

# An update list of Pamphagidae Brumster 1840 (Insecta: Orthoptera) of Iran with a key to the genera

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**Abstract**: The Orthoptera family Pamphagidae is classified differently by various authors. The family recently has been grouped into five subfamilies: Akinerinae, Priotropinae, Tropidauchinae, Nocarodesinae and Pamphaginae. This family has 103 species in Iran. Here, a key to genera is provided which identifies 10 genera with 33 winged species in Trinchini, and 11 genera with a total of 70 wingless species. *Saxetania* Mischenko and *Tropidauchen* Saussure have many characters in common and were combined into a single genus in the past. However, here both genera are considered valid with 16 recorded species for *Saxetania* and 7 recorded species for *Tropidauchen*. The morphological differences between them are described. A list of Pamphagidae species recorded for Iran is provided with a short revision of their taxonomy.

Keywords: Iran, Pamphagidae, Saxetania, Tropidauchen

#### Introduction

Iran has a high biodiversity of wild plants and animals. Many insects are coexisting with these plants. Climate warming is gradually changing the distribution of these plants and animals to higher regions with more rainfalls. Pamphagidae survive the winter in the nymphal stage (Uvarov, 1966). Most species of Pamphaginae have restricted and well described geographical ranges in Iran. Species of the wingless Pamphagini tribe are more restricted to their local habitats than winged tribe Thrinchini. For example, Acrostia euphorbiae Garcia-Becerra & Oromi, 1992. (Pamphagidae) is dependent to Euphorbia lamarckii for food and avoiding predation (Lopez et al., 2007). We have no knowledge of local distribution and habitats Pamphagidae species in Iran. The first step for species identification is to differentiate various

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genera recorded in Iran. The morphological traits and food plant association of various species in Pamphagidae genera require careful phylogenetic and ecological studies.

A list of 291 species and subspecies of Iranian grasshoppers is published by Mirzayans (1959). Many species in Shumakov's (1963) list are not in Mirzayans records. Garai's (2010) list of Orthoptera collected during 2000-2005 in Iran contains 157 species of Orthoptera and 109 species of Acridoidea. Garai (2010) arranged Pamphagidae species in accordance with Zhang et al. (2003). A few species mentioned by Myrzayans (1959) and Shumakov (1963) are now synonyms or are in different taxonomic positions. However, some of the species mentioned by Myrzayans (1959) are not in Shumakov's list. Shumakov (1963) did not include subspecies in his list. Mirzayans (1979) followed Dirsh's (1952) proposal and without any explanation produced a new list of Pamphagidae of Iran by changing the Iranian species of Saxetania Mishchenko, 1951 to Tropidauchen Saussure, 1887. Two genera in the tribe Thrichnini, Tropidauchen

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Saxetania are superficially similar and have been frequently confused by taxonomists in the past. In Tropidauchen the frontal ridge is rounded in profile and is without a depression under the median ocellus. In Saxetania a distinct depression is seen under the median ocellus in profile view of the frontal ridge (Bei-Bienko and Mishchenko, 1951). The list of Acrididae published by Mirzayans (1979, 1998) does not agree with the recent list of species of Orthoptera (Eades et al., 2011). Examination of many species in these two genera proved that Saxetania is a valid genus with 16 species in Iran. All 14 species of Saxetania in Mirzayans (1959) list have been changed to Tropidauchen by Mirzayans (1998).

Table 1 and the key to genera of Pamphagidae explain most of the morphological differences described in this family.

#### **Material and Methods**

Garai (2010) collected most Acridoidea from Iran by systematic searching and netting. Species of the genera Nocarodes, Paranothrotes, Saxetania and Tropidauchen were generally found at early sunrise. Exact locality and the collection dates or subspecies position which are not given by Shumakov (1963)were given by other (Myrzayans 1959, 1998; Bei-Bienko and Mishchenko, 1951; Eades et al., 2011). In addition specimens stored in the Afshar Museum of the University of Tehran were included in this study which amounted to four boxes of Trinchini and three boxes of Pamphagini with about 20 insects in each box.

### **Classification of Pamphagidae**

Pamphaginae was first divided to two tribes: Thrinchini and Pamphagini (Bei-Bienko and Mishchenko, 1951). However, Shumakov (1963) divided Pamphaginae into three tribes: Thrinchini, Pamphagini and Uvaroviini. Uvarov (1966), Dirsh (1952) and Storzhenko and Paik (2011) divided Pamphagidae into the subfamilies Pamphaginae and Akinerinae. In all these attempts of classification the major division was made between winged and wingless forms of Pamphagidae.

Detail classification of Storozhenko and Paik (2011)divided Pamphaginae Euryparyphini, Finotiini, Haplotropiini, Nocarodeini and Pamphagini. The dvision of Pamphagidae into Akinerinae, Prionotropisinae, Tropidaucheninae, Nocarodesinae Pamphginae is used by Eades et al. (2012) in the Orthoptera species file. The taxonomy of Pamphagidae is also revised and explained with further comments in Zhang et al. (2003) and Storozhenko and Paik (2011).

**Table 1** The diagnostic characters of *Tropidauchen* from *Saxetania*.

Morphological Characters	Tropidauchen	Saxetania
Presternal process between fore coxa	Cylindrical or sharp apices	Dome or wedge shaped
Shape of the hind femur	Do not narrow to the apex	Narrowing to the apex
The dorsal or the upper lobe of the hind femur	Extends up to the apex	Not reaching the apex
Profile view of the head	Vertex vertical	Frons and vertex slightly sloping
Hind femur	Less narrowed towards the distal end	More narrowed towards the distal end.
Width of hind femur before the genu	1/2 - 2/3 greater	1/4 - 1/3 greater than the greatest width of the ventral genicular lobe
Frontal ridge	Rounded	With a distinct notch
Frontal ridge at median ocellus	Without depression	With a depression

#### Results

# Taxonomic characters of Pamphagidae

- Vertex is completely horizontal projecting anteriorly between eyes.
- Hind femora between longitudinal carinae only with tubercles and small ridges and without regular feather shaped areas.
- Vertex sometimes inclined and forming an obtuse widely rounded angle bringing from and foveolae very close together.
- Pronotum often projecting in a point in front above the occiput; anterior margin either raised like a plate or with a process or conical tubercles, or only slightly convex in the anterior part.
- Transverse groove of mesosternum in the middle often extending posteriorly between the lateral lobes.
- Tegmina developed with an open median field and without a median spurious vein.

## • Pamphagini

- No flight organ or they are strongly abbreviated.
- Median carina of pronotum never intersected by the transverse groove, straight or arcuate.
- Middle tibiae of the male without tubercles along the dorsal margin.
- Fastigium always edged with ridge.

## Trinchini

- Flight organs completely developed.
- Median carina of pronotum distinctly incised by the posterior transverse groove or sharply depressed in the metazona.
- Middle tibia of the male usually with a row of tubercles along the dorsal margin.
- Fastigium often broad and frequently without ridge along the margin; if with ridge, then with well marked preocellar foveolae.

The following key is adopted from Bei-Bienko and Mishchenko (1951).

# Key to subfamilies and genera of Pamphagidae

1-Median carina of pronotum distinctly incised by the posterior transverse groove or sharply depressed in the metazona; organs of flight present but may be reduced; middle tibia of the

- male usually with a row of tubercles along the dorsal margin; fastigium often broadened and without a marginal ridge; if bordered by a ridge then with a preocellar foveolae (TRINCHINI)

- 3-Prosternum without a strong lamellate process on the anterior margin; fastigium roundly projecting forward .......4
- 4-Tegmina are long reaching the middle of the hind tibiae, or far beyond the posterior knee....5

- 7- Body covered by dense long hairs; metazona without thickened margin; hind femur greatly widened at the base, dorsal carina distinctly depresses in the pre-genicular part; vertex depressed, greatly roughened; foveolae with distinct margins..... Asiotmethis Uvarov, 1943
- 8-Wings black with a light apex; metazona of pronotum posteriorly acute angled, with thickened margin; tympanal lobe transversly quadrangular; tegmina of the female abbreviated and not reaching posterior genu.

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#### ......... Thrinchus Fischer von Waldheim, 1833

- Anterior margin of pronotum with a strong sharp process in the middle; margin of lateral lobes

- 11-Antennae with 14 segments; tergites of abdomen with paired rounded distinct tubercles or darker spots

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- Median carina of pronotum without a groove and in profile low or straight; mesosternum with wide transverse lateral lobes, the greatest width of the lobe greater than its length.
  - ..... Ananothrodes Mishchenko, 1951

### ...... Tropidauchen Saussure, 1887

- The median process of metasternum is strongly projecting into the region of mesosternum; pronotum slightly widened in the middle part; greatest width is equal to or distinctly less than its length; pronotum with lateral carinae on its anterior parts; frontal ridge slightly projecting forward; median carina of pronotum with an indistinct or without a longitudinal median groove .....

#### ...... Nocarodes Fischer von Waldheim, 1846

- 19. Frontal ridge in profile dorsally strongly projecting; median carina of pronotum with a sharp longitudinal groove reaching its length; prothorax with a strongly developed anterior margin; anterior margin of prothorax in the form of a semicircular collar...

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- Frontal ridge in profile strongly sloping; median carina of pronotum not intersected by a transverse groove .....*Nocaracris* **Uvarov**, **1928** 

# Taxonomic characters of *Tropidauchen* Saussure, 1887

- Frontal ridge in profile rounded and without a notch under the median ocellus.
- Vertex in profile nearly vertical, fastigium is bordered by a ridge.
- No preocellar foveolae.
- Median carina of pronotum arcuate, not intersected by a transverse groove.
- Tegmina and wings reduced or completely absent.
- Middle tibiae in the male without tubercles along the dorsal margin.
- Hind femora slightly narrowed toward the distal end.
- Dorsal lobe of femur reaching its dorsal end without narrowing.
- Dorsal margin of hind femur with large pointed spines, ventral lobe slightly narrowed toward the distal end.
- The width of hind femur before the genu is  $\frac{1}{2}$ -2/3 the greatest width of the ventral genicular lobe.
- Prosternum with sharp median process.
- First abdominal tergite with a large tympanal organ.

# List of *Tropidauchen* Saussure, 1887 species of Iran

Tropidauchen cristatum Mishchenko, 1951 T. flavipes Mishchenko, 1951

- T. iranicum Werner, 1939
- T. marginatum Bolívar, 1912
- T. predtetshenkii Mishchenko, 1951
- T. serratum Mishchenko, 1951
- T. viridis Bei-Bienko, 1950

### Saxetania Mishchenko, 1951

Shumakov (1963) described the localities for 13 species. His list does not include the following species recorded by Mirzayans (1959): *S. parmonovi* (Dirsh), *S. onerosa* Mishchenko, *S. muricana*, two subspecies recorded from Khorassan, and *S. nizvai* (Dirsh) which is now a synonym of *S. spinosa* (Mishchenko, 1951).

# Diagnostic characters of *Saxetania* Mishchenko, 1951

- Frontal ridge in profile with a distinct notch right under the median ocellus.
- The dorsal part of the frontal ridge projecting forward.
- Vertex in profile moderately sloping, fastigium bordered by a ridge.
- No preocellar foveolae.
- Median carina of pronotum arcuate, not intersected by transverse groove.
- Median tibiae of the male without tubercles along the dorsal margin.
- Hind femur strongly narrowed apicad, dorsal lobe not reaching the distal end but strongly narrowed towards it. Dorsal margin with large pointed spines.
- Ventral lobe of hind femur narrowed towards the distal end, width near the genu 1/4-1/3 the greatest width of the ventral genicular lobe.
- Prosternum with a sharp median process. First abdominal tergite with a large tympanal organ.
- 16 species described and all recorded in Iran.

# List of Saxetania Mishchenko, 1951 species of Iran

- S. alexandrovi (Bei-Bienko, 1950): the type species of the genus.
- S. aelleni (Dirsh, 1952)
- S. cultricollis (Saussure, 1887)
- S. decumana Mishchenko, 1951
- S. dehbidi (Dirsh, 1952)
- S. edentulum (Uvarov, 1923)
- S. elbursiana (Ramme, 1929)

- S. escalarai (Bolívar, 1912)
- S. irrasa Mishchenko, 1951
- S. paramonovi Bei-Bienko & Mishchenko, 1951
- S. popovi (Dirsh, 1952)
- S. sabulosa (Uvarov, 1923)
- S. spinosa (Mishchenko, 1951) (synonym: S. nizwai Dirsh, 1952)
- S. onerosa Mishchenko, 1951
- S. muricata muricata Mishchenko, 1951
- S. m. femoralis Mishchenko, 1951

# Other genera and species of Pamphagidae recorded in Iran PAMPHAGINI

#### Araxiana Mishchenko, 1951

A. voronowi (Uvarov, 1918)

# Bufonocarodes Mishchenko, 1951

- B. intricatus Mishchenko, 1951
- B. robustus Mishchenko, 1951
- B. sabaalanicus Descamps, 1967
- B. mistshenkoi Descamps, 1967
- B. m. mistshenkoi Descamps, 1967
- B. m. luteipes Descamps, 1967
- B. tumulosus Mishchenko, 1951

#### Iranacris Mishchenko 1951

Iranacris dentatus Mishchenko, 1951

#### Neoparanothrotes Mirzayans, 1990

N. broumandi Mirzayans, 1998

#### Nocaracris Uvarov, 1928

N. cyanipes (Fischer von Waldheim, 1846)

#### Nocarodes Fischer von Waldheim, 1846

- N. armenus Ramme, 1951
- N. balachowskyi Descamps, 1967
- N. corrugatus Mishchenko, 1951
- N. crispus Mishchenko, 1951
- N. ebneri Ramme, 1951
- N. gibbosus Mishchenko, 1951
- N. humerosus Mishchenko, 1951
- N. keredjensis (Werner, 1939).
- N. nanus Mishchenko, 1951
- N. scabiosus Mishchenko, 1951 (Descaps, 1967)
- N. s. mistshenkoi Descamps, 1967

*N.schelkovnikovi* Uvarov, 1918 Collected from Maragheh, Iran Berlin zoo. Mus.= *Paranothrotes opacus* 

N. serricolis Fischer von Waldheim, 1846

N. specialis Mishchenko, 1951

N. urmianus Ramme, 1939

N. znojkoi Miram, 1938

# Paranothrotes Mishchenko, 1951

*P. citimus* Mishchenko (Reported by Mirzayans from Kordestan)

Paranothrotes demavandi (Ramme, 1951)

P. diamesus Bei-Bienko, 1957

P. elbursianus (Ramme, 1951)

P. gotvendicus (Bolívar, 1912)

P. g. rectus (Mishchenko, 1951)

P. iranicus (Ramme, 1951)

P. margaritae (Miram, 1938)

P. ocellatus Mishchenko, 1951

P. opacus (Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1882)

P. opacus margaritae (Miram, 1938)

P. opacus nigripes (Schelkanovtzev, 1916)

P. opacus ornatus Mishchenkov, 1951

P. opacus apicalis (Bolivar, 1912)

P. opacus nigripes (Stshelkanovtzev, 1916)

P. rammei Ozdikmen, 2010

P. tenuicornis Mishchenkov, 1951

#### Paranocaracris Mishchenko 1951

P. rubipes (Fischer von Waldheim, 1846) (Unal, 2002)

# Savalania Mishchenko, 1951

S. pulla Mishchenko, 1951 (Descamps, 1967)

# Thrinchini

#### Asiotmethis Uvarov, 1943

A. artemisianus Shumakov, 1949

A. turritus (Fischer von Waldheim, 1833)

### Eremopeza Saussure, 1888

E. bicoloripes (Moritz, 1928)

E. cinerascens (Stal, 1875)

E. c. cinerascens (Stal, 1875)

E. c. virescens (Uvarov, 1933)

E. festiva (Saussure, 1884)

E. gibbera (Stal, 1876)

E. g. reducta (Uvarov, 1934)

E. g. lata (Uvarov, 1934)

*E. gigas* (Kirby, 1914)

E. saussurei (Uvarov, 1918)

Tmethis saussurei Uvarov, 1917; Synonym: E.

s. saussurei (Uvarov, 1917)

E. s. cinerecens (Uvarov,)

E. s. violacea (Uvarov, 1922)

#### Eremotmethis Uvarov, 1943

E. carinatus (Fabricius, 1775)

### Eremocharis Philippi, 1860

E. granulosa (Walker, 1871)

E. g. khorasana Uvarov, 1933

E. g. bampura Uvarov, 1933

E. subsulcata (Stal, 1875)

### Iranotmethis Uvarov, 1943

I. cyanipennis (Saussure, 1884)

I. c. kurdus Bei-Bienko & Mishchenko, 1951

I. c. cyanipennis (Saussure, 1884)

I. lutipes Bei-Bienko, 1951

I. persa (Saussure, 1888)

I. persa persa (Saussure, 1888)

I. p. zagrosi (Uvarov, 1933)

#### Melanotmethis Uvarov, 1943

M. fuscipennis (Redtenbacher, 1889)

#### Strumiger Zubovskii, 1896

S. desertorum Zubovskii, 1896

### Tmethis Fieber, 1853

T. pulchripennis (Serville, 1838)

T. p. asiaticus Uvarov, 1943

#### Thrinchus Fischer von Waldheim, 1833

T. arenosus Bei-Bienko, 1948

T. arenosus arenosus Bei-Bienko, 1948

### Discussion

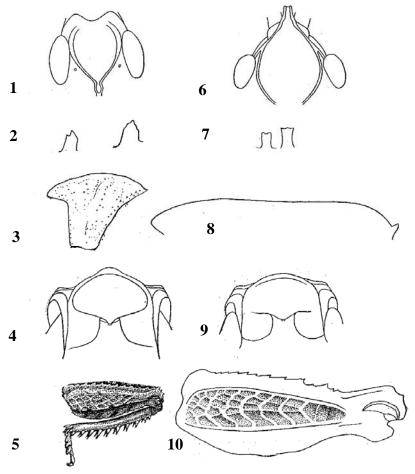
Shumakov (1963) is the best reference for the Acridoidea of Iran. Many morphological traits for local forms forced Orthopterists to describe subspecies with overlapping characters. Perhaps this is the reason why Shumakov (1963) has omitted the subspecies of Iranian records from his list. The number of Acridoidea species recorded by Mirzayans (1959) shows a change from 291 to 157 records by Garai (2010). Garai might have missed to record many known species but the reduction in rain fall and climate change might have resulted in the loss of some species as well. A complete biodiversity check is required to measure the species loss in Iran.

Saxetania is morphologically distinct but the characters of some species overlap with *Tropidauchen*. Some of the main differences between the two taxa are as follows:

In Tropidauchen viridis T. cristatum T. serratum and T. flavipes muricata muricata the ridges on border of eyes cross in occiput (Fig. 1). In Saxetania enoda, S. cultricollis tumulus and S. cultricollis cultricollis ridges on the border of fastigium do not cross in occiput (Fig. 6). The

prosternal process in *Tropidauchen* is sharp with a median process (Fig. 2). In *Saxetania* it is conical or pyramidal with compressed sharp lateral apex or wedge shape with notch apex, in *S. cultricollis* (Sauss.) and *S. scutata* Mishchenco. (Fig. 7). Pronotum is arcuate in *Tropidauchen* (Fig. 3), but in *Saxetania* less arcuate or with a process in distal end (Fig. 8). In *Tropidauchen viridis* Bei Bienko, *T. serratum* Mishchenko, *T. cristatum* Mishchenco, *T. flavipes* Mishchenko, and *T. predtetshenskii* Mish. mesosternum is with balloon shaped ridge between the lophi with the

nipple in between (Fig. 4). In *Saxetania* these balloon shaped ridges are not seen in *S. escaleriae* (Bolivar), *S. alexandrovi* (Bei Bienko), *S. culticollis gibbosa* Mishchenko, *S. miramae* (Mishchenko), and *S. muricata femoralis* Mishchenco (Fig 9). In *Tropidauchen* hind femora is slightly narrowed toward the distal end. In *Saxetania* the ventral lobe of hind femur is suddenly and much narrowed at apex (Figs. 9, 10). Prevailing data proves that *Saxetania* is morphologically quite distinct and the Iranian species reported in this article are valid.



**Figures 1-10** Distiguishing characters of *Tropidauchen* and *Saxetania*: 1-*Tropidauchen serratum* Mishchenko (male), 2-*T. serratum* Mish. (male) and *T. cristatum*, 3- *T. viridis* Bei-Bienko (male), 4- *T. cristatum* Mish. (male), 5- *T. cristatum* Mish (male), 6- *Saxetania muricata muricata* Mish. (male), 7- *S. cultricollis cultricollis* (Sauss.) (male) and *S. scutata* Mish. 8- *S. onerosa* (female), 9- *S. escalerai* (I. Bol.) (male), 10- *S. elbursiana* (Rme.) (female). (Figures rearranged from Bei-Bienko and Mishchenko, 1951)

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# فهرست جدید ملخهای Pamphagidae Brumster 1840 (Insecta: Orthoptera) در ایران بههمراه کلید شناسایی جنسها

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چکیده: کارشناسان مختلف ملخشناسی خانواده Pamphagidae را به روشهای متفاوتی ردهبندی جکیده: کارشناسان مختلف ملخشناسی خانواده Pamphagidae را به پنج زیر خانواده به پنج زیر خانواده به بنج زیر خانواده به بنج زیر خانواده و Nocarodesinae ،Tropidauchinae و Pamphaginae و Pamphagini این مجموعه حاوی یازده جنس با هفتاد گونه ملخهای Pamphagini و ده جنس حاوی سی و سه گونه و زیرگونه از ملخهای Pamphagidae ایران تهیه شده است. دو جنس Saxetania ایران تهیه شده است. دو جنس متند و بهرغم است. کلید شناسایی جنسهای Tropidauchen Saussure دارای خصوصیات ریختشناسی مشتر کی هستند و بهرغم اینکه در گذشته هر دو در یک جنس ادغام شده بودند، ولی در این پژوهش هر دو جنس معتبر شناخته شده و نام شانزده گونه از جنس Pamphagidae و هفت گونه از جنس Tropidauchen و تفاوت شکلی آنها با مروری بر ردهبندی خانواده Pamphagidae شرح داده شده است.

واژگان کلیدی: Pamphagidae، تاکسونومی، ایران