New Records of Leaf Beetles from Israel

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Four species of leaf beetles (Chrysomelidae) were recorded for the first time in Israel from 'Evolution Canyon', Lower Nahal Oren, Mt. Carmel: *Cryptocephalus egerickxi* Tapes, *Cyrtonastes libanensis* Berti & Daccordi, *Pachybrachis jordanicus* Lopatin, and *Cassida pellergrini*. *Longitarsus parvulus* was recorded for the second time in Israel.

A long-term interdisciplinary biodiversity research program is being conducted at the 'Evolution Canyon' microsite, Lower Nahal Oren, Mt. Carmel, Israel (32° 43'N; 34° 58'E) (4,5,6). Seven stations are investigated at the microsite: three on the warmer and drier south-facing slope (SFS, nos. 1-3), and three on the cooler and more humid north-facing slope (NFS, nos. 5-7); one station is at the valley bottom (no. 4). During this study we found four species of leaf beetles (Chrysomelidae) new to Israel and one species recorded for the second time in Israel. Adults and larvae of leaf beetles feed on soft parts and leaves of many plant species, including agriculturally important plants. More than 400 species of leaf beetles are known in Israel (Lopatin and Chikatunov, pers. comm.), distributed across the country in both Mediterranean and desert environments.

The species new for Israel are: *Cryptocephalus egerickxi* Tapes, 1884 (*Ann. Soc. Entomol.* 28:256); *Cyrtonastes libanensis* Berti & Daccordi, 1974 (*Ann. Soc. Entomol. Fr. (N.S.)* 10:605); *Pachybrachis jordanicus* Lopatin, 1984 (*Ann. Hist.-Nat. Mus. Natl. Hung.* 76:197-199); and *Cassida pellergrini* (Marseul, 1868) (*Abelle* 5:213). The rare species, found for the second time in Israel, is: *Longitarsus parvulus* (Paykull, 1799) (*Fauna Suecica* 2:102).

C. egerickxi is distributed in Arabia and Jordan. We found five specimens (from May to August) at the bottom station (no. 4) and on the lower station of the SFS (no. 3) of the 'Evolution Canyon' microsite on *Pistacia lentiscus. C. libanensis* is known from Lebanon. We found ten specimens (from May to December) at the middle station (no. 2) of the SFS. The exact host plant(s) of this species is not known. *P. jordanicus* was described from Jordan (3). We found one specimen at the top station of the SFS (no. 1), and two and three specimens at the lower and middle parts of NFS (stations 3 and 2), respectively. All specimens were found on *Quercus calliprinos. C. pellergrini* is known from Syria, Lebanon and possibly Cyprus (Lopatin, pers. comm.). We found two specimens (in February and June) at the bottom of the valley (station no. 4). The species is known from Solanaceae (*Lycium schwefurthi*). The rare species, *L. parvulus*, is widely distributed in the Palaearctic, including Macronesia (1). It was recorded this second time at the upper station of the NFS (no. 7) on *Linum strictum*. The first record of this species was also from Nahal Oren (2).

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