

## Three families with five species of aquatic beetles new for the fauna of Albania (Coleoptera: Gyrinidae, Hydrochidae, Limnichidae)

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With 1 figure

**Keywords:** Gyrinus, Hydrochus, Limnichus, Coleoptera, Insecta, aquatic beetle, Albania, Balkan, faunistics, first record

**Schlagwörter:** Gyrinus, Hydrochus, Limnichus, Coleoptera, Insecta, Wasserkäfer, Albanien, Balkan, Faunistik, Erstfund

Three families and five species of aquatic beetles were recorded from Albania for the first time. Gyrinidae: *Gyrinus (Gyrinus) caspius*, *G. (G.) paykulli*, *G. (G.) substriatus*, Hydrochidae: *Hydrochus flavipennis*, and Limnichidae: *Limnichus incanus*.

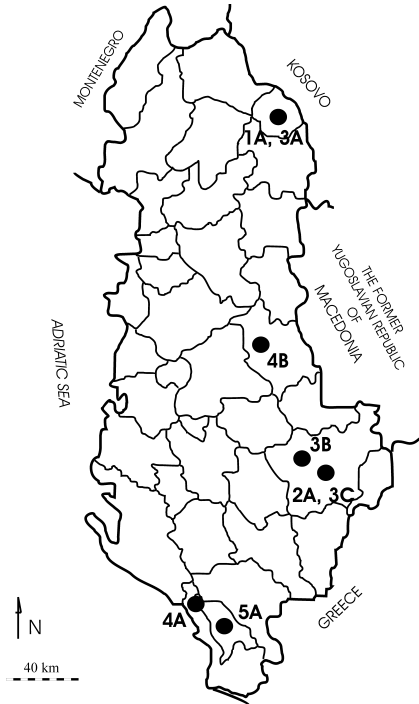
### 1 Introduction

Aquatic beetles (Coleoptera aquatica) of Albania are rather poorly known. Among 14 families belonging to this ecological group and occurring in Europe, only 8 have been recorded from Albanian waters (Löbl & Smetana 2003, 2004, 2006); no species of Gyrinidae, Hydrochidae and Limnichidae has been found there up to now. In the following we report on the first finding of five species of these families in Albania.

### 2 Material and methods

Material was collected in rivers and mountain streams by the two junior authors mainly using a hydrobiological hand net and preserved in ethanol; some beetles were also caught at light. The geographical coordinates were noted using a GPS recorder.

Systematics and symbols of countries from which the species were known before, follow the "Calalogue of Palearctic Coleoptera" by Löbl & Smetana (2003, 2004, 2006). The collecting sites are presented in figure 1. All material is deposited in the first author's collection.



**Fig. 1: Albanian localities of *Gyrinus caspius* (1A), *G. paykulli* (2A), *G. substriatus* (3A-C), *Hydrochus flavipennis* (4A-B), *Limnichus incanus* (5A)**

### 3 Results

The following 5 species belonging to Gyrinidae, Hydrochidae, and Limnichiidae were found:

#### GYRINIDAE

*Gyrinus (Gyrinus) caspius* Ménétriés, 1832

Material examined: Has district: 514 m a.s.l., N42o15.332 E020o22.391, 17-09-2006, 1 ♀, leg. M. Grabowski et R. Jaskuła

Distribution: AB, AR, BE, BH, BU, BY, CR, CT, DE, EN, FR, GE, GG, GR, IT, LT, NL, NR, PL, PT, DP, SL, ST, SV, UK, YU

*Gyrinus (Gyrinus) paykulli* Ochs, 1927

Material examined: Kërçë district: river near the road from Voskopojë to Korcë, 945 m a.s.l., N40o36.934 E020o41.009, 14 IX 2006, 1♀, leg. M. Grabowski et R. Jaskuła

Distribution: AR, AU, BE, BH, BU, BY, CZ, DE, EN, FI, FR, GB, GE, GR, HU, IT, NL, NR, NT, PL, SK, SL, ST, SV, SZ, YU

*Gyrinus (Gyrinus) substriatus* Stephens, 1828

Material examined: Has district: 514 m a.s.l., N42o15.332 E020o22.391, 17 IX 2006, 12♂♂ 21♀♀, leg. M. Grabowski et R. Jaskuła; Kërçë district: Voskopojë ad Korcë, N40o38.282 E020o35.598,

spring, 1180 m a.s.l., 14 IX 2006, 1 ♂, leg. M. Grabowski et R. Jaskuła.; river near the road from Voskopojë to Korçë, N40o36.934 E020o41.009, 945 m a.s.l., 14 IX 2006, 4♂♂ 3♀♀, leg. M. Grabowski et R. Jaskuła

Distribution: AB, AR, AU, BE, BH, BU, BY, CR, CT, CZ, DE, EN, FI, FR, GB, GE, GR, HU, IT, LS, MC, NL, NR, NT, PL, PT, SK, SL, SP, ST, SV, SZ, UK, YU

## HYDROCHIDAE

*Hydrochus flavipennis* Küster, 1852

Material examined: Sarandë district: N40o03.717 E019o51.460, 2♀♀, leg. M. Grabowski et R. Jaskuła; Librazhd district: N41o09.882 E020o14.315, 1♀, leg. M. Grabowski et R. Jaskuła

Distribution: AB, CR, PL, UK

Remark: Rare species, recently recorded from Poland (Przewoźny & Buczyński 2003), and till now known in Europe only from the four mentioned countries (Hansen 2004).

## LIMNICHIDAE

*Limnichus incanus* Kiesenwetter, 1851

Material examined: Delvinë district: N40o08.889 E020o05.750, 194 m a.s.l., 6 IX 2006, 2exx, leg. M. Grabowski et R. Jaskuła.

Distribution in Europe: AU, BU, BY, CZ, FR, GR, HU, IT, PT, SK, SP, SZ

## 4 Discussion

With the finding of species of Gyrinidae, Hydrochidae and Limnichidae the number of aquatic Coleoptera families known from Albania increases up to 11. This number is rather similar to those, known from adjacent countries: Macedonia with 8, Serbia and Montenegro with 9, and Greece with 11 families (Löbl & Smetana 2003, 2004, 2006). The five species we collected are new for the Albanian fauna according to Mazzoldi (2003), Hansen (2004), and Hernando & Ribera (2006). Further species of Gyrinidae and Hydrochidae can be expected. From Macedonia 6 Gyrinidae species are known and 10 from Greece and 10 from Serbia and Montenegro (Mazzoldi 2003); 4 Limnichidae species have been recorded from Greece (Hernando & Ribera 2006). On the other hand, the Albanian fauna of Hydrochidae is probably complete, as only one species is known from southeastern Europe including the Balkans. Moreover, the record of *Hydrochus flavipennis* from Albania is the first confirmed locality of this species on the Balkan Peninsula; only general data (no country given) about its occurrence are known from this region (Hansen 2004).

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