

**A LITTLE KNOWN MELOLONTHID SPECIES FROM TURKEY:
XANTHOTROGUS (XESTOTROGUS) VALIDUS KRAATZ, 1884
 (COLEOPTERA: SCARABAEIDAE: MELOLONTHINAE)**

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ABSTRACT: The aim of the study is to give additional information on *Xanthotrogus (Xestotrogus) validus* Kraatz, 1884. To date, this taxon seems restricted to Turkey, the records in the literature from Iraq, even if probable, need confirmation.

KEY WORDS: Coleoptera, Melolonthinae, *Xanthotrogus validus*, distributional records, Turkey, Iraq

In Turkey occur nearly 650 species of the Superfamily Scarabaeoidea belonging to 14 families and 100 genera, (Carpaneto et al., 2000; Rezai, 2015). Melolonthinae are present in over 170 species, many of them being poorly known as for their biology, chorology or distribution. Among this family, *Xanthotrogus (Xestotrogus) validus* has been described as *Rhizotrogus* by Kraatz (1884) on a single male from “Malatia”. Later, Reitter (1902) erected the genus *Xestotrogus* for this species, reporting it from “Mesopotamien”, but without detailed location records. Medvedev (1951) reported this species from Iraq. Baraud (1987) considered *Xestotrogus* as a genus *per se*, recording *validus* from “Mésopotamie” and Turkey. He also quoted Alfieri’s records (1976) from Egypt, which are certainly based on wrong identifications and which have not been reported since then. Keith (2002) transferred *Ancylonycha nitens* Baudi, 1870, considered as endemic to Cyprus, to *Xestotrogus* on the evident similarity of the male genitalia. Nikolajev (2004) finally downgraded *Xestotrogus* to a subgenus to *Xanthotrogus* Reitter, 1902 and erected the genus *Cyprotrogus* to accommodate *nitens* – because of the glabrous parameres and the inner sclerites of endophallus. With this manuscript, new locality records related to the species were recorded.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Materials were collected from various natural environments on herbs in Elazığ (Baskil) province (Fig. 1). Beetles were collected from May to June in year 2014 and in the spring period in year 2017. Additionally; Second author was examine to *X. validus* in the Muséum nationale d’Histoire naturelle of Paris. The collected new material is deposited in Bioengineering Department Laboratory of Firat University (Elazığ/Turkey).

RESULTS

Xanthotrogus (Xestotrogus) validus Kraatz, 1884

Material examined: 2♂♂, 06.06.2014, Turkey, Elazığ, Baskil, Şefkat, 2♂♂, 25.05.2015, Turkey, Elazığ, Baskil, 3♂♂, Turkey, Elazığ, Baskil, Doğançık,

15.05.2017, on grasses, Leg. Özgen (private Collection); 4♂♂, Asia. min. Malatya-Tecde (Muséum nationale d'Histoire naturelle, Paris); 2♂♂, Turquie, Malatya, Sultansuyu, 15.4.1983 (Muséum nationale d'Histoire naturelle, Paris). Totally: 13♂♂. The female still remains unknown. We also figure for the first time the habitus of the male.

It seems that the historical record by Edmund Reitter (1902) from Mesopotamia instead of Malatya, indeed located in the historical surroundings of that antique region, misled to the further records from Iraq. We were not able to date to trace any specimen or original literature record from that land. Therefore, we consider for the moment this taxon to be endemic to Turkey: Elazığ and Malatya prov., though its presence in Iraq is not improbable.

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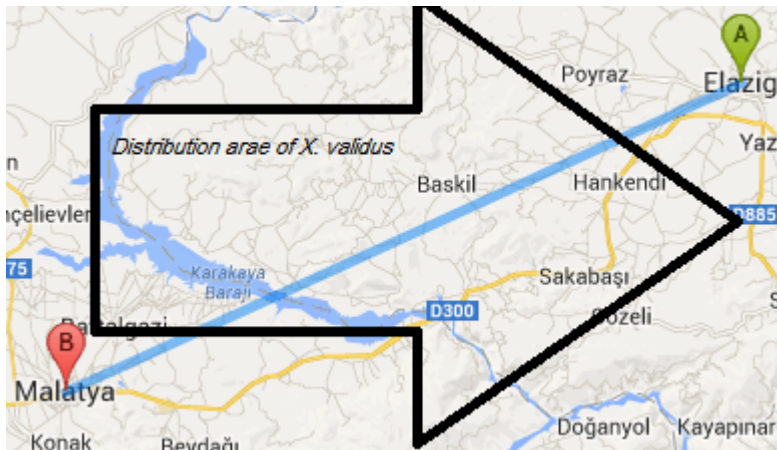


Figure 1. Distribution area of *X. validus*.



Figure 2. Some habitus view of *Xanthotrogus (Xestotrogus) validus*.



Figure 3. Male genitalia of *Xanthotrogus (Xestotrogus) validus*.