

**A RED DATA BOOK WATER BEETLE,
HYDROCHUS NITIDICOLLIS MULSANT, 1844
(COLEOPTERA: HYDROCHIDAE),
A SPECIES NEW FOR ALGERIAN FAUNA**

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ABSTRACT: Newly recorded North-eastern Algerian Hydrochidae species *Hydrochus nitidicollis* Mulsant 1844, the species under extinction threat, is presented. The description is supported by SMZ-1500 Nikon type 104 microscope photographs.

KEY WORDS: Hydrochidae, *Hydrochus nitidicollis*, Red Data Species, New Record, Algeria.

Hydrochus nitidicollis Mulsant 1844 (Coleoptera: Hydrochidae) is the species under extinction threat. Like other members of its genus is essentially aquatic as both adult and larva, but may be found in wet substrates above as well as below high water levels. It favors clean and mostly running water. The continental distribution of the species is markedly western, with the species quite widely recorded in the Iberian Peninsula and found southwards as far as Morocco (Hansen, 1999).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Specimens of *Hydrochus* were collected from North-eastern Algeria (Fig. 1) in 2005. The beetles were killed using ethyl acetate or in 70% alcohol solution. Aedeagophores of the beetles, cleaned with brushes were dissected under a stereo microscope and left in 10% KOH solution for 1-2 h. The photographs were taken using a SMZ-1500 Nikon type 104 microscope.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

***Hydrochus nitidicollis* Mulsant 1844**

Material Examined: El-Ghobn: located at Mechtet Chaabet Rich (natural spring, no vegetation, with algae, bottom with only stones), 19.V.2005, 5 males, 6 females.

Distributions in the world: Belgium, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, "North Africa (western)" and Spain (Angus, 1977; Hansen, 1999).

Body 2.4-2.7 mm in length (Fig. 2a). Ground colour of beetle black with metallic greenish and reddish reflections. Head: with large punctures (sparse) and distinctly metallic greenish reflections. "Y" grooves with the stem inconspicuous, but has row of punctures at both sides anteriorly. Lateral arms of the "Y" groove are distinctly narrowed. Maxillary palpi dark brown, its apical segment is short, asymmetrical oval and darkened at the extreme top. Antennae brown. Pronotum: quadrate, its coloration as head, has large sparse punctures and widest anteriorly. Depressions easily visible. Elytra: black, widest at base of posterior third. Lateral sides straight. Striae punctured and wider than interstices. Legs: brown, femora darker. Aedeagophore 0.9 mm in length (Fig. 2b).

Specimens of Hydrochidae were collected in various parts of Northeastern Algeria (figure 1) in different surveys in 2005 (totally, 49 different localities). All samples were collected from lowland and moderately highland habitats of North-eastern Algeria (maximum 800 m a.s.l.). From the total 49 localities, species *H. flavipennis* Küster, 1852 and *H. smaragdineus* were collected abundantly, but *H. nitidicollis* Mulsant 1844 was recorded from only one locality (El-Ghobn).

LITERATURE CITED

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Hansen, M. 1999. *World Catalogue of Insects. Hydrophiloidea (Coleoptera)*. Apollo Books, Vol. 2. 416 pp.

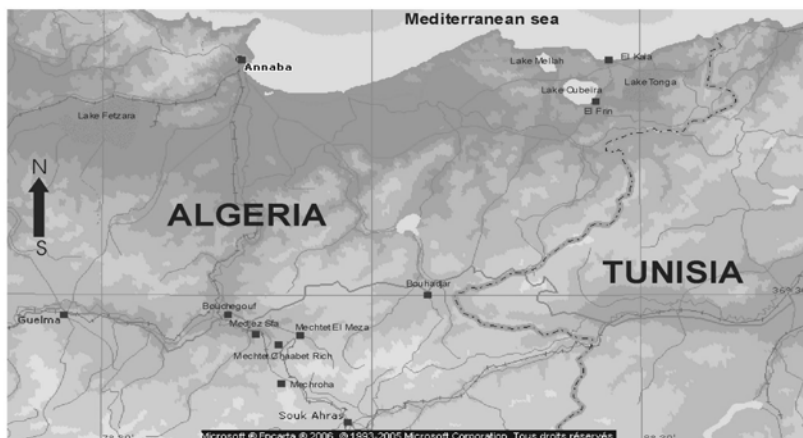


Fig. 1. Map of research area (North-eastern Algeria).

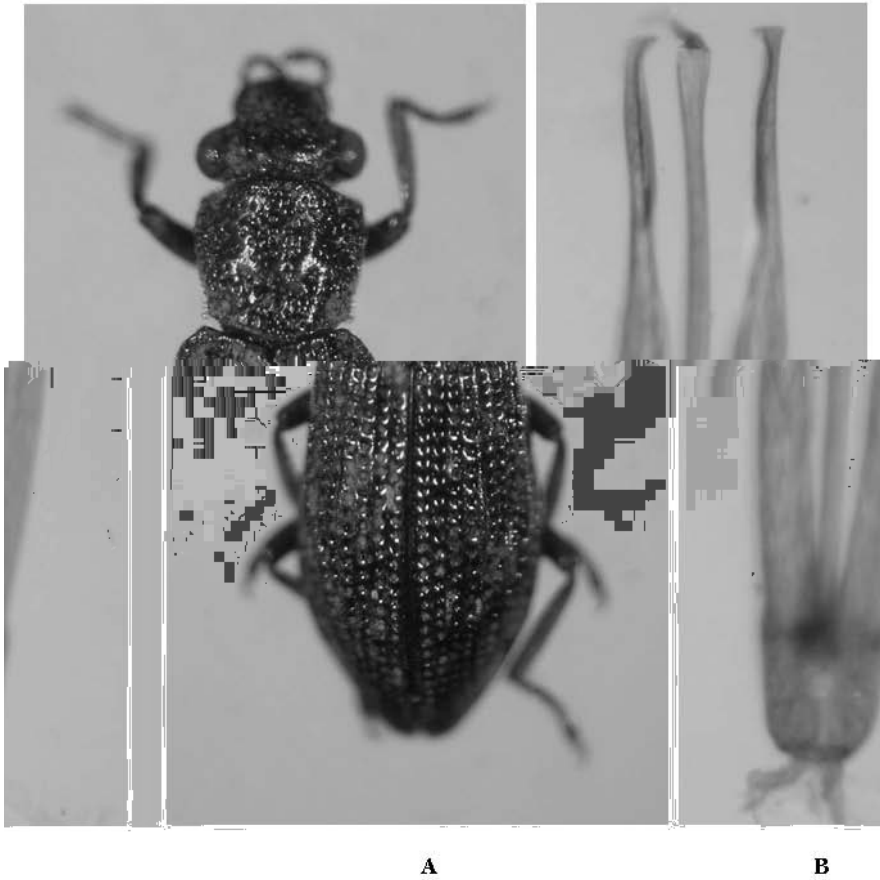


Fig. 2. *H. nitidicollis*. A) General appearance from dorsal side. B) Aedeagophore. Scale bar represents 0.3 mm.