
HETEROCERIDAE (COLEOPTERA) OF THE MALTESE ISLANDS (CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN)

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Augyles (Littorimus) maritimus (Guerin), to date the only heterocerid beetle found in the Maltese Islands, is being recorded for the first time since 1907, when it had been recorded by Cameron & Caruana-Gatto as *Heterocerus melitensis* Reitter.

Augyles (Littorimus) maritimus (Guérin-Meneville, 1844)

Heterocerus melitensis Reitter, *nomen nudum*, n. syn.

Heterocerus (Littorimus) basalis Mamitza, 1929 n. syn.

Material examined: MALTA, no additional data, determination label "*Heterocerus melitensis* Reitter n. sp.", conserved at the Naturhistorischen Museum, Wien; (this specimen was later determined by Mamitza as *H. basalis*). GOZO, Il-Qattara (near Dwejra), 3.V.97, 20 exs., Leg. D. Mifsud & R. Poggi. The material is deposited in the authors' private collections and at the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale "Giacomo Doria", Genova, Italy.

Distribution: Ireland, Great Britain, Holland, France, Germany, USSR, Spain, Italy, Greece, Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia.

Notes: Cameron & Caruana Gatto (1907) recorded the species as *H. melitensis* Reitter. We were unable to trace a published description of this species and hence this name is to be considered a *nomen nudum*. In 1929 Mamitza described *H. basalis* from Malta, later cited in a number of Italian catalogues (e.g. Mascagni, 1985). Both *H. melitensis* and *H. basalis* are here synonymized with *Augyles (Littorimus) maritimus*. This beetle is of vulnerable status locally due to its specialised habitat requirement. During this study it was only found at Il-Qattara, in Gozo, a small freshwater pool with a year round supply of freshwater, an extremely rare habitat in the Maltese Islands.

REFERENCES

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