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SUMMARY

The present work dealt with survey and classification of subfamilies Opatrinae and Pedininae (Tenebrionidae – Coleoptera) in Egypt.

The present taxonomic study started with through review of pertinent investigations on the family Tenebrionidae in general and the two subfamilies, within the scope of the work, in particular. The gathered information indicated that the tenebrionids have received very little attention allover the world and some taxonomic studies in Egypt, and the situation of some tenebrionid taxa is vague and in need of investigation. This group of beetles is universally considered as minor harm species to agriculture. However, the root-feeding larvae of some tenebrionids can also be agricultural pests especially of young plants and during dry conditions. Also, young seedlings can be damaged by adult tenebrionids, especially by species of *Gonocephalum* Chevrolat, *Opatrum* Fabricius and related genera.

Recently, a great part of family Tenebrionidae has been covered taxonomically in Egypt. The present work is planned to deal with two subfamilies of the remaining part, i.e. classification and determination of the recent taxonomic status

of the available species attributed to subfamilies Opatrinae and Pedininae for the first time in Egypt, depending on coleopterous specialists in Egypt and in the world, as well as the available recent taxonomic investigations and identification keys.

Different sources of information, specially Alfieri (1976) in his monograph about the Coleoptera of Egypt, indicated the existence of 71 species within the two subfamilies in Egypt. Representatives of 48 Species were available at hand whether obtained from the field collection during this work and/or at the insect collections. Some tenebrionid species, which have never been obtained were introduced in the work accorging to the original description or the diagnostic features adopted by certain investigators. Some other tenebrionids were not included in the present work, and left at the time being. According to the recent investigations, this group of insects, under investigation, was subjected to some nomenclatorial changes, whether in the generic name or specific name or in both.

The recognition characters, with some illustrations, for all higher or supraspecific taxa are recorded. Illustrated diagnostic feature are submitted for all tenebrionid species under investigation. Also, identification keys are constructed wherever needed and found to be useful, i.e. in cases where any

category includes more than one taxon of inferior rank: key to separate the two subfamilies within the scope of the present work, key to the genera in each subfamily and key to the species in each genus.

In addition, synonyms of the genera and species, local and world distribution and distributional maps for the species under investigation are provided. Also, distribution of all species included in the two subfamilies and represented in Egypt, in the main geographical zones as indicated in the Egyptian Insect Collections and more recently in author collection was given.