

# WESTERN PALAEARCTIC *TRACHYSCELIS* LATREILLE, 1809 (COLEOPTERA: TENEBRIONIDAE: TRACHYSCELINI)

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**Abstract.**— A review of supralittoral species of the genus *Trachyscelis* in the Western Palaearctic and Afrotropical regions with new data on distribution and morphology of five Palaearctic species is given. The new smallest eyeless and wingless species *T. shokhini* sp. nov. is described from Agadir (Morocco) and the new species *T. kochi* sp. nov. with reduced tarsomeres and eyes is described from Socotra Island (Yemen). The latter species is similar to *T. subcoecus* Koch, 1960, from which it differs by different number of ommatidia, different tarsal formula, different shape of clypeus and different body size. *Trachyscelis leoi* Lo Cascio & Grita, 2011 and *T. litoralis* Soldati, 2009 are found on Socotra Island for the first time, *T. tenuestriatus* Fairmaire, 1886 is new record for Iran. Catalogue of the tribe Trachyscelini of the world with 20 species of 3 genera is given. The key to eight Western Palaearctic and Afrotropical species of *Trachyscelis* is given.



**Key words.**— Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, Trachyscelini, catalogue, *Trachyscelis*, Morocco, Yemen, Western Palaearctic region, new species, taxonomy, distribution

## INTRODUCTION

Trachyscelini Blanchard, 1845 is relatively small tribe of the subfamily Diaperinae Latreille, 1802 within the family Tenebrionidae and it was formerly comprised of three genera – *Trachyscelis* Latreille, 1809, *Macrotrachyscelis* Pic, 1925 and *Histiæa* Fairmaire, 1892 (Gebien 1939). The latter genus, however, was transferred by Koch (1953) to the tribe Opatrini Brullé, 1832. Recently, Masumoto *et al.* (2012) described the new genus *Taiwanotrachyscelis* Masumoto, Akita & Lee, 2012 so the tribe presently again includes three genera.

The genus *Trachyscelis* was erected by Latreille (1809) for *Trachyscelis aphodioides* Latreille, 1809 (by monotypy). Melsheimer (1846) described *T. flavipes* Melsheimer, 1846 from North America which

recently was synonymised by Steiner (2004) with *T. aphodioides*. Later Fairmaire (1886) described *T. tenuestriatus* from Djibouti. Champion (1893, 1894) added four species: *T. ciliaris* Champion, 1893, *T. laevis* Champion, 1893 (both from Australia), *T. pallens* Champion, 1893, the endemic species from Sri Lanka, and *T. chinensis* Champion, 1894 from Chinese Namo Island. At the same time Lewis (1894) described *T. sabuleti* from Japan. Carter (1906) added further Australian species *T. nigra*. Later Pic (1923) described *T. subopacus* from Egypt and Koch (1935) described *T. aphodioides lopadusae* from Italian Lampedusa Island. Both these taxa, however, were synonymised by Schatzmayr (1949) with *T. aphodioides*. Similarly, *Hybosorus hopei* Costa, 1844, for long time overlooked species from Italy, was synonymised with *T. aphodioides* too (Nardi 2010). Lea (1929) added