

Scientific note

**First record of the diving beetle
Liopterus haemorrhoidalis (Fabricius, 1787) for Afghanistan,
with notes on other species from Kunduz and Mazar-e-Sharif**

(Coleoptera, Dytiscidae)

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As part of the Operation Enduring Freedom, the German officer Frank Joisten served for several months in northern Afghanistan. In 2012 and 2013 he and some comrades collected several thousand insects by installing light traps at Kunduz airport and at Camp Marmal near Mazar-e-Sharif. Later, most of the obtained beetles were deposited in the Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde in Karlsruhe, sorted to family level and distributed to various international specialists for identification. Here, we report about the collected ten diving beetle species at both sites. A first commented checklist of the predaceous water beetles of Afghanistan was published by Hajek & Fery (2004) who listed 52 species of Hydradephaga for this country. Nevertheless, the water beetle fauna of Afghanistan is still poorly known and we are glad to present for the first time an additional species for this country.

Specimens mentioned in this work are deposited in: Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde Karlsruhe (SMNK) and Zoologische Staatssammlung München (ZSM), Germany.

***Liopterus haemorrhoidalis* (Fabricius, 1787)**

Material examined. 1 female: Afghanistan, Kunduz, airport, N 36°40.27' E 68°54.25', 12-17-V-2013, light trap, leg. T. Rubner (SMNK).

Distribution. Widespread in the West Palearctic region from the Iberian Peninsula, most parts of Europe, northwards to southern and south-eastern Scandinavia, Russia and the Baltic States. In the east it reaches Turkey, Turkmenia, Tajikistan and Iran (Nilsson & Hájek 2022).
First record for Afghanistan!

Additional material studied. Afghanistan, Kunduz, airport, N 36°40.27' E 68°54.25', 9.VI.2012 to 23.VIII.2012, light traps, leg. F. Joisten (SMNK, ZSM): 82 exs. *Hygrotus musicus* (Klug, 1834); 88 exs. *Hydroglyphus signatellus* (Klug, 1834); 302 exs. *Hydroglyphus geminus* (Fabricius, 1792); 21 exs. *Laccophilus poecilus* (Klug, 1834); 1 ex. *Colymbetes semenovi* (Jakovlev, 1896); 26 exs. *Eretes sticticus* (Linnaeus, 1767); 10 exs. *Hydaticus*



Fig. 1. Habitus (female, dorsal) of *Liopterus haemorrhoidalis* (Fabricius, 1787) from Kunduz Airport, Afghanistan (total length: 7 mm). Photo: K. Neven (ZSM).

ponticus Sharp, 1882. – Afghanistan, Kunduz, airport, N 36°40.27' E 68°54.25', light traps, 1.IV.2013 to 1.VIII.2013, leg. T. Rubner (SMNK, ZSM): 4 exs. *H. musicus*; 2 exs. *H. signatellus*; 10 exs. *H. geminus*; 1 ex. *L. poecilus*; 3 exs. *C. semenovi*; 1 ex. *Cybister tripunctatus lateralis* (Fabricius, 1798); 5 exs. *E. sticticus*; 1 ex. *H. ponticus*; 1 ex. *Rhantus suturalis* (Macleay, 1825). – Afghanistan, Mazar-e-Sharif, Camp Marmal, 13.-14.6.2010, light trap, leg. A. Krüger (ZSM): 3 exs. *H. geminus* and 3 exs. *H. musicus*.

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References

- Hájek, J. & Fery, H. 2004. The water beetles (Coleoptera: Hydradephaga) of Afghanistan with particular emphasis on the collection of the Moravian Museum Brno, Czech Republic. *Acta Musei Moraviae, Scientiae Biologicae* 89: 25–51.
- Nilsson, A. N. & Hájek, J. 2022. Catalogue of Palearctic Dytiscidae (Coleoptera). Update distributed as a PDF file via Internet; version 2022-01-01. Available from <http://www.waterbeetles.eu>