

A LIST OF THE HETEROMEROUS COLEOPTERA COLLECTED:
MAINLY DURING THE WAR, BY VARIOUS MEMBERS OF
H. M. FORCES IN MESOPOTAMIA.

BY

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That this list is far from being a complete catalogue of the Heteromorous Coleoptera of Mesopotamia we have only to glance through the pages of Junk's Coleopterorum Catalogus to see; but the limited opportunities for collecting enjoyed by officers of H. M. Forces naturally preclude anything more than a sample collection of the fauna being gathered together.

Although the total number of species described from this faunistically interesting region is fairly considerable, the literature concerning them is scattered throughout a large number of periodicals and monographs, without any regional survey having been attempted, with the exception that Professor K. Holdhaus has given us a List of the Coleoptera collected by Dr. Viktor Pietschmann on an expedition to the country in 1910 (Ergebn. Wiss. Exped. nach Mesopotamia, 1910, in Annal. Naturhist. Hofmus. Wien, XXXIII, 1919). A comparison of the list here given with that of Holdhaus is interesting; in the *Tenebrionidæ* for example, of the 43 species enumerated by Holdhaus only 20 find a place in the present list, though in many cases genera are represented by different species in the respective lists. It is possible that some of these differences may be due to discrepancies in identification (many of the species here given being identified from descriptions only), others to the more northerly districts in which Prof. Holdhaus's insects were collected, but in the main they probably indicate how incomplete are the various collections made. Perhaps the most striking difference between the present list and that of Holdhaus is the almost complete absence from the latter of the smaller forms, e.g., the complete absence of *Anthicidæ* and *Mordellidæ*, indicating that the material was obtained by persons other than trained collectors of Coleoptera.

Further material collected by Dr. P. A. Buxton and Mr. W. E. Evans from N. W. Persia, consisting almost entirely of species different from those listed here, has been omitted as belonging to the faunistically different Caspian basin.

Reference to the original description alone is here given; for a fuller bibliography the reader is referred to the several parts of Junk's Coleopterorum Catalogus (1910-1917).

A brief indication of the known range of each species is also given, from which it is evident that the Mesopotamian fauna, at least as regards this group of beetles, is essentially an eastward extension of that of the Mediterranean basin, many of the species having a continuous range, while others belong rather to the Persian offshoot from it with an admixture of Central Asiatic forms. A not inconsiderable number of species are of practically cosmopolitan distribution as warehouse pests, many having no doubt been introduced with the commissariat of the Expeditionary Force, though some may have previously obtained a footing in the country.

I have to thank the several collectors not only for their readiness with which they have placed their collections at my disposal but also for the generosity with which they have enriched the National Collections with any specimens desired.*

Fam.—TENEBRIONIDÆ.

1. *Apentanodes mesopotamicus* Blair.

Blair, Ent. Mo. Mag. 1923, p. 119.

Jebel Hamrin, N. E. of Baghdad, under stone, 11. XII. 18. (W. E. Evans)

* For the descriptions of such species as appear to be new see Ent. Mo. Mag. 1923, pp. 118-126.



Blair, K. G. 1925. "A List of the Heteromorous Coleoptera Collected Mainly During the War, by Various Members of H.m. Forces in Mesopotamia." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 30, 428–140.

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