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## A preliminary survey of the insect fauna of the Hajar Mountain Range, Oman

Joseph Monks<sup>a</sup>, Steven Ross <sup>b</sup>, Michael Geiser<sup>c</sup>, Jurate De Prins<sup>d</sup>, Mostafa Sharaf<sup>e</sup>, Nigel Wyatt<sup>c</sup>, Shadia Al Rijeibi<sup>f</sup> and Andrew Polaszek <sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup>School of Life Sciences, The University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK; <sup>b</sup>Office for Conservation of the Environment, Diwan of Royal Court, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman; <sup>c</sup>Department of Life Sciences, Natural History Museum, London, UK; <sup>d</sup>Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium; <sup>e</sup>Plant Protection Department, College of Food and Agricultural Sciences, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; <sup>f</sup>Oman Botanic Garden, Diwan of Royal Court, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

#### ABSTRACT

The Hajar Mountain Range of Northern Oman is an important centre of species endemism, and of biogeographical interest as a crossroads between the Afrotropical and Palaearctic regions. Despite this, the invertebrate fauna of the region is largely unknown, with very little dedicated research or surveys having been undertaken until now. Here we present the invertebrate species collected and identified from five different survey locations within the Hajar Mountains. This preliminary checklist contains 296 records, of which 36 are new records for Oman. Our surveys also discovered two new species of ant: *Lepisiota omanensis* collected from Jebel Qahwan Reserve and at the base of Jebel Akhdar, and *Anochetus annetteae* from Hibra Village in the Nakhl Region.

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#### **KEYWORDS**

Biodiversity; biogeography; Al Hajar Mountains; Middle East; Arabian Peninsula

## Introduction

The Sultanate of Oman forms part of the Arabian Peninsula covering an area of 309,501km<sup>2</sup>. It is bordered to the north and east by the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea; to the west by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates; and to the South by Yemen. Oman is an area of particular interest from a biogeographical point of view, as it is a meeting point between the biodiversity associated with the Afrotropical and Palaearctic regions. Oman has two mountain ranges, the Hajar Mountains in the north and the Dhofar Mountains in the south, which are likely to have acted as refugia for species during periods of past climate change (El-Keblawy 2014).

Our study was located in the Hajar Mountains, a 700 km long mountain chain running the length of Oman's northern coastline with a small portion in the United Arab Emirates. The mountains are bordered on one side by the Gulf of Oman and on the other by vast gravel deserts that stretch to the Dhofar Mountains in the south of the country (Ghazanfar 2004). The range is composed of steep, jagged mountains, canyons and dry river beds (wadis), rising steeply from the northern coastline to a highest point

CONTACT Andrew Polaszek 🖾 a.polaszek@nhm.ac.uk

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on Jebel Shams at around 3000 m (Gebauer et al. 2007). As elevation increases, temperature and evapotranspiration decrease, with mean annual temperatures at 2000 m of 18°C, 25°C at 1070 m and 29°C at sea level (Luedeling et al. 2007). However, mean temperatures in isolation are of limited value. For example, on Jebel Shams the temperature in January regularly falls to 1–3°C, and on lower altitudes but above 500 m it regularly exceeds 40°C between May and September. This vast range must impact many species (M. Ebejer, personal communication). Mean annual precipitation ranges from 75 mm in the lowlands to 400 mm in the higher reaches of the mountains (Kwarteng et al. 2009). Due to the hot, arid conditions, vegetation is generally sparse across the mountain range, but with higher coverage in drainage lines and at altitude. Species richness of plants is greatest between 1000–1500 m (Ghazanfar 1998). Vegetation cover is also influenced by the underlying geology, which is mostly ophiolites. However, Cretaceous limestone is also present, and part of a more complex system (Hawasina) and on its own is exposed far less than ophiolites and schists. However, water and pH probably influence the composition of the flora more than the type of rock (M. Ebejer, personal communication).

Due to the range's close proximity to Iran, the flora of the Hajar Mountains is closely associated with the Palaearctic region (Patzelt 2015). For example, *Juniperus seravschanica* is found in the high altitude region of Jebel Akhdar, and the nearest populations of this species are found in Iran, Pakistan and Kazakhstan (Adams et al. 2014). Glacial events, resulting in the drying up of the Arabian Gulf, most recently c. 17,000–18,000 BP, have facilitated invasions of species into Oman from the Palaearctic region (El-Keblawy 2014).

The Hajar Mountains are known as an important centre of species endemism in the region (Miller and Nyberg 1991; Ghazanfar 2004; Brinkmann et al. 2009; Carzana and Arnold 2012). For example, of the 703 plant species found in the Hajar Mountains, 24 are Endemics, 6 Near Endemics and 28 Regional Endemics (Patzelt 2015). In terms of fauna, the Hajar Mountains are also home to 12 endemic reptile species (Carzana and Arnold 2012) and one endemic large mammal, the Arabian Tahr, Arabitragus jayakari (Insall 2008). Substantially less is known about the insect fauna inhabiting the region. To our knowledge, this paper is the first work on multiple orders of insects from the Hajar Mountains since the Oman Flora and Fauna Survey of 1975 (publ. 1977), which surveyed the limestone massif of Jebel Akhdar (contains Jebel Shams), the highest point of the Hajar Mountains (Brinkmann et al. 2009). Insect research has also been sparse elsewhere in Oman, limiting our understanding of the diversity and representation of insect species. Certain groups, such as moths (Wiltshire 1977a, 1977b, 1980, 1985; Wiltshire 1988; Hausmann 1998, 2009; Bengtsson 2002; Polaszek 2016a, 2016b and references therein) have received more attention, while other groups, such as the chalcid wasps (Chalcidoidea), are virtually unstudied with only 18 records currently listed (Noyes 2018).

In stark contrast, the insect fauna of neighbouring UAE has been extremely wellstudied in just the last decade (van Harten 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2014, 2017). In an intensive project involving 150 specialists, more than 6000 insect and spider species have been documented from the UAE (Schmid-Egger, personal communication). Among these are 400 species new to science recorded in the last 10 years (Howarth 2019). A large proportion of these were recorded from the small part of the Western Hajars that penetrate the northeast corner of UAE. Inevitably, a large percentage of the arthropods recorded from the UAE have now been found to occur in, or will eventually be recorded from, the Oman Hajars. Availability of the UAE faunistic work greatly facilitated the identification of many species in this study, in particular where mentioned below under specific orders.

This study aimed to increase our understanding of insect species biodiversity and representation within the Hajar Mountains by focusing collection in five separate study locations in the mountain chain.

## Methodology

The main collections were carried out in the following areas of the Hajar Mountains: Jebel Akhdar (Western Hajar Mountains; see Figure 1), As Saleel Natural Park (see Figure 2), Jebel Qahwan Reserve, Ra's ash Shajar (Eastern Hajar Mountains), and Wadi Khuair (Muscat) The collections took place from October 2013–June 2014, November 2014, April 2015 and January–February 2016.



**Figure 1.** Habitat typical of the *Sideroxylon mascatense-Olea europea* plant community found at 1500–2200 m in the western Hajar Mountains. Similar to the Jebel Akhdar survey site.



**Figure 2.** (P1010406). Habitat typical to the *Euphorbia larica-Moringa peregrina* plant community of the lowland Hajar Mountains. Similar to the As Saleel Natural Park survey site.

More limited collecting took place in Hibra Village (Batinah Coastal Region), the Oman Botanic Garden, Wadi Khoud (near Muscat), Lizugh Village, near Ra's Al-Haad, near Wadi Al-Arbein, Wadi Mayh, Wadi Quriyat (Eastern Hajar Mountains), near Birkat Al-Mouz, near Biwa Village, near Buwah Village, near Fins Village, near Siwa Village, and near Taww Village.

The first author collected specimens using light traps, a Malaise trap, yellow pan traps, pitfall traps and hand nets. All traps were emptied daily, while Malaise traps were emptied weekly. Traps were set during the months and years given for each record below. The specimens were dry-mounted and identified at the Natural History Museum (London, UK) using determined material and the relevant literature. The specimens have been deposited in the Oman Natural History Museum (ONHM), National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, UK (NMC) and the Natural History Museum, London, UK (NHMUK). Identifying authorities were as follows: Geiser; Hymenoptera (except Formicidae): Coleoptera: Μ. Α. Polaszek; Hymenoptera: Formicidae: M. Sharaf; Diptera: N. Wyatt (additional Diptera identifications by J. Deeming & M. Ebejer); Lepidoptera: J. de Prins (additional Lepidoptera identifications by W. de Prins, D. Agassiz and A. Zilli). Other identifications were by J. Monks.



**Figure 3.** Map of the Hajar Mountains showing the main collecting sites (white circles) and additional collecting sites (black circles). (1) Ra's ash Shajar, (2) As Saleel National Park, (3) Jebel Qahwan Reserve, (4) Wadi Khuair, (5) Jebel Akhdar Sanctuary for Natural Sceneries, (6) Hibra Village, (7) Oman Botanic Gardens, (8) Wadi Al Khoud, (9) Lizugh Village, (10) Ra's Al-Haad, (11) Wadi Al-Arbein, (12) Wadi Mayh, (13) Quriyat, (14) Birkat Al-Mouz, (15) Buwah Village & (16) Taww Village.

#### Site characteristics

#### As Saleel natural park (AS, Figure 3 (2))

The surface geology of As Saleel consists of limestone/chert mountains to the north and east, which have numerous pockets of fossilised corals and other remains of ancient seabeds. The west of the park consists of alluvial shingle deposits, sand and gravel are found in the central area, and the south-east is mostly sand. Collectively all of the plains materials are alluvial drift deposits originating from the mountains to the north. Water is scarce in As Saleel, the park receives an average of 148 mm of rainfall per year, and there is only one mountainside spring with permanent surface water in the park.

The flora of As Saleel displays elements of both desert and low-altitude montane vegetation. The park is dominated by *Vachellia tortilis* with four other tree species present but rare including *Ziziphus spina-christi, Maerua crassifolia, Prosopis cineraria* and *Acacia ehrenbergiana*. Shrub cover includes *Fagonia indica, Indigofera arabica, Tephrosia apollinea,* and *Placama aucheri,* among others. Grasses and herbs are common in the understory and include herbs such as *Dichanthium foveolatum* and *Aerva javanica* and the grasses *Aristida, Eragrostis* and *Stipagrostis* species. Sampling in the area was conducted between the elevations of 199–322m a.s.l.

#### Jebel Qahwan reserve (JQ, Figure 3 (3))

Geologically, Qahwan is the northernmost continuation of the 'Haushi-Huqf basement uplift', along the south-eastern continental margin of Oman. The crystalline basement of Qahwan is largely composed of gneisses, amphibolites and granites of Proterozoic and early Palaeozoic age (Searle 2014), with later limestone deposits on the mountain surface. Considering Qahwan only receives an average annual precipitation of 148 mm of rain, there are a surprising number of permanent sources of surface water, with up to 33 pools existing on the mountain.

Vegetation in Jabal Qahwan is sparse but diverse, due to the many habitat conditions found on the mountain. Vegetation is most concentrated in the many wadis, basins and drainage lines. Wadis at the base of the mountain are dominated by large *Ziziphus spina-christi, Vachellia tortilis*, and *V. nilotica* trees, bushes of *Aerva javanica* and grasses such as *Sporobolus spicatus*. *Ficus cordata* subsp. *salicifolia* are also occasionally seen in shaded areas. The steep rocky slopes of the mountain have very thin soils that are dominated by *Euphorbia larica, Echinops erinaceus, Blepharis ciliaris*, bunch grasses (*Aristida adscensionis*) and scattered *V. nilotica* trees. Rarer species found on Qahwan include the succulent *Caralluma flava*, and the regional endemic *Dipcadi biflorum* (Ghazanfar 1996). Sampling took place on the lower half of the mountain between the elevations of 305–485 m a.s.l.

#### Jebel Akhdar sanctuary for natural sceneries (JA, Figure 3 (5))

Jabal Akhdar is dominated by limestone surface geology throughout the plateau. Vegetation has a relatively uniform environment across the plateau and is most influenced

by exposure to sunlight, slope and moisture availability. Due to its high elevation (1800 to 2400 m), Jabal Akhdar receives considerably more rain than other areas sampled, with an annual average precipitation of 310 mm. There are also many small pools on the plateau associated with the many wadi drainage lines.

The dominating tree species on the plateau were Juniperus seravschanica, Olea europaea subsp. cuspidata and Sideroxylon mascatense, with Vachellia gerrardii and Sageretia thea increasing in dominance in valleys and depressions with higher moisture availability. The shrub layer is dominated by Dodonaea viscosa and Euryops arabicus, and Grewia erythraea and Sageretia thea are also common. Wadi areas were dominated by V. gerrardii and Ziziphus spina-christi trees. The herbaceous cover on the plateau is composed of grasses such as Aristida adscensionis, Cenchrus ciliaris, Cymbopogon schoenanthus, and Cymbopogon commutatus. The main flowering plant species includes Helichrysum glumaceum, Salvia aegyptiaca, Teucrium mascatense and Teucrium stocksianum (Schlecht et al. 2009). Sampling took place at elevations 2225–2384m a.s.l.

### Ra's ash Shajar (RS, Figure 3 (1)) and Wadi Khuair, Muscat (WK, Figure 3 (4))

The characteristics of Ra's ash Shajar and Wadi Khuair are described together due to the similarities of the two sites. Both sites are dominated by limestone parent materials with small ophiolite outcroppings also occurring at the Wadi Khuair site. Ra's ash Shajar receives approximately 148 mm of rain per year and has numerous permanent water holes, whereas Jabal Khuair receives an average of 100 mm per annum and has no permanent surface water.

The dominant tree species in both areas is *Vachellia tortilis*, but in wadis and lines of drainage *Ziziphus spina-christi*, *Rhus aucheri*, *Moringa peregrine*, and *Ficus cordata* subsp. *salicifolia* increase in dominance. Flowering plants in wadis included *Aerva javanica* and *Fagonia bruguieri*, and the grasses *Cymbopogon schoenanthus* and *Cyperus conglomer-atus*. *V. tortilis* is the dominant tree on rocky hill slopes. Although rare, flowering plants on hill slopes include *Launaea bornmuelleri*, *Lavandula subnuda*, *Blepharis ciliaris*, *Aerva javanica*, *Euphorbia larica* and *Ochradenus arabicus*, and the grasses *Cymbopogon schoenanthus* and *Pennisetum setaceum*. Sampling in the areas took place between the elevations of 34-308m a.s.l.

#### Results

This paper lists 8 orders, 87 families, 244 genera and 296 collection records from the Hajar Mountains, of which 196 were identifiable to species (see Table 1 for new records for Oman). Identification to species-level was most successful for Lepidoptera, followed by Coleoptera and Diptera. A large number of specimens collected during the survey are not recorded here as it was not possible to identify them even to genus level. This was either due to a lack of published keys or other papers to facilitate identification, or a lack of access to particular taxon specialists. The lack of records is noticeable in particular for the Apoidea which were found in abundance but not identifiable for the reasons above. Unless stated otherwise, all

Order	Family	Subfamily	Genus	Species
Blattodea	Blattidae	Blattinae	Shelfordella	S. arabica
Coleoptera	Bostrichidae	Bostrichinae	Bostrychoplites	B. zickeli
			Calopertha	C. truncatula
	Chrysomelidae	Cryptocephalinae	Cryptocephalus	C. chikatunovi
		Eumolpinae	Colasposoma (Falsonerissus)	?
		Galerucinae	Nymphius	N. emir
	Malachiidae	Malachiinae	Malachiomimus	M cf. buettikeri
	Coccinellidae	Coccinellinae	Cheilomenes	C. sexmaculatus
	Meloidae	Meloinae	Hycleus	H cf. gratiosus
		Nemognathinae	Zonitoschema	Z. rubricolor
	Curculionidae	Entiminae	Pseudobarirrhinus	P. conicus
Hymenoptera	Aphelinidae	Coccophaginae	Pteroptrix	P. arabicus
, .	·		Encarsia	E. lutea
			Encarsia	E. sophia
	Trichogrammatidae	Trichogrammatinae	Trichogramma	T. euproctidis
	Formicidae	Formicinae	Lepisiota	L. elegantissima
Lepidoptera	Psychidae	Placodominae	Placodoma	P. palaestinella
• •	Plutellidae	Plutellinae	Plutella	P. xylostella
	Cosmopterigidae	Antequerinae	Alloclita	A. cerritella
		Cosmopteriginae	Eteobalea	E. sumptuosella
	Choreutidae	Choreutinae	Choreutis	C. aegyptiaca
	Tortricidae	Olethreutinae	Crocidosema	C. plebejana
	Cossidae	Mehariinae	Meharia	M. incurvariella
	Pyralidae	Epipaschiinae	Otjipagapaga	O. dentilinealis
		Phycitinae	Ancylosis	A. nubeculella
		·	Acrobasis	A. minutalis
			Asalebria	A. adiudicata
			Cherchera	C. abatesella
			Epicrocis	E. pseudodiscomaculella
			Épicrocis	E. safadalis
			Faveria	F. cineracella
			Etiella	E. zinckenella
			Pempelia	P. arida
			Phycita	P. arabica
	Crambidae	Crambinae	Amselia	A. heringi
		Spilomelinae	Synclera	S. bleusei
	Erebidae	Arctiinae	Utetheisa	U. amhara
		Boletobiinae	Eublemma	E. fastrei
				E. pallidula
	Noctuidae	Xyleninae	Caradrina	C. atriluna
				C. flava

	Tabl	le 1	. New	species	records	for	Oman.
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specimens were collected by the first author (JM) and are deposited in the Natural History Museum, London, UK (NHMUK). Additional notes on biology and distribution are provided where available and/or appropriate.

Order: Orthoptera; family: Gryllacrididae; subfamily: Lezininae near Lezina armata (Popov, 1984) [AS ii.2014)

Order: Blattodea; family: Blattidae; subfamily: Blattinae Shelfordella arabica (Bei-Bienko, 1938) New record [JK v.2014)

Order: Mantodea; Family: Empusidae; Subfamily: Blepharodinae Blepharopsis mendica (Fabricius, 1775) [AS ii.2014; JQ iii.2014]

Subfamily: Empusinae Empusa hedenborgii (Stal, 1871) [AS ii. 2014; JQ iii,iv.2014]

Family: Eremiaphilidae; subfamily: Eremiaphilinae *Eremiaphila* sp. [AS ii.2014]

Family: Mantidae; subfamily: Mantinae Sphodromantis viridis Forskal, 1775 [JQ iii.2014] Subfamily: Miomantinae Microthespis dmitriewi (Werner, 1908) [RS xi.2013; JQ iii,iv.2014]

Family: Iridopterygidae; subfamily: Nilomantinae *Nilomantis floweri* (Werner, 1907) [JQ iii.2014]

Order: Hemiptera; family: Caliscelidae; subfamily: Ommatidiotinae *Adenissus riadicus* (Dlabola, 1985) [JQ iii.2014] Deposited: NMC

Family: Flatidae; subfamily: Flatinae Juba sp. [JQ iii.2014] Deposited: NMC

Family: Fulgoridae; subfamily: Dorysarthrinae *Dorysarthrus* sp. [JA i.2014] Deposited: NMC

Family: Nogodinidae; subfamily: Nogodininae *Philbyella* sp. [JQ iii.2014] Deposited: NMC

Family: Cicadellidae; subfamily: Deltocephalinae Goniagnathus sp. [AS ii.2014] Deposited: NMC Korana sp. [AS ii.2014; JQ iii.2014]

Family: Notonectidae; subfamily: Anisopinae Anisops sp. [JQ iv.2014] Deposited: NMC Subfamily: Notonectinae Enithares lineatipes Horvath, 1889 [JQ iv.2014] Deposited: NMC

Family: Veliidae; subfamily: Veliinae Velia sp. [JA v. 2014] Deposited: NMC

Order: Coleoptera

Family: Carabidae; subfamily: Brachininae *Pheropsophus africanus* (Dejean, 1825) [Lizugh Village iv.2015] Col. R. Kamnitzer Subfamily: Cicindellinae *Lophyra histrio* (Tschitscherine, 1903) [Lizugh Village iv.2015] Col. R. Kamnitzer *Myriochila melancholica* (Fabricius, 1798) [Lizugh Village iv.2015] Col. R. Kamnitzer Subfamily: Lebiinae *Merizomena* sp. [JQ iv.2014]

Family: Bostrichidae; subfamily: Bostrichinae Bostrychoplites zickeli (Marseul, 1867) New record [AS ii. 2014] Calopertha truncatula (Ancey, 1881) New record [AS ii.2014] Deposited: ONHM

*Phonapate uncinata* (Karsch, 1881) [JQ iv.2014] *Sinoxylon* sp. [JQ iv.2014] Deposited: ONHM

Family: Dermestidae; subfamily: Attageninae Attagenus fasciatus (Thunberg, 1795) [Lizugh Village iv 2015] Col. R. Kamnitzer Attagenus sp.[AS ii.2014] Deposited: ONHM

Family: Buprestidae; subfamily: Buprestinae Anthaxia sp. [JQ iv.2014] Subfamily: Chrysochroinae Lampetis sp. [AS ii.2014] Sphenoptera sp [JQ iv.2014] Subfamily: Julodinae Julodis euphratica (Laporte & Gory, 1835) [near Ra's Al-Haad iii.2016] Subfamily: Polycestinae Acmaeodera arabica (Gory, 1840) [near Al-Bidyay iv.2016] Acmaeoderella spp. [AS ii.2014; JQ iv.2014] Xantheremia sp. [JQ iv.2014] Deposited: ONHM

Family: Heteroceridae; subfamily: Heterocerinae Heterocerus cf. magnus (Mamitza, 1933) [JA v.2014]

Family: Cerambycidae; subfamily: Cerambycinae Derolus iranensis arabicus (Sama, 2008) [JQ iv.2014] Subfamily: Lamiinae Idactus iranicus (Breuning, 1975) [JQ: iv.2014]

Family: Chrysomelidae; subfamily: Chrysomelinae Chrysolina grata brancuccii (Daccordi, 1982) [WK i.2014] Subfamily: Cryptocephalinae Acolastus arabicus (Lopatin, 1982) [JQ iv.2014] Deposited: ONHM Cryptocephalus chikatunovi (Lopatin, 2008) New record [WK i.2014] Subfamily: Eumolpinae Chloropterus politus (Berti & Rapilly, 1973) [WK i.2014; JQ iv.2014] Colasposoma (Falsonerissus) sp. New record [JA v.2014] Macrocoma sp. [JA v.2014] Subfamily: Galerucinae Nymphius emir (Lopatin, 2006) New record [WKair vi.2014] Deposited: ONHM Phyllotreta cf. cheiranthi (Weise, 1903) [JA v 2014] Subfamily: Pachymerinae Caryedon sp. [WK i. 2014] Deposited: ONHM

Family: Cleridae; subfamily: Clerinae Opilo desertorum (Gerstmeier, 2010) [AS ii.2014]

Family: Malachiidae; subfamily: Malachiinae Malachiomimus cf. buettikeri (Wittmer, 1980) New record [JQ iv.2014] Family: Coccinellidae; subfamily: Coccinellinae Cheilomenes sexmaculatus (Fabricius, 1781) New record [JQ iv.2014] Deposited: ONHM

Family: Dytiscidae; Dytiscinae Hydaticus sp. [Lizugh Village iv.2015] Col. R. Kamnitzer Subfamily: Laccophilinae Laccophilus maindroni maindroni (Regimbart, 1897) [JQ iv.2014] Deposited: ONHM

Family: Nitidulidae; subfamily: Carpophilinae Carpophilus sp. [JQ iv.2014] Deposited: ONHM

Family: Elateridae; aubfamily: Agrypninae Agrypnus omanensis (Platia & Schimmel, 1997) [JQ iv.2014] Subfamily: Cardiophorinae Cardiophorus sp. [JQ iv.2014] Paracardiophorus sp. [JA v.2014]

Family: Scarabaeidae; subfamily: Cetoniinae Stalagmosoma cynanki (Gory & Percheron, 1833) [RS xi.2013; AS ii.2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Subfamily: Dynamopodinae Orubesa sp. [AS ii.2014] Subfamily: Dynastinae Oryctes sp. Lizugh Village: April 2015 Col. R. Kamnitzer Subfamily: Melolonthinae Schizonycha sp. [WK iii. 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Subfamily: Rutelinae Adoretini sp. [RS: xi 2013; JQ: iv 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Subfamily: Scarabaeinae Gymnopleurus sp. [LV: iv 2015]. Col. R. Kamnitzer Onthophagus sp. [AS: ii 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Family: Anthicidae Subfamily: Anthicinae Anthelephila multiformis (Kejval, 2002) [JQ iv.2014] **Deposited: ONHM** 

Family: Meloidae Subfamily: Meloinae *Hycleus* cf. *gratiosus* (Marseul, 1870) **New record**. [JQ. iv. 2014] *Lydomorphus angusticollis suturellus* (Haag-Rutenberg, 1880) [AS: ii. 2014] Deposited: ONHM

Subfamily: Nemognathinae Zonitoschema rubricolor (Pic, 1924) **New record**. [JQ: iv 2014]

Family: Tenebrionidae Subfamily: Alleculinae Mycetocharina sp. [WK: iii 2014] Subfamily: Pimeliinae Adesmia arabica (Reitter, 1916) [AS: ii 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Adesmia cancellata (Klug, 1830) [AS: ii 2014; JQ: iv 2014] Deposited: ONHM Cyphostethe wittmeri (Kaszab, 1979) [JQ: iv 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Mesostena puncticollis (Solier, 1835) [AS: ii 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Oxycara sp. [AS: ii 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Pimelia arabica (Klug, 1830) [AS: ii 2014] Stegastopsis arabica (Allard, 1883) [WK: iii 2014] Tentyriini spp. [AS: ii 2014; JA: v 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Thriptera kraatzi (Haag-Rutenberg, 1876) [AS: ii 2014] Deposited: ONHM Subfamily: Stenochiinae Praeugena gagatina (Mäklin, 1863) [JQ: iv 2014] Subfamily: Tenebrioninae Cheirodes brevicollis (Wollaston, 1864) [AS: ii 2014] Family: Curculionidae Subfamily: Entiminae Pseudobarirrhinus conicus (Magnano, 2009) New record [JQ: iv 2014] Order: Lepidoptera Family: Psychidae Subfamily: Placodominae Placodoma palaestinella (Rebel, 1902), New record [AS: ii 2014; WK: iii 2014] Subfamily: Oiketicinae Amicta mauretanica arabica (Wiltshire, 1949) [JQ: xi 2014]

Family: Tineidae Subfamily: Tineinae *Trichophaga bipartitella* (Ragonot, 1892) [AS: ii 2014] Subfamily: Perissomasticinae *Perissomastix versicolor* (Gaedike, 2009) [RS: xi 2013; AS: ii 2014; JQ: xi 2014]

Family: Plutellidae Subfamily: Plutellinae Plutella xylostella (Linnaeus, 1758), New record [AS: ii 2014]

Family: Elachistidae Subfamily: Ethmiinae *Ethmia* sp., nr. *vitalbella* (Christoph, 1887) [AS: ii 2014]

Family: Scythrididae Subfamily: Scythridinae Scythris sp., nr. kebirella (Amsel, 1935) [JQ: xi 2014]

Family: Cosmopterigidae Subfamily: Antequerinae *Alloclita cerritella* (Riedl, 1993), **New record** [JQ: xi 2014] Subfamily: Cosmopteriginae *Eteobalea sumptuosella* (Lederer, 1855), **New record** [AS: ii 2014] *Eteobalea* sp. [AS: ii 2014]

Family: Pterophoridae Subfamily: Agdistinae *Agdistis* sp. [AS: ii 2014] Subfamily: Pterophorinae *Megalorhipida angusta* (Arenberger, 2002) [JQ: xi 2014]

Family: Choreutidae Subfamily: Choreutinae *Choreutis aegyptiaca* (Zeller, 1867), **New record** [AS: ii 2014]

Family: Tortricidae Subfamily: Olethreutinae *Crocidosema plebejana* (Zeller, 1847), **New record** [JQ: xi 2014] *Dasodis cladographa* (Diakonoff, 1983) [JQ: xi 2014]

Family: Cossidae Subfamily: Cossinae *Mormogystia reibellii* (Oberthür, 1876) [AS: ii 2014] Deposited: ONHM Subfamily: Mehariinae *Meharia acuta* (Wiltshire, 1982) [RS: xi 2013; JQ: xi 2014] *Meharia incurvariella* (Chrétien, 1915), **New record** [JQ: xi 2014]

Family: Pieridae Subfamily: Pierinae *Colotis liagore* (Klug, 1829) [JQ: xii 2014]

Family: Lycaenidae Subfamily: Polyommatinae *Anthene amarah* (Guérin-Méneville, 1847) [Nr. Birkat Al Mouz: i 2016] *Tarucus balkanicus* (Freyer, 1843) Jebel Qahwan Reserve: December 2014

Family: Nymphalidae Subfamily: Danainae Danaus chrysippus (Linnaeus, 1758) [JQ: iv & xi 2014] Family: Pyralidae Subfamily: Galleriinae Lamoria anella (Denis & Schiffermuller, 1775) [JA: v 2014] Subfamily: Epipaschiinae Otjipagapaga dentilinealis (Hampson, 1906), New record [AS: ii 2014] Subfamily: Phycitinae Acrobasis minutalis (Asselbergs, 2008), New record [JQ: iii 2014] Ancylosis biflexella (Lederer, 1855) [AS: ii 2014; JQ: iii 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Ancylosis nubeculella (Ragonot, 1887), New record [AS: ii 2014] Phycita arabica (Asselbergs, 2008), New record [JQ: xi 2014] Family: Crambidae Subfamily: Crambinae Amselia heringi (Amsel, 1935), New record [AS: ii 2014] Ancylolomia micropalpella (Amsel, 1951) [JQ: xi 2014] Euchromius vinculellus (Zeller, 1847) [JQ: iv & xi 2014] Subfamily: Glaphyriinae Evergestis sp., nr. laristanalis (Amsel, 1961) [AS: ii 2014; WK: iii 2014] Noorda blitealis (Walker, 1859) [AS: ii 2014; JQ: iii & xi 2014] Deposited: ONHM Subfamily: Pyraustinae Achyra nudalis (Hübner, 1796) [RS: xi 2013] Subfamily: Spilomelinae Antigastra catalaunalis (Duponchel, 1833) [AS: ii 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Nomophila noctuella (Denis & Schiffermuller, 1775) [AS: ii 2014; JA: v 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Synclera bleusei (Oberthür, 1888), New record [RS: xi 2013] Family: Geometridae Subfamily: Geometrinae Hemidromodes sabulifera (Prout L.B, 1922) [RS: xi 2013; AS: ii 2014; JQ: iii & xi 2014] Deposited: ONHM Neromia integrata (Hausmann, 2009) [AS: ii 2014] Neromia pulvereisparsa (Hampson, 1896) [JQ: xi 2014] Subfamily: Sterrhinae Idaea sanctaria (Staudinger, 1900) [JQ: iii 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Palaeaspilates sublutearia (Wiltshire, 1977) [JQ: xi 2014] Problepsis ocellata (Butler, 1886) [JA: v 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Pseudosterrha rufistrigata (Hampson, 1896) [RS: xi 2013; JQ: iii & xi 2014]

Deposited: ONHM Scopula caesaria walkeros (Wiltshire, 1980) [JQ: iii 2014] Scopula harteni (Hausmann, 2009) [JQ: iii 2014] Subfamily: Larentiinae Pasiphila palaearctica (Brandt, 1938) [AS: ii 2014; JQ: xi 2014; JA: v 2014] Xanthorhoe wiltshirei (Brandt, 1941) [AS: ii 2014] Subfamily: Ennominae Hyperythra swinhoei (Butler, 1880) [JQ: iii 2014] Zamarada latilimbata (Rebel, 1948) [AS: ii 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Family: Erebidae Subfamily: Arctiinae Creataloum arabicum (Hampson, 1896) [RS: xi 2013; JQ: iii 2014] Deposited: ONHM Utetheisa amhara (Jordan, 1939), New record [AS: ii 2014] Utetheisa pulchella (Linnaeus, 1758) [AS: ii 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Subfamily: Erebinae Acantholipes circumdata (Walker, 1858) [AS: ii 2014; JQ: iii & xi 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Drasteria yerburyi (Butler, 1892) [JQ: iii 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Pandesma robusta (Walker, 1858) [AS: ii 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Heteropalpia Rhabdophera exarata (Mabile, 1890) [AS: ii 2014] Heteropalpia Rhabdophera robusta omana (Wiltshire, 1988) [JQ: xi 2014] Tytroca dispar (Püngeler, 1904) [AS: ii 2014; JQ: iii & xi 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Ulotrichopus tinctipennis (Hampson, 1902) [AS: ii 2014] Deposited: ONHM Subfamily: Hypeninae Zekelita ravalis (Herrich-Schäffer, 1851) [JQ: iii 2014] Subfamily: Lymantriinae Casama innotata (Walker, 1855) [AS: ii 2014; JQ: iii 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Family: Nolidae Subfamily: Chloephorinae Churia typhla (Wiltshire, 1977) [JA: v 2014] Earias insulana (Boisduval, 1833) [RS: xi 2013] Selepa docilis (Butler, 1881) [JA: v 2014] Family: Noctuidae Subfamily: Acontiinae Acontia asbenensis hemipentha (Rothschild, 1921) [JQ: iii 2014]

**Deposited: ONHM** 

Drasteroides ellisoni (Wiltshire, 1977) JQ: xi 2014 Epharmottomena leucodonta (Hampson, 1926) [JQ: iii 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Epharmottomena tenera (Brandt, 1939) [AS: ii 2014] Deposited: ONHM Subfamily: Eustrotiinae Acantiola sancta (Staudinger) [AS: ii 2014; JQ: iii 2014] Deposited: ONHM Ozarba diaphora (Staudinger) [AS: ii 2014; JQ: iii & xi 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Ozarba tamsina (Brandt, 1948) [JQ: iii 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Pseudozarba mesozona (Hampson, 1896) [AS: ii 2014; JQ: iii & xi 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Subfamily: Boletobiinae Antarchaea erubescens (Bang-Haas, 1910) [JA: v 2014] Eublemma fastrei (Fibiger & Legrain, 2009), New record [AS: ii 2014] Eublemma gayneri (Rothschild, 1901) [AS: ii 2014] Eublemma pallidula (Herrich-Schaffer, 1851), New record [AS: ii 2014] Eublemma parva (Hübner, 1808) [AS: ii 2014; JQ: xi 2014] Eublemma thermobasis (Hampson, 1910) [JQ: iii 2014] Family: Noctuidae Subfamily: Xyleninae Caradrina atriluna (Guenée, 1852), New record [JA: v 2014] Caradrina flava (Oberthür, 1876), New record [RS: xi 2013; JQ: xi 2014] Sesamia sp., ?cretica (Lederer, 1857) [JQ: xi 2014] Spodoptera exigua (Hübner, 1808) [AS: ii 2014] Subfamily: Condicinae Condica viscosa (Freyer, 1831) [RS: xi 2013; AS: ii 2014; JQ iii & iv 2014] Dysmilichia phaulopsis (Brandt, 1938) [JQ: iii 2014] Subfamily: Heliothinae Heliothis nubigera (Herrich-Schäffer, 1851) [AS: ii 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Subfamily: Oncocnemidinae Cleonymia chabordis (Oberthür, 1876) [JA: v 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Order: Diptera Family: Tabanidae Subfamily: Tabaninae Haematopota coronata Austen, 1908 [JQ: iv 2014] Family: Asilidae Subfamily: Asilinae

Neolophonotus papei Bosák & Hradský, 2011 [JA: v 2014] Neomochtherus sp. [JA: v 2014] Promachus rectangularis Loew, 1854 [JA: v 2014]

Family: Mythicomyiidae Subfamily: Platypyginae *Cyrtosia* sp. [WK: i 2014] Subfamily: Leilaiyinae *Leylaiya* sp. [AS: ii 2014]

Family: Bombyliidae Subfamily: Heterotropinae Heterotropus sp. [AS: ii 2014] Subfamily: Bombyliinae Systoechus sp. [JA: v 2014] Subfamily: Anthracinae Anthrax sp. [JQ: iv 2014] Exoprosopa linearis Bezzi, 1924 [JA: v 2014] Spogostylum sp. [WK: vi 2014]

Family: Therevidae Subfamily: Phycinae *Acathrito* sp. [JQ: iv 2014]

Family: Hybotidae Subfamily: Tachydromiinae *Platypalpus* sp. [JA: v 2014]

Family: Dolichopodidae Subfamily: Diaphorinae Asyndetus sp. [JQ: iv 2014] Subfamily: Medeterinae Medetera sp. [JA: v 2014] Deposited: ONHM Subfamily: Sciapodinae Condylostylus longicornis (Fabricius, 1775) [JQ: iv 2014]

Family: Phoridae Subfamily: Metopininae *Megaselia* sp. [WK: i 2014; AS: ii 2014; JQ: iv 2014]

Family: Syrphidae Subfamily: Syrphinae Simosyrphus (Ischiodon) aegyptius (Wiedemann, 1830) [AS: ii 2014] Deposited: ONHM Subfamily: Eristalinae Eristalinus taeniops (Wiedemann, 1818) [JA: v 2014] Deposited: ONHM

Family: Pipunculidae

Subfamily: Pipunculinae *Eudorylas* sp. [JQ: iv 2014; JA: v 2014] Family: Sarcophagidae Subfamily: Paramacronychiinae *Wohlfahrtia* sp. [AS: ii 2014] Subfamily: Sarcophaginae *Sarcophaga hirtipes* Wiedemann, 1830 [WK: i 2014] Deposited: ONHM *Sarcophaga ruficornis* (Fabricius, 1794) [JQ: iv 2014] Deposited: ONHM *Sarcophaga* sp. [JA: v 2014]

Deposited: ONHM

Subfamily: Miltogramminae

Taxigramma multipunctata (Rondani, 1859) [JA: v 2014]

Family: Tephritidae Subfamily: Dacinae Neoceratitis efflatouni (Hendel, 1931) [AS: ii 2014] Subfamily: Tephritinae Dioxyna sp. [JA: v 2014] Katonaia sp., nr. aida Hering, 1938 [JQ: iv 2014; JA: v 2014] Metasphenisca sp., nr. hazelae Munro, 1947 [JQ: iv 2014] Metasphenisca negeviana (Freidberg, 1974) [JQ: iv 2014; JA: v 2014] Trupanea sp. [AS: ii 2014] Trupanea stellata (Fuesslin, 1775) [JA: i 2014]

Family: Agromyzidae Subfamily: Phytomyzinae *Liriomyza* sp. [AS: ii 2014] *Phytomyza* sp. [WK: i 2014] *Pseudonapomyza* sp. [AS: i 2014]

Family: Chloropidae Subfamily: Oscinellinae *Pselaphia flava* Sabrosky, 1957 [AS: ii 2014]

Family: Heleomyzidae Subfamily: Trixoscelidinae *Trixoscelis* sp. [AS: ii 2014]

Family: Sphaeroceridae Subfamily: Limosininae *Kimosina* sp. [AS: ii 2014]

Family: Ephydridae Subfamily: Gymnomyzinae

Athyroglossa sp. [AS: ii 2014; JQ: iv 2014]

**Deposited: ONHM** 

Family: Anthomyiidae Subfamily: Anthomyiinae Anthomyia amoena (Macquart, 1851) [JA: v 2014] Anthomyia ornata (Bigot, 1885) [JA: v 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Anthomyia sp., nr. whitei Ackland, 2001 [AS: ii 2014; JA: v 2014] Delia platura (Meigen, 1826) [JA: v 2014] Delia sp. [AS: ii 2014; JA: v 2014] Deposited: ONHM Family: Muscidae Subfamily: Coenosiinae Coenosia attenuata Stein in Becker, 1903 [WK: i 2014; AS: ii 2014; JA: v 2014] Coenosia humilis Meigen, 1826 [AS: ii 2014; JA: v 2014] Limnophora aculeipes Stein, 1913 [AS: ii 2014] Limnophora rufimana (Strobl, 1893) [AS: ii 2014] Lispe nana Macquart, 1835 [WK: i 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Lispe pectinipes (Becker, 1903) [AS: ii 2014] Pygophora sp. [AS: ii 2014] Subfamily: Muscinae Musca albina Wiedemann, 1830 [AS: ii 2014] Musca domestica Linnaeus, 1758 [AS: ii 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Musca lucidula (Loew, 1856) [AS: ii 2014] Musca sorbens Wiedemann, 1830 [AS: ii 2014] Subfamily: Atherigoninae Atherigona humeralis (Wiedemann, 1830) [JA: v 2014] Atherigona naqvii Steyskal, 1966 [AS: ii 2014] Subfamily: Phaoniinae Helina coniformis (Stein in Becker, 1903) [AS: ii 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Family: Calliphoridae Subfamily: Chrysomyinae Chrysomya albiceps (Wiedemann, 1819) [AS: ii 2014; JQ: iv 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Chrysomya megacephala (Fabricius, 1794) [JQ: iv 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Chrysomya sp. [JQ: iv 2014] Subfamily: Polleniinae Pollenia sp. [JA: v 2014]

Family: Tachinidae Subfamily: Exoristinae Acemyia sp. [AS: ii 2014] Exorista xanthaspis (Wiedemann, 1830) [JA: v 2014] Deposited: ONHM Subfamily: Phasiinae Genus Nr. Rondaniooestrus [JA: v 2014] Subfamily: Goniinae Palexorista sp. [JA: v 2014] Subfamily: Tachininae Macquartia sp., nr. tenebricosa (Meigen, 1824) [JA: v 2014]

Family: Rhiniidae Subfamily: Rhiniinae *Isomyia terminata* (Widemann, 1830) [JA: v 2014] *Rhyncomya bullata* Deeming, 1996 [AS: February 2014; JQ: iv 2014] *Rhyncomya* sp. [JA: v 2014] Deposited: ONHM

Family: Oestridae Subfamily: Oestrinae *Oestrus ovis* Linnaeus, 1758 [JQ: iv 2014] Deposited: ONHM

Order: Hymenoptera

Family: Aphelinidae Subfamily: Coccophagnae

*Encarsia lutea* (Masi, 1909) **New record** [Oman Botanic Garden: iv 2016]. Col. S. Al Rijeiby *Encarsia sophia* (Girault & Dodd, 1915) **New record** [Oman Botanic Garden: i 2017]. Col. S. Al Rijeiby

Note: Both the species above were reared from whiteflies of the *Bemisia tabaci* species complex on *Grewia villosa*. Mating was observed in *E. lutea*, footage of which can be seen at this link: https://vimeo.com/218456567. Recent molecular studies suggest that both parasitoid species may be complexes of distinct biological species, though extremely similar morphologically.

*Encarsia indigoferae* Polaszek & Manzari, 2008 [WK: i 2017]. Col. A. Polaszek *Pteroptrix arabicus* (Ferrière, 1970) **New record**. [Wadi Quriyat: iii 1988]. Col. unknown

Family: Bradynobaenidae Subfamily: Apterogyninae *Macroocula sinaica* (Invreia, 1963) [RS: xi 2013; AS: February 2014]

Family Crabronidae Subfamily: Nyssoninae *Bembix oculata* Panzer, 1801 [Old road to Sur: April 2015; Wadi Mayh: April 2015]

Family: Formicidae

Subfamily: Formicinae Camponotus acvapimensis Mayr, 1862 [AS: ii 2014] Camponotus atlantis Forel, 1890 [JA: v 2014] Camponotus sericeus (Fabricius, 1798) [JA: v 2014] Camponotus xerxes Forel, 1904 [AS: ii 2014; JQ: iv & xi 2014; JA: v 2014] Camponotus sp. [JA: v 2014] Cataglyphis albicans (Roger, 1859) [AS: ii 2014] Cataglyphis flavobrunnea Collingwood & Agosti, 1996 [AS: ii 2014] Cataglyphis holgerseni Collingwood & Agosti, 1996 [JA: v 2014] Nylanderia jaegerskioeldi (Mayr, 1904) [JQ: xi 2014] Polyrhachis lacteipennis Smith, 1858 [Lizugh Village: iv 2015]. Col. R. Kamnitzer Subfamily: Myrmicinae Crematogaster acaciae Forel, 1892 [AS: ii 2014] Lepisiota elegantissima (Collingwood & van Harten, 2011 in Collingwood et al. 2011) [Ghubrah Canyon: i 2016] **Deposited: ONHM** Lepisiota omanensis Sharaf & Monks, 2016 (in Sharaf et al. 2016) [JQ: iv 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Lepisiota spinisquama (Kuznetsoc-Ugamsky, 1929) [AS: ii 2014; JQ: xi 2014] Monomorium venustum (Smith, 1858) [JQ: xi 2014] Trichomyrmex mayri (Forel, 1902) [JQ: xi 2014; JA: v 2014] Subfamily: Ponerinae Anochetus annetteae Sharaf (in Sharaf et al. 2017) [Hibra Village: iv 2015]. Col. M. Sharaf Deposited: ONHM Family: Halictidae Subfamily: Halictinae Lasioglossum ablenum (Bluthgen, 1934) [Oman Botanic Gardens: ii 2017] Lasioglossum mose Ebmer, 1974 [Oman Botanic Gardens: ii 2017] Halictus humkalensis (Bluthgen, 1936) [JA: v 2014] **Deposited: ONHM** Halictus lucidipennis Smith, 1853 [Oman Botanic Gardens: ii 2017] Halictus tibialis Walker, 1871 [Nr. Bima Village: iii 2018] Subfamily: Nomiinae Nomia vespoides Walker, 1871 [Siya Village: iii 2018] Pseudapis nilotica (Smith, 1875) [Wadi Mayh: iii 2018] Family: Megachilidae Subfamily: Megachilinae Megachile felix (Pasteels, 1979) [Nr. Fins Village: iii 2018] Family: Apidae Subfamily: Apinae

Amegilla savignyi (Lepeletier, 1841) [AS: ii 2014] Deposited: ONHM

Eucera (Synhalonia) sp. [Ghubrah Canyon: i 2016] Apis florea (Fabricius, 1787) [JA: v 2014] Deposited: ONHM Apis mellifera (Linnaeus, 1758) [AS: ii 2014; JA: v 2014] Deposited: ONHM Family: Megaspilidae Subfamily: Megaspilinae Dendrocerus sp. [WK: i 2017] Col. A. Polaszek Family: Mutillidae Subfamily: Pseudophotopsidinae Pseudophotopsis binghami Bischoff, 1920 [AS: ii 2014] Family: Pompilidae

Subfamily: Pepsinae Ageniella sp. [JQ: iv 2014; JA: v 2014] Deposited: ONHM Hemipepsis sp. [JQ: iv 2014] Deposited: ONHM Subfamily: Pompilinae Agenioideus sp. [AS: ii 2014] Deposited: ONHM Aporinellus sp. [JA: v 2014] Deposited: ONHM

Family: Scoliidae Subfamily: Scoliinae Scolia erythrocephala Fabricius, 1798 [Lizugh Village: iv 2015] Subfamily: Campsomeriinae Campsomeriella thoracica (Fabricius, 1793) [Hibra Village: iv 2015]

Family: Tiphiidae Subfamily: Myzininae *Poecilotiphia* sp. [AS: ii 2014]

Family: Trichogrammatidae Subfamily: Trichogrammatinae *Trichogramma euproctidis* (Girault, 1911) **New record** [Wadi Al Khoud: i 2017] Col. A. Polaszek

Family: Vespidae
Subfamily: Eumeninae
Delta dimidiatipenne (de Saussure, 1852) [Ghubrah Canyon: vi 2016]
Delta hottentottum elegans (de Saussure, 1852) [Nr Birkat al Mouz ii 2016; Ghubrah Canyon: ii, iv & vi 2016; Nr. Taww Village: iii 2016; Old Road to Sur iv 2016; Nr Samail Village iv 2016; Nr. Buwah Village: x 2016]
Delta lepeleterii (de Saussure, 1852) [Nr. Taww Village: iii 2016; Yiti Road: iii 2016]

Ischnogasteroides leptogaster (Walker, 1871) [JQ: xi 2014; Nr Ra's as Haad iii 2016] Subfamily: Masarinae Jugurtia jemenensis Kostylev, 1935 [Nr. Wadi Al-Arbein: iv 2016]. Col. A. Polaszek Subfamily: Polistinae Polistes wattii (Cameron, 1900) [Ra's ash Shajar: xi 2013; Wadi Khuair: i & vi 2014; JQ: iv & xi 2014; Lizugh Village: iv 2015] Deposited: ONHM Subfamily: Vespinae Vespa orientalis (Linnaeus, 1771) [RS: xi 2013; Wadi Khuair: i & vi 2014; JQ: iv & xi 2014] Deposited: ONHM

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No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

### ORCID

Steven Ross D http://orcid.org/0000-0001-6534-7484 Andrew Polaszek D http://orcid.org/0000-0002-7171-3353

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