

Distributional notes on some species of beetles (Insecta: Coleoptera) from Pakistan

Zubair Ahmed, Muhammad Luqman Mirani, Mohammad Sohail, Haseeb Ahmed Lalika

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The study offers a wide range of beetles with different families in respect of new records and little known species from Pakistan confined in 2024. Eight families encompass 24 species, out of which nine species and five subspecies first time reported from Pakistan. The families and species as new records are as; Bothrideridae (*Dastaracus porosus* Walker); Buprestidae (*Lampetis (Spinthoptera) affinis*; Curculionidae (*Pycnodactylopsis furmosa*); Histeridae (*Saprinus coerulecence coerulecence*); Scarabaeidae (*Adoretus ladakanus nuristanicus*; *Podalgus cuniculus indicus*, *Protaetia aghana*) and Tenebrionidae (*Blaps inflexa*, *B. felix*, *B. perlonga*, *B. parvicollis parvicollis*; *Cyphogenia aurita aurita*, *Strongylium macrops* Wied, *Uloma polita* Widemann, 1821). The distribution of each species and illustration of habitus of new records also presented.

Keywords: Coleoptera, new records, distributional notes, Pakistan.

Department of Zoology, Federal Urdu University of Arts, Sciences & Technology Karachi, Pakistan

Zbrahm36@gmail.com

Department of Zoology, Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, KPK, Pakistan.

Ms185455@gmail.com

Department of Entomology, Islamia University Bahawalpur, Punjab, Pakistan

haseebahmedlalika@gmail.com

Corresponding author: Zubair Ahmed

INTRODUCTION

Coleoptera make up about 40% of all insects, and nearly 30% of all animals (Kazmi & Ramamurthy, 2004; Parvez & Srivastava, 2010). This order includes 166 families and more than 360,000 valid species worldwide (Bouchard *et al.*, 2009; Lawrence *et al.*, 2011). Beetles are dominant in pastures, natural grasslands, and deserts. This study continues existing research (Lalika and Ahmed, 2025; Ahmed *et al.*, 2024; Nadeem and Ahmed, 2012; Ahmed and

Lalika, 2023; Ahmed *et al.*, 2023; Ahmed *et al.*, 2024; Raj *et al.*, 2024; Ahmed and Lalika, 2025; Ahmed and Barsevskis, 2024; Barsevskis and Ahmed, 2025; Dahar *et al.*, 2025) with new records and distributional notes on Carabidae, Chrysomelidae, Cerambycidae, Endomychidae, and Tenebrionidae. More new beetle records are currently in publication (Lalika and Ahmed, 2025). In Pakistan, the old checklist (Hashmi & Tashfeen, 1992) lacks many current species and has taxonomic errors and incorrect museum records. For example, *Uloma polita*

was listed for Pakistan (Hashmi & Tashfeen, 1992) but is not reported in Löbl's (2020) catalogue, so it is treated here as a new record. The number of beetle species in Pakistan has grown in the last two decades. Careful investigation is needed to explore all habitats.

The purpose of the present study is to enhance the knowledge of the diversity and distribution of Coleoptera fauna of Pakistan, as well as to introduce new country records.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Specimens were collected by various students from 2022 to 2024. Identification was confirmed by foreign experts using both images and male genitalia photos. Photos were taken using a stereo zoom microscope and a Nikon D-7000 camera with AF-S Micro Lens 60mm f/2.8. Specimens are kept in the first author's collection (ZACP).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

List of species

Coleoptera

Family Bothrideridae

Dastracus cf. turcicus Dajoz, 1973 (Plate 1, E)

This member is first introduced with the family Bothrideridae from Kotli, Azad Kashmir, Pakistan. Five species are reported from East to North Asia, and a tentative species from Turkmenistan only (Löbl & Smetana, 2007); therefore more probable that this species (personal communication, Adam Slipinski).

Family Buprestidae

***Lampetis (Spinthoptera) affinis* E. Saunders, 1866 (Plate 1, J)**

Löbl & Smetana (2016) listed ten species of *Lampetis* under the subgenus *Spinthoptera*; no species were reported from Pakistan. Volkovitsh stated that more probable the *Lampetis (Spinthoptera) affinis*.

The species was previously reported from Sikkim, Darjeeling, India. The species confined to Kirthar National Park, Sindh, is dominated by *Acacia* species associated with mountainous areas. This semi-arid area exhibits a richness of insects.

New record

***Julodis euphratica scenica* Kerremans, 1905**

This subspecies is listed from Iran and Pakistan (Löbl & Smetana, 2016). The border area overlapped between Iran and Pakistan, and the remote areas; therefore, species are restricted within the territory.

Family Chrysomelidae

***Chrysolina (Lithopteroides) exanthematica exanthematica* Wiedemann, 1821**

This species is multitudinous and has two subspecies under the subgenus reported by Löbl & Smetana (2010) and reported from Pakistan.

***Diorhabda carinata* Faldermann, 1837**

The species is abundantly found in the way of Ziarat, Balochistan, on *Saldola imbricata*. The habitat is restricted for the species; therefore, poorly known from Pakistan. (Löbl & Smetana, 2010).

Family Coccinellidae

***Cocinella marussii* Kapur, 1973**

Iqbal *et al.*, (2024) reviewed the genus *Coccinella* from Gilgit-Baltistan and found *C. marussii*. They provided morphology and male genitalia along with DNA barcoding of the species. They stated that this species is rare and limited range, but present species recorded from Chitral shows an extended range of this species.

Distribution. Pakistan, India, Turkey.

Family Curculionidae

Conicleonus excoriates Gyllenhal, 1834

The species is widely distributed in Europe, Asia and Africa, also listed from Pakistan (Meregalli Catalogue (www.weevil.myspecies.info/content/Pycnodactylopsis)). This species is under the subgenus *Plagiographus* Chevrolat, 1869.

Pycnodactylopsis fumosa Fåhraeus, 1842 (Plate 1, F)

This species was first reported from Pakistan. Zarazaga *et al.* (2017) listed five species of *Pycnodactylopsis*, but not this species. Meregalli catalogued the Cleonini and listed this species from African countries.

(www.weevil.myspecies.info/content/Pycnodactylopsis).

New record

Family Histeridae

Saprinus caerulescens caerulescens Hoffmann, 1803 (Plate 1, Fig. D)

This subspecies was reported first time in the country. Löbl & Löbl (2015) listed species from Europe, North Africa, and Asia.

New record

Family Scarabaeidae

Adoretus ladakanus nuristanicus Balthasar, 1936 (Plate 1, Fig.H)

This subspecies is described from Afghanistan (Löbl & Smetana, 2016). Due to the presence of this species overlapping into Afghanistan near the village Beshgram, Chitral, confirm this species.

Adoretus lithobius Ohaus, 1914

The species is reported from Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Pakistan (Löbl & Smetana, 2016). The Himalayan species is confined to Arang Kel, Azad Kashmir, and is not common at all.

Asophraps punjabensis (Arrow, 1948)

Keith (2006) described the species from Pakistan. This rare species is confined to Chitral, KPK, Pakistan.

Hilyotrogus holosericeus L.Redtenbacher, 1844

Löbl & Smetana (2016) listed 24 species of the genus *Hilyotrogus*, and these species were reported from Himachal Pradesh and Nepal. Keith and Ahmed (2013) investigated species of scarabs from Pakistan and listed the species from KP, Pakistan.

Lasiexis pakistanus Keith, 2007

The species described by Keith (2007) is from Pakistan.

Podalgus cuniculus indicus (Plate 1, C)

Löbl & Smetana (2016) listed three subspecies without that species from North Africa and Asia. Endrödi (1966) described a new species as *Podalgus cuniculus indicus*, from Jaisalmer, Thar Desert, India (person.commun. with Denis Keith).

New record

***Protaetia (Potosia) afghana* Petrovitz, 1955 (Plate 1, I)**

Löbl I & Smetana (2016) listed species from Afghanistan; therefore this species was recorded first time in the country.

New record

catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera by Löbl & Smetana (2016) from Himachal Pradesh, Nepal, Sikkim, Darjeeling, Taiwan, Uttar Pradesh, and Pakistan.

***Phyllognathus dionysius* Fabricius, 1792**

The species confined to Kotli, Azad Kashmir, and listed only 2 species in the

Family Tenebrionidae
***Blaps felix* Waterhouse, 1889 (Plate 1, B)**

This species was first time in Pakistan. Iwan and Löbl (2020) listed this species from Afghanistan, Iran, and Turkmenistan.

New record

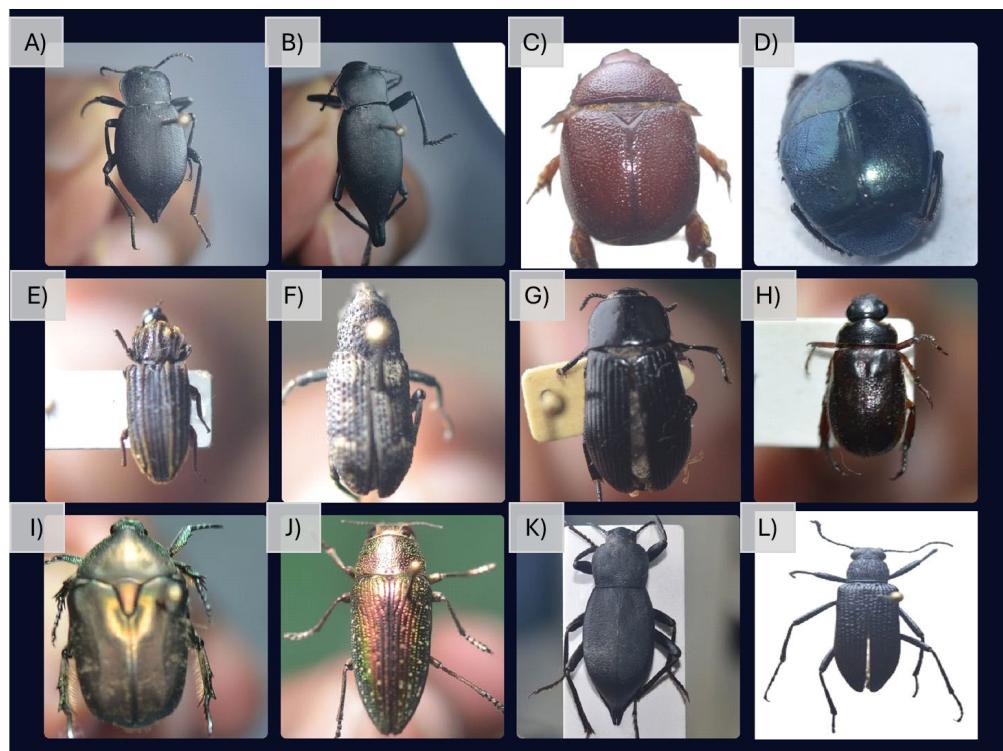


Plate 1. A. *Blaps inflexa* B. *Blaps felix* C. *Podagrus cuniculus indica* D. *Saprinus caerulescens* E. *Dastracus cf turcicus* F. *Pycnodactylopsis fumosa* G. *Uloma polita* H. *Adoretus ladakanus muristanicus* I. *Protaetia afghana* J. *Lampetis affinis* K. *Blaps parvicollis parvicollis* L. *Strongylium macrops*.

***Blaps inflexa* Zubkov, 1883 (Plate 1, A)**

Iwan & Löbl (2020) listed this species from Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan only.

New record

***Blaps (Blaps) perlonga* Bates, 1879 (Plate 2, A)**

The species was preliminarily determined by Xiu Min, and it was collected from the way of Ziarat, Balochistan. Iwan & Löbl (2020) listed the species from Kashmir, India, and Xizang.

New record

New record



***B. parvicollis parvicollis* Zubkov, 1829
(Plate 1, K)**

Iwan & Löbl (2020) listed the species from Azerbaijan, South European Territory, and Kazakhstan.

New record

***Cyphogenia aurita aurita* Pallas, 1781
(Sorab, 2023) (Plate 2, B)**

This subspecies was first reported in the country. Iwan & Löbl (2020) listed Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Xinjiang. The species is confined to far faraway village of Sorab, Balochistan.

New record



***Strongylium macrops* Widemann, 1823
(Plate 1, Fig. L)**

Iwan & Löbl (2020) listed species from Nepal only. The species was confirmed from images of type specimens from Caixia Yuan, deposited in the Basel and Stuttgart Museums.

New record

***Uloma polita* Widemann, 1821 (Plate 1, Fig.G)**

Iwan & Löbl (2020) listed the species from Afro-Oriental countries except Pakistan. The species is confined to the village of Maidan, Lower Dir, KP, Pakistan. Tomas Raybik confirmed the species.

Plate 2. A. *Blaps perlonga* B. *Cyphogenia aurita aurita*

CONCLUSIONS

The study expands knowledge of beetle diversity in Pakistan by reporting several new country records across different families, especially from underexplored habitats. These findings strengthen biogeographic links with neighboring countries and highlight Pakistan's rich but poorly studied fauna. Continued surveys using modern tools are essential to resolve taxonomic gaps and uncover more species. Since beetles play key roles in ecosystem balance, further research in remote areas will be vital for biodiversity documentation and conservation planning.

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