUSHEHR province, 10km NW Kangan, 70m	21.IV.1977	Pazouki/Hashemi	HMIM*
2	FARS province, Firuzabad, Mehkuyeh, 1450m	11.VI.1986	Mirz/Hashemi	HMIM
3	FARS province, Jahrom	1.III.2003	N/A	HMIM
4	KHUZESTAN, Ramhormoz	13.XI.1948	Sark.	HMIM

*Hayk Mirzayans Insect Museum

The identification of the specimens were verified by Dr. Harold Labrique, Centre de Conservation et Etude des Collections, Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, Lyon, France. All the specimens are deposited in Hayk Mirzayans Insect Museum (HMIM), Tehran, Iran. The full names of collectors mentioned in the table are as follows: 1) Hayk Mirzayans, 2) Ali Pazouki, 3) Abbas Hashemi, 4) Sarkisian.

Scaurus puncticollis is distributed in the mid-south and southwest regions of Iran (Fig. 2). There are also some other data from Iran (Dr. H. Labrique, pers. comm., unpublished data):

	Locality	Date	Collector	Collection
1	Island in the Orumiye Lake	1975	Amsel	Coll. R. Grim
2	Shiraz	1946	N/A	Mus. Budapest
3	Esfahan	N/A	N/A	MNCN Madrid

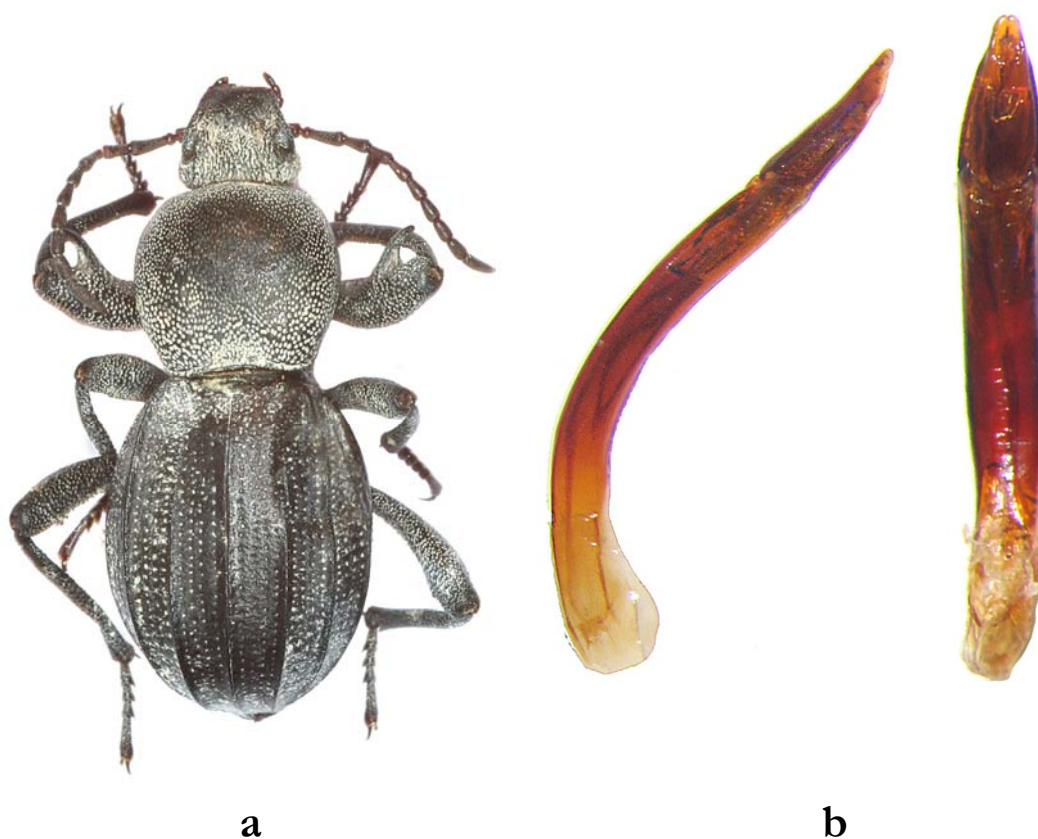


FIG. 1- a) Dorsal Habitus of male *Scaurus puncticollis* from Kangan b) Lateral (left) and ventral (right) view of Aedeagus

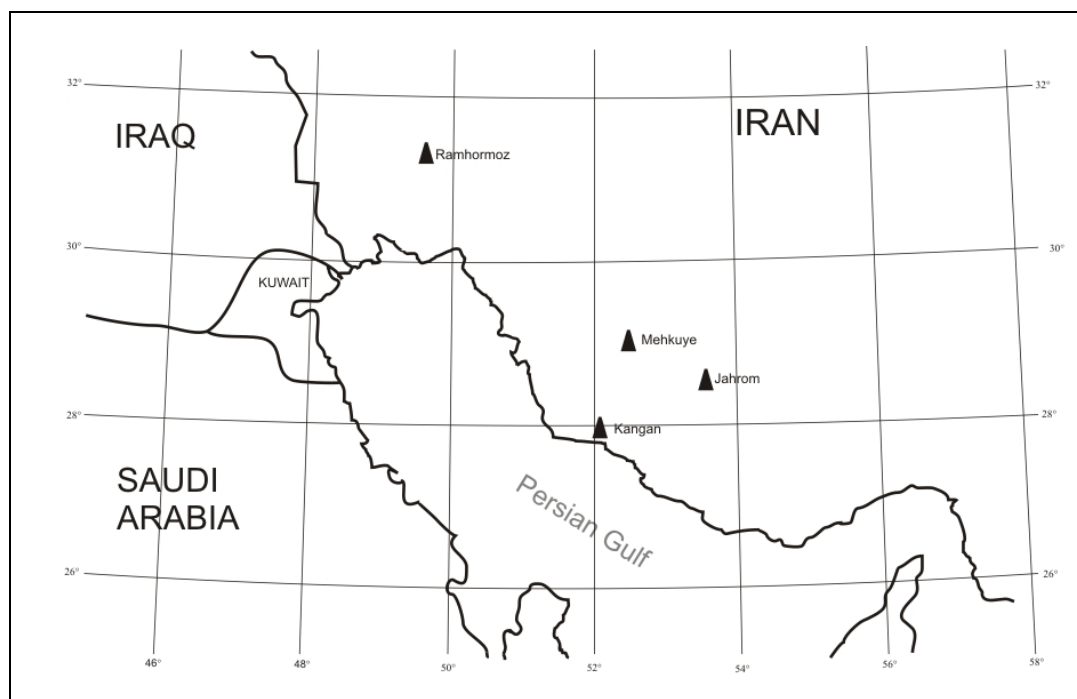


FIG 2.- Distribution of *Scaurus puncticollis* in Iran.

This species seems to be restricted to the south and western parts of Iran, but further collecting is needed to clarify distribution limits of *Scaurus puncticollis* in Iran.

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