

SCIENTIFIC NOTES

**A NEW RECORD FOR THE TENEBRIONIDAE FAUNA OF
ISRAEL: *AKIS SUBTRICOSTATA* REDTENBACHER, 1850
(COLEOPTERA: TENEBRIONIDAE).**

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Akis subtricostata Redtenbacher, 1850 (Fig. 1) is reported from Israel for the first time with further notes on its distribution in Jordan.

The distribution range of *Akis subtricostata* includes Iran, Iraq, Syria (Löbl et al., 2008) and Turkey (Keskin & Yağmur, 2008). Although this species is not mentioned from Jordan in Löbl et al. (2008). It is mentioned by Katbeh-Bader (1996) from Jordan (Dhulayl) and Waitzbauer (2002) mentioned also the area of Petra and Wadi Arava, which will here be treated as 'Arava Valley.

On the 12th of September 2014, three specimens of *Akis subtricostata* were collected in the Southern area of the 'Arava Valley, Israel. This is the first record of this species from Israel. Further examination of the *Akis* specimens deposited in TAU revealed three specimens, all collected in 1968 by J. Klapperich (Bonn) during his 1956-1969 collecting in Jordan. Bytinski-Salz (1969, p. 186) wrote that "the material has been distributed to specialists, but nothing has been published so far". These three specimens are now the earliest known record from Jordan. It seems these specimens were later on sent back to Israel without being treated and so *Akis subtricostata* remained unknown from Jordan until the publication of Katbeh-Bader (1996), which was based on a single specimen from Dhulayl.

In Israel, the beetles were collected around midnight with the help of a flashlight. The beetles were seen wandering actively on semi stabilized sand dunes near Samar dunes. Further study is needed in order to learn the distribution pattern of *Akis subtricostata* in Israel. The possibility of its existence in Saudi Arabia, which is bordering Jordan at about 30 km to the south of Wadi Rum, where Klapperich collected the three specimens, is also naturally high and needs to be examined.

Material examined: Israel: Arava valley, 2km N.W. of Elifaz, 12.ix.2014, 29°48'15"N / 35° 02'07"E (Alt. 75m). Leg. O. Rittner, 3 exx. **Jordan:** Wadi Rum, 10.x.1968, Leg. J. Klapperich, 3 exx.

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