WESTERN PALAEARCTIC TRACHYSCELIS LATREILLE, 1809 (COLEOPTERA: TENEBRIONIDAE: TRACHYSCELINI)

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Abstract.—A review of supralitoral species of the genus Trachyscelis in the Western Palaearctic and Afrotropical regions with new data on distribution and morphology of five Palaearctic species is given. The new smallest eyeless and wingless species T. shokhini sp. nov. is described from Agadir (Morocco) and the new species T. kochi sp. nov. with reduced tarsomeres and eyes is described from Socotra Island (Yemen). The latter species is similar to T. subocclus Koch, 1900, from which it differs by different number of ommatidia, different tarsal formula, different shape of clypeus and different body size. Trachyscelis leoi Lo Cascio & Grita, 2011 and T. litoralis Soldati, 2009 are found on Socotra Island for the first time, T. tenuestriatus Fairmaire, 1886 is new record for Iran. Catalogue of the tribe Trachyscelini of the world with 20 species of 3 genera is given. The key to eight Western Palaearctic and Afrotropical species of Trachyscelis is given.

Key words.—Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, Trachyscelini, catalogue, Trachyscelis, Morocco, Yemen, Western Palaearctic region, new species, taxonomy, distribution

INTRODUCTION

Trachyscelini Blanchard, 1845 is relatively small tribe of the subfamily Diaperinae Latreille, 1802 within the family Tenebrionidae and it was formerly comprised of three genera – Trachyscelis Latreille, 1809, Macrotrachyscelis Pic, 1925 and Histiaeа Fairmaire, 1892 (Gebien 1939). The latter genus, however, was transferred by Koch (1953) to the tribe Opatrini Brullé, 1832. Recently, Masumoto et al. (2012) described the new genus Taiwanotrachyscelis Masumoto, Akita & Lee, 2012 so the tribe presently again includes three genera.

The genus Trachyscelis was erected by Latreille (1809) for Trachyscelis aphodioides Latreille, 1809 (by monotypy). Melsheimer (1846) described T. flavipes Melsheimer, 1846 from North America which recently was synonymised by Steiner (2004) with T. aphodioides. Later Fairmaire (1886) described T. tenuestriatus from Djibouti. Champion (1893, 1894) added four species: T. ciliaris Champion, 1893, T. laevis Champion, 1893 (both from Australia), T. pallens Champion, 1893, the endemic species from Sri Lanka, and T. chinensis Champion, 1894 from Chinese Namoa Island. At the same time Lewis (1894) described T. sabuleti from Japan. Carter (1906) added further Australian species T. nigra. Later Pic (1923) described T. subopacus from Egypt and Koch (1935) described T. aphodioides lopadusae from Italian Lampedusa Island. Both these taxa, however, were synonymised by Schatzmayr (1949) with T. aphodioides. Similarly, Hybosorus hopei Costa, 1844, for long time overlooked species from Italy, was synonymised with T. aphodioides too (Nardi 2010). Lea (1929) added...