

# A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *DERETUS* GAHAN, 1900 (COLEOPTERA: TENEBRIONIDAE) FROM THE ISLAND OF SOCOTRA\*

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**Abstract.**— As a result of biodiversity research on Socotra Island, a new species of the genus *Deretus* Gahan, 1900 is described – *D. hajeki* sp. nov. The new species is figured, compared with its relatives and keyed.



**Key words.**— Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, Helopini, *Deretus*, Socotra Island, Yemen, taxonomy, new species, description, biodiversity research.

## INTRODUCTION

The genus *Deretus* represents one of the eight endemic tenebrionid genera that occur on the Socotra Island (Batelka 2012). It was established by Gahan (1900) for *Deretus denticollis* Gahan, 1900 (by monotypy) and later figured by Koch (1970). Schawaller (2004) added two additional species – *D. spinicollis* Schawaller, 2004 and *D. wraniki* Schawaller, 2004. The latter species was synonymised with *D. denticollis* by Purchart (2012), who revised the genus and described four further species – *D. bezdeki* Purchart, 2012, *D. hulai* Purchart, 2012, *D. maderai* Purchart, 2012 and *D. necopinatus* Purchart, 2012.

Purchart and Nabozhenko (2012) described the larva and pupa of the genus *Deretus* for the first time and confirmed, based on larvae, its placement in the subtribe Helopina of the tribe Helopini.

The tenebrionid fauna of Socotra Island presently comprises 53 species of darkling beetles (Schawaller and Purchart 2012), some of which were described quite recently (e.g. Schawaller 2004, 2006; Novák 2007, Purchart 2009; Lo Cascio and Grita 2011; Novák and Purchart 2012; Purchart and Schawaller 2012).

In this paper a new species of the genus *Deretus*, surprisingly discovered in 2012 during the last

expedition of Czech entomologists to Socotra Island, is described.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

**Type material.** All specimens described as new bear one printed red label: 'HOLOTYPUS [PARATYPUS] *Deretus hajeki* sp. nov., det. L. Purchart 2012'. Deposition of the type material is noted in the text.

**Measurements.** Lengths and widths are the maximum values of the measured parts. Total length is the distance from the clypeus to the elytral apex with the head in its natural position. Width of the elytra is the combined maximum width of both elytra.

**Note.** The number of specimens examined is in parentheses, e.g. (1♂ LPCB) means one male in the Luboš Purchart Collection, Brno. Label data are given verbatim. A slash (/) separates data in different rows on locality labels, a double slash (//) separates data on different labels.

The material studied is deposited in the following collections:

LPCB – Private collection of Luboš Purchart, Brno, Czech Republic;  
NMPC – National Museum, Prague, Czech Republic (J. Hájek).