The subfamily Thorictinae (Coleoptera, Dermestidae) from Saudi Arabia

Jiří Háva¹, Mahmoud S. Abdel-Dayem², Hathal M. Aldhafer²

¹ Forestry and Game Management Research Institute, Strnady 136, CZ-252 02 Praha 5 – Zbraslav, Czech Republic
² King Saud University Museum of Arthropods (KSMA), Plant Protection Department, College of Food and Agricultural Sciences, King Saud University, P.O. Box 2460 Riyadh 11451, Saudi Arabia

Corresponding author: Mahmoud S. Abdel-Dayem (mseleem@ksu.edu.sa)

Academic editor: T. Keith Philips | Received 3 February 2021 | Accepted 7 March 2021 | Published 8 April 2021

Citation: Háva J, Abdel-Dayem MS, Aldhafer HT (2021) The subfamily Thorictinae (Coleoptera, Dermestidae) from Saudi Arabia. ZooKeys 1029: 155–174. https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.1029.63940

Abstract

In this study, the Saudi Arabian Thorictinae beetle species, Thorictus riyadhensis Háva & Abdel-Dayem, sp. nov., T. shadensis Háva & Abdel-Dayem, sp. nov., T. sharafi Háva & Abdel-Dayem, sp. nov., T. haniifahensis Háva & Abdel-Dayem, sp. nov. are described, illustrated, and compared with related species. Three other species: T. castaneus Germar, 1834; T. foreli Wasmann, 1894; and T. peyerimhoffi Chobaut, 1904 are excluded from the fauna of Saudi Arabia. A list of Thorictinae species from the Arabian Peninsula is provided.

Keywords

Beetles, new species, Saudi Arabia, taxonomy, Thaumaphrastini, Thorictini, Thorictus, Thorictodes

Introduction

Thorictinae Agassiz, 1846, with 189 described species worldwide, is a myrmecophilous subfamily of the family Dermestidae (Coleoptera) (Háva 2020a, 2021). Its members can be recognized by their small size, strongly convex and strongly hardened bodies, reduced or absent eyes, absent wings, and their rounded hind coxae that do not reach the outer edge of the metasternum (Háva 2004; Leschen et al. 2010). Thorictinae are currently divided into two tribes, Thaumaphrastini and Thorictini, and include four
genera: *Thorictodes* Reitter, 1875, *Afrothorictus* Andreae, 1967, *Macrothorictus* Andreae, 1967, and *Thorictus* Germar, 1834 (Háva 2020a). The genus *Thorictodes* comprises only five species (Herrmann et al. 2011). Two species in *Afrothorictus* and seven species in *Macrothorictus* are known (Háva 2020a). The genus *Thorictus* currently includes 175 species and subspecies from the Palearctic, Oriental, and Afrotropical Regions (Háva 2015a, 2020a).

Thorictinae fauna, in the Arabian Peninsula in general and in Saudi Arabia in particular, is poorly studied due to the lack of adequate dedicated investigation and scant published records for this group. So far, only four species are known from the Arabian Peninsula (Háva 2010, 2021; Abdel-Dayem et al. 2017). *Thorictus peyerimhoffi* Choobaut, 1904 was the first species to be described from Saudi Arabia (Háva 2010) and is now excluded from the Saudi fauna due to misplacement of the type locality “Kasr-er-Rabbat”, to Saudi Arabia. The second species, *T. arabicus*, was described by Háva (2010) in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia. In their work on the beetle fauna of Rawdhat Khorim National Park, Central Saudi Arabia, Abdel-Dayem et al. (2017) reported *Thorictodes heydeni* Reitter, 1875, *T. castaneus* Germar, 1834, and *T. foreli* Wasmann 1894. However, *T. castaneus* and *T. foreli* are now excluded from the Saudi fauna due to misidentifications. Recently, Háva (2021) described *Thorictus omanensis* from Oman.

While examining myrmecophilous dermestid specimens from Saudi Arabia, four new species of *Thorictus* were determined and are described below. The present study follows the revision of Thorictinae from the Afrotropical Region (Háva 2013, 2014, 2015b, 2020b).

**Material and methods**

**Measurements**

The size of beetles’ bodies or body parts can be useful in species recognition; thus, the following measurements were made. Total length (TL): linear distance from anterior margin of pronotum to apex of elytra, pronotal width. (PW): maximum linear transverse distance and elytral width. Elytral width (EW): maximum linear transverse distance. All measurements are given in millimeters. Locality labels are cited in the original version.

The ant species used in the present paper are identified by Dr Mostafa R. Sharaf (Plant Protection Department, College of Food and Agriculture Sciences, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia) and the nomenclature follow the online catalogue (Bolton 2020).

Specimens of the species described were labeled as follows: “HOLOTYPE” [or “PARATYPE,” respectively] *Thorictus ‘species_name’* sp. nov. Jiří Háva & MS Abdel-Dayem det. 2021.”
Male genitalia were not studied. The differential diagnosis of the aedeagi is often problematical and interspecific variation is currently very poorly defined (John 1963). The two species groups considered here were first established by John in 1963.

Acronyms of depositories

JHAC  Jiří Háva, Private Entomological Laboratory and Collection, Únětice u Prahy, Prague-West, Czech Republic;
KSMA  King Saud University Museum of Arthropods, Plant Protection Department, College of Food and Agriculture Sciences, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Results

Family Dermestidae Latreille, 1804
Subfamily Thorictinae Agassiz, 1846
Tribe Thaumaphrastini Anderson, 1949
Genus Thorictodes Reitter, 1875

Thorictodes heydeni Reitter, 1875

Material examined. Saudi Arabia • 1 ex; Riyadh; Nov. 1989; Habib leg.; on ground; J. Háva det.; JHAC • 1 ex; Riyadh, 5 Oct. 1989; in animal dung; J. Háva det.; KSMA.

Remarks. Cosmopolitan species (Háva 2020a). In Saudi Arabia, this species is only distributed in the Riyadh Province (Fig. 1) and it has been reported at Rawdhat Khorim National Park, Ramah, Riyadh (Abdel-Dayem et al. 2017).

Tribe Thorictini Agassiz, 1846
Genus Thorictus Germar, 1834

Thorictus arabicus Háva, 2010

Material examined. Saudi Arabia • 1 ex; Eastern Province, Khuris; [25.08667°N, 48.04306°E]; J. Háva det.; KSMA.

Remarks. An endemic species to Saudi Arabia that was originally described from the Eastern Province (Háva 2010) (Fig. 1). The species was erroneously published by Abdel-Dayem et al. (2017) as T. castaneus Germar, 1834, a Mediterranean species that has been reported in Algeria, Egypt, Greece, Morocco, and Syria (Háva 2015a).
Figure 1. Map of Saudi Arabian provinces and distribution of Thorictinae species.

Figure 2. Habitus dorsal aspect of *Thorictus arabicus* Háva, 2010.
Thorictus riyadhensis Háva & Abdel-Dayem, sp. nov.
http://zoobank.org/6018C111-2A2F-43D8-A506-E885A4B9120A
Figs 3, 4

Material examined. **Holotype.** SAUDI ARABIA • 1 ex; Riyadh Province, Wadi Hanifah, WHS04 [location near Waseel]; 24.86682°N, 46.45959°E; alt. 694.942 m; 29 Apr. 2015; Abdel-Dayem M et al. leg.; pitfall trap; KSMA. **Paratypes.** SAUDI ARABIA • 1 ex; Riyadh Province, Az Zulfi, Rawdat Al Sabalh; 26°22.040’N, 44°59.137’E; alt. 572 m; 31 Jan. 2016; Abdel-Dayem M et al. leg.; pitfall trap; KSMA • 1 ex; Riyadh Province, Rhodet Khorim; 25°25.943’N, 47°13.863’E; alt. 572 m; 28 Apr. 2012; pitfall trap, *Calotropis procera*; KSMA • 1 ex; same collection data as preceding; 9 Jun. 2012; pitfall trap, *Acacia gerrardii*; KSMA • 1 ex; same collection data as preceding; 26 May 2012; pitfall trap, *Acacia gerrardii*; JHAC • 1 ex; same collection data as preceding; 26 May 2012; PT, *Lycium shawii*; KSMA • 1 ex; same collection data as preceding; 10 Dec. 2011; pitfall trap; KSMA.

**Description of holotype.** Body small, brown covered by long, yellow setae on dorsal surfaces and short setae on ventral surfaces. Measurements (mm): TL 2.9, PW 1.9, EW 1.9. Head finely punctate with long yellow setae. Labial palpi entirely brown. Antennae brown, with 11 antennomeres; antennal club compact, with three antennomeres. Pronotum as finely punctate as head and covered by long yellow setation. Lateral margin of pronotum not dentate. Pronotum in posterior part near scutellum without bumps. Ventral posterior pronotal angles with long yellow setation. Scutellum not visible from above. Elytra very finely punctate covered by long yellow setation. Each elytron in anterior part near humeri with one large bump. Epipleuron finely punctate, anterior angles with long yellow setation. Prosternum finely punctate. Mesosternum finely punctate, mesosternal bulge. Metasternum finely punctate. Visible abdominal ventrites very finely punctate and covered by long yellow setae. First abdominal ventrite without anterior, longitudinal striation. Legs brown, covered by yellow setae.

**Variability.** Body measurements (mm): TL 2.5–2.9, PW 1.5–1.9, EW 1.5–1.9.

**Differential diagnosis.** The new species belong to the *castaneus* species group, from Saudi Arabia. There is currently only one known species, *Thorictus arabicus* Háva, 2010 but the new species differs from it in the abovementioned characteristics.

**Etymology.** Named according to type locality: Riyadh Province.

**Remarks.** The species was erroneously published by Abdel-Dayem et al. (2017) as *Thorictus foreli* Wasmann, 1894. *Thorictus foreli* is a North African species, occurring in Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia (Háva 2015a), so it is excluded from the fauna of Saudi Arabia.

**Ecological notes.** The holotype was found in Wadi Hanifah at an area with loam soil covered by *Carthamus oxyacantha* M. Bieb. (Asteraceae) and *Zilla spinosa* (L.) Prantl (Brassicaceae) (Fig. 5). The ant species *Camponotus thoracicus* (Fabricius 1804), *Cataglyphis holgerseni* (Collingwood & Agosti, 1996), *Cataglyphis lividus* (André, 1881), *Lepisiota simplex* (Forel, 1892), and *Monomorium abeillei* (André, 1881) were collected.
**Figure 3.** Habitus dorsal aspect of *Thorictus riyadhensis* sp. nov. Háva & Abdel-Dayem. **a** specimen from Wadi Hanifah. **b** specimen from Rhodet Khorim.

**Figure 4.** *Thorictus riyadhensis* Háva & Abdel-Dayem, sp. nov. **a** head lateral eye. **b** ventral setation on pronotum and metepisternum. *Thorictus arabicus* Háva, 2010. **c** head lateral eye. **d** ventral setation on pronotum and metepisternum.
Figure 5. Habitat of *Thorictus riyadhensis* Háva & Abdel-Dayem, sp. nov. holotype in Wadi Hanifah, Ad Diriyah, Riyadh Province, at an elevation of 695 m. *Carthamus oxyacantha* M. Bieb. (Asteraceae) in the bottom right corner, and *Zilla spinosa* (L.) Prantl (Brassicaceae) in the foreground.

Figure 6. Habitat of *Thorictus riyadhensis* Háva & Abdel-Dayem, sp. nov. paratype in Rawdat Al Sabalh, Az Zulfi, Riyadh Province, at 670 m elevation. *Calotropis procera* (Aiton) W.T. Aiton (Apocynaceae) in background, and *Pulicaria undulata* (L.) C. A. Mey. (Asteraceae) in the foreground and among the shrubs.
with the holotype in the same pitfall trap. The paratype was found in loam area covered with Calotropis procera (Aiton) W.T. Aiton (Apocynaceae) and Pulicaria undulata (L.) C. A. Mey. (Asteraceae) at Rawdat Al Sabalh (Fig. 6). While at Rhodet Khorim, the paratypes were collected from a sandy area using pitfall traps under canopies of Acacia gerrardii Benth. (Fabaceae), Calotropis procera (Aiton) W.T. Aiton, and Lycium shawii Roem. & Schult. (Solanaceae) (Fig. 7). Ant species of Camponotus sericeus (Fabricius, 1798), Camponotus xerxes Forel, 1904, Cataglyphis fisheri Sharaf & Aldawood, 2015, Cataglyphis lividus (André, 1881), Cataglyphis niger (André, 1881), Cataglyphis viaticoides (André, 1881), Lepisiota dammama Collingwood & Agosti, 1996, Lepisiota simplex (Forel, 1892), Tetramorium chefketi Forel, 1911, Tetramorium sericeiventre Emery, 1877, and Trichomyrmex mayri (Forel, 1902) were caught with the paratypes from the same pitfall traps. Thorictus riadhensis was collected during December and January, and from April to June.

**Geographical distribution.** This new Thorictini species is known from Najd Plateau, Central Saudi Arabia, Riyadh Province (Fig. 1), at Wadi Hanifah (Ad Diriyah), Rawdat Al Sabalh (Az Zulfi), and Rhodet Khorim (Ramah).
orientalis species group

Thorictus hanifahensis Háva & Abdel-Dayem, sp. nov.
http://zoobank.org/613E430C-72E7-4983-8FD9-A9A4A2F47E54
Figs 8, 9

Material examined. Holotype. Saudi Arabia • 1 ex; Riyadh Province, Wadi Hanifah, WHS01 [location near Waseel]; 24.87011°N, 46.456775°E; alt. 707.051 m; 12 Oct. 2015; Abdel-Dayem M et al. leg.; pitfall trap; KSMA.

Description of holotype. Body small, brown covered by long yellow setae on dorsal surfaces and short setae on ventral surfaces. Measurements (mm): TL 2.8, PW 1.6, EW 1.6. Head finely punctate with long yellow setae. Labial palpi entirely brown. Antennae brown, with 11 antennomeres, antennal club compact with three antennomeres. Pronotum as finely punctate as head, covered by long yellow setation. Lateral margin of pronotum not dentate. Pronotum in posterior part near scutellum without bumps. Ventral posterior pronotal angles with long yellow setation. Scutellum not visible from above. Elytra very finely punctate covered by long yellow setation. Each elytron in anterior part near humeri with one very small bump. Epipleuron finely punctate, anterior angles with long yellow setation. Prosternum finely punctate. Mesosternum finely punctate, mesosternal bulge. Metasternum finely punctate. Visible abdominal ventrites very finely punctate, covered by long yellow setae. First abdominal ventrite with anterior, longitudinal striation. Legs brown, covered by yellow setae.

Differential diagnosis. The new species is similar to T. munganasti Reitter, 1908 (Egypt) but differs from it by the abovementioned characteristics.

Etymology. Named according to type locality: Wadi Hanifah.

Ecological notes. This species was found in an area with loam texture, which is dominated by Tamarix senegalensis DC. (Tamaricaceae) and some Acacia gerrardii Benth. (Fabaceae) (Fig. 10). The single specimen was collected by pitfall trap in October, along with the ant species Camponotus sericeus (Fabricius, 1798), Camponotus thoracicus (Fabricius, 1804), Cataglyphis holgerseni Collingwood & Agosti, 1996, Cataglyphis livida (André, 1881), Lepisiota simplex (Forel, 1892), Monomorium abeillei André, 1881, Monomorium niloticum Emery, 1881, Tetraromerium caespitum (Linnaeus, 1758), and Trichomyrmex mayri (Forel, 1902) in the same trap.

Geographical distribution. Thorictus hanifahensis Háva & Abdel-Dayem, sp. nov. is known only from its type locality in central Saudi Arabia, at Wadi Hanifah in the Ad Diriyah Governorate, Riyadh Province (Fig. 1).

Thorictus peyerimhoffi Chobaut, 1904

Remarks. Chobaut (1904) described the species from “Kasr-er-Rabbat in Arabia”, a locality located in Jordan (Tronquet 1998). The species is excluded from the fauna of Saudi Arabia.
Figure 8. Habitus dorsal aspect of *Thorictus hanifahensis* Háva & Abdel-Dayem, sp. nov.

Figure 9. *Thorictus hanifahensis* Háva & Abdel-Dayem, sp. nov. a head lateral eye b ventral setation on pronotum and metepisternum, *T. munganasti* (Reitter 1908) c head lateral eye (according to John 1963) d ventral setation on pronotum and metepisternum (according to John 1963).
Thorictus shadensis Háva & Abdel-Dayem, sp. nov.

http://zoobank.org/B2CC6ACC-DA67-49F7-A14D-4BA09F608F0B
Figs 11, 12

Material examined. **Holotype.** Saudi Arabia • 1 ex; Al Bahah, Shada Al Ala Nature Reserve; 19°50.710’N, 41°18.267’E; alt. 1474 m; 5 Jul. 2014; Al Dhafer H, Fadl H, Abdel-Dayem M, El Torkey A, El Gharbawy A leg.; pitfall trap; KSMA. **Paratypes.** Saudi Arabia • 1 ex; Al Bahah, Shada Al Ala Nature Reserve; 19°50.329’N, 41°18.604’E; alt. 1563 m; 23 Apr. 2014; Al Dhafer H, Fadl H, Abad Eidayem M, El Torkey A, El Gharbawy A leg.; pitfall trap; KSMA • 1 ex; same collection data as preceding; 19°51.762’N, 41°18.089’E; alt. 1225 m; 23 Apr. 2014; Al Dhafer H, Fadl H, Abad Eidayem M, El Torkey A, El Gharbawy A leg.; pitfall trap; JHAC.

**Description of holotype.** Body small, brown covered by short yellow setae on dorsal surfaces and short setae on ventral surfaces. Measurements (mm): TL 2.1, PW 1.1, EW 1.2. Head finely punctate with short yellow setae. Labial palpi entirely brown. Antennae brown, with 11 antennomeres, antennal club compact with three antennomeres. Pronotum as finely punctate as head, covered by short yellow setation. Lateral margin of pronotum not dentate. Pronotum in posterior part near scutellum without bumps. Ventral posterior pronotal angles without long yellow setation. Scutellum not visible from above. Elytra very finely punctate covered by short yellow setation. Each
Figure 11. Habitus dorsal aspect of *Thorictus shadensis* Háva & Abdel-Dayem, sp. nov.

Figure 12. *Thorictus shadensis* Háva & Abdel-Dayem, sp. nov. **a** head lateral eye **b** ventral setation on pronotum and metepisternum, *T. abyssinicus* John, 1963 **c** head lateral eye **d** ventral setation on pronotum and metepisternum, *T. dilatipennis* Reitter, 1881 **e** head lateral eye (according to John 1963) **f** ventral setation on pronotum and metepisternum (according to John 1963).
elytron in anterior part near humeri with one very small bump. Epipleuron finely punctate, anterior angles with short yellow setation and small bump. Prosternum finely punctate. Mesosternum finely punctate, mesosternal bulge. Metasternum finely punctate. Visible abdominal ventrites very finely punctate, covered by short yellow setae. First abdominal ventrite with anterior, longitudinal striation. Legs brown, covered by yellow setae.

**Variability.** Body measurements (mm): TL 2.1–2.2, PW 1.0–1.1, EW 1.1–1.2.

**Differential diagnosis.** The new species belongs to the *orientalis* species group and is very similar to two other species: *T. abyssinicus* John, 1963 (Ethiopia) and *T. dilatipennis* Reitter, 1881 (Egypt, Syria), but differs from them by the abovementioned characteristics.

**Etymology.** Named according to type locality: Shada Al Ala Nature Reserve.

**Ecological notes.** The adult beetles were found during April and July at elevations of 1225–1563 m in the Shada Al Ala Nature Reserve. The specimens were collected by pitfall traps in steep slopes covered with vegetation dominated by *Acacia* thorn woodlands and shrubs of Barbary fig or cactus pear, *Opuntia ficus-indica* (L.) Mill. (Cactaceae) (Figs 13, 14). This new species was caught with ant species of *Camponotus aegyptiacus* (Emery, 1915), *Crematogaster* sp., *Lepisiota obtusa* (Emery, 1901), *Monomorium jizane* Collingwood & Agosti, 1996, *Monomorium rabirium* Bolton, 1987, *Pheidole* sp., and *Tetramorium simillium* (Smith, 1851) in the same pitfall traps.

Figure 13. *Acacia* thorn woodlands, the type locality of *Thorictus shadensis* Háva & Abdel-Dayem, sp. nov. holotype at Shada Al Ala Nature Reserve on the Shada Mountain, Baha Province, southwestern Saudi Arabia, at an elevation of 695 m.
Geographical distribution. This species is only known from the type locality in the Shada Al Ala Nature Reserve, on the Shada Mountain, in the west of the Sarawat Mountains at Al Mekhwah, Baha Province (Fig. 1).

Thorictus sharafi Háva & Abdel-Dayem, sp. nov.
http://zoobank.org/75B52C5E-77B0-4BE7-9074-48B32BFE779C
Figs 15, 16

Material examined. Holotype. Saudi Arabia • 1 ex; Baha Region, Alqamh Park, Belgershi; 19°48.407’N, 41°42.718’E; alt. 1931 m; 17 May 2010; Dr M.R. Sharaf leg.; KSMA. Paratypes. Saudi Arabia • 1 ex; Baha Region, Amadan, Mandaq; 20°12.163’N, 41°13.906’E; alt. 1881 m; 19 May 2010; Dr M.R. Sharaf leg.; KSMA • 1 ex; Baha Region, Shohba forest; 20°02.723’N, 41°28.565’E; alt. 2324 m; 14 May 2010; Dr M.R. Sharaf leg. JHAC.

Description of holotype. Body small, brown covered by short yellow setae on dorsal surfaces and short setae on ventral surfaces. Measurements (mm): TL 2.1, PW 1.1, EW 1.2. Head finely punctate with short yellow setae. Labial palpi entirely brown. Antennae brown, with 11 antennomeres, antennal club compact with three antennomeres. Pronotum as finely punctate as head, covered by short yellow setation.
Figure 15. Habitus dorsal aspect of *Thorictus sharafi* Háva & Abdel-Dayem, sp. nov.

Figures 16. *Thorictus sharafi* Háva & Abdel-Dayem, sp. nov. a head lateral eye b ventral setation on pronotum and metepisternum, *T. dohrni* John, 1965 c head lateral eye d ventral setation on pronotum and metepisternum (according to John 1963).
Figure 17. Photo of African pencil cedar forest, *Juniperus procera* Hochst. ex Endl. (Cupressaceae), living habitat of *Thorictus sharafi* Háva & Abdel-Dayem, sp. nov. holotype at Alqamh Park, Belgershi, Baha Province, in the mountains of southwestern Saudi Arabia, at 1931 m elevation.

Figure 18. Living habitat of *Thorictus sharafi* Háva & Abdel-Dayem sp. nov. paratype in the mountains of southwestern Saudi Arabia, Baha Province, within the African pencil cedar forest, *Juniperus procera* Hochst. ex Endl. (Cupressaceae) of Shohba forest at 2324 m elevation.

Lateral margin of pronotum not dentate. Pronotum in posterior part near scutellum without bumps. Ventral posterior pronotal angles without long yellow setation. Scutellum not visible from above. Elytra very finely punctate covered by short yellow setation. Each elytron in anterior part near humeri with one very small bump. Epi-
Thorictinae of Saudi Arabia

Pleuron finely punctate; anterior angles with short yellow setation. Prosternum finely punctate. Mesosternum finely punctate, mesosternal bulge. Metasternum finely punctate. Visible abdominal ventrites very finely punctate, covered by short yellow setae. First abdominal ventrite with anterior, longitudinal striation. Legs brown, covered by yellow setae.

**Variability.** Body measurements (mm): TL 2.1–2.2, PW 1.0–1.1, EW 1.1–1.2.

**Differential diagnosis.** This new species is similar to *T. dohrni* John, 1965 (Ethiopia), but differs from it by the abovementioned characteristics.

**Etymology.** The specific epithet is a Latinized noun in the genitive case in the masculine form based on the honorific name “Dr Mostafa Sharaf,” who collected the specimens of this species.

**Ecological notes.** This new species inhabits areas at elevations of 1881–2324 m within the African pencil cedar forest, *Juniperus procera* Hochst. ex Endl. (Cupressaceae) in the Baha Province (Figs 17, 18). All specimens were collected by hand-picking under stones during May. Host unknown.

**Geographical distribution.** This species is known only from its type locality in the mountains of southwestern Saudi Arabia, at Alqamh Park, Amadan, and Shohba Forest in the Baha Province (Fig. 1).

**Discussion**

The study of the insect fauna of Saudi Arabia began with Buttiker and Wittmer (1979) who surveyed insects throughout the country. These surveys leading the entomological exploration of Saudi Arabia carried on for well over a half-century thereafter. However, the Thorictinae fauna remains insufficiently known due to a lack of adequate dedicated survey. Based on the examination of the literature records (Háva 2010, 2021; Abdel-Dayem et al. 2017) and collected specimens, the total number of Thorictinae species known from Saudi Arabia now stands at six species (Table 1). These species belong to two genera *Thorictodes* Reitter, 1875 and *Thorictus* Germar, 1834 under two tribes Thaumaphrastini and Thorictini, respectively (Háva 2020a). Of these species, four are new to science, namely *T. hanifahensis* Háva & Abdel-Dayem, sp. nov., *T. riyadhensis* Háva & Abdel-Dayem, sp. nov., *T. shadensis* Háva & Abdel-Dayem, sp. nov., and *T. sharafi* Háva & Abdel-Dayem, sp. nov. A cosmopolitan species *Thorictodes heydeni* Reitter, 1875 is known and only *T. arabicus* Háva, 2010 is endemic to the Saudi fauna. Herein we exclude three species from the fauna of Saudi Arabia, either due to erroneous publication such as *T. castaneus* Germar, 1834 and *T. foreli* Wasmann, 1894 (Abdel-Dayem et al. 2017) or taxonomic misplacement such as *Thorictus peyerimhoffi* Chobaut, 1904 (Háva 2010). Although the Arabian Peninsula occupies almost twice the area of Iran, the number of species recorded from the Arabian Peninsula (7 species Háva 2020a) is less than that recorded from Iran (10 species; Háva and Švarc 2020). No common species are shared between the two regions.

The male genitalia are very important for differential diagnoses in insect taxonomy. But interspecific variation in male genitalia within species of Thorictinae leads to prob-
lems in the differential diagnosis of the aedeagi (John 1963). Thus, we did not investigate the male genitalia of the studied specimens in this work.

We reported the ant species captured with the beetle species from the same pitfall trap. The host species of ants were not recognized during this study due to the fact that these specimens were collected accidentally from field surveys. The Thorictus species are phoretic and obligate myrmecophiles, either generalists or specialists (Lenoir et al. 2013) and they are considered detritivorous (Sánchez-Piñero and Gómez 1995). The members of Thorictus are generally associated with various Cataglyphis species (Lenoir et al. 2013).

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to Dr Ahmed Soliman, Iftekhar Rasool, and Ahmed Shams Al Ola, Plant Protection Department, College of Food and Agriculture Sciences, King Saud University, Saudi Arabia, for taking the colored photographs. We would like to thank Petr Zahradnik and Andreas Herrmann for their time spent on reviewing our manuscript and their comments helping us improving the article. The authors would like to extend their sincere appreciation to the Deanship of Scientific Research at King Saud University for funding this work [Research group No: RG-1437-009]. The paper was supported by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic, institutional support MZE-RO0118.

References

Abdel-Dayem MS, Fad HH, El-Torkey AM, Elgharbawy AA, Aldryhim YN, Kondratieff BC, Al Ansi AN, Aldhafer HM (2017) The beetle fauna (Insecta, Coleoptera) of the Rawdhat
Khorim National Park, Central Saudi Arabia. ZooKeys 653: 1–78. https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.653.10252

Bolton B (2020) An online catalog of the ants of the world. http://antcat.org [accessed 28 December 2020]

Buttiker W, Wittmer B (1979) Entomological expedition of the Natural History Museum, Basle to Saudi Arabia. Fauna of Saudi Arabia 1: 23–29.

Chobaut A (1904) Description de deux espèces nouvelles de Coléoptères de l’Arabie. Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de France 1904: 243–245.

Háva J (2004) World keys to the genera and subgenera of Dermestidae (Coleoptera), with descriptions, nomenclature and distributional records. Acta Musei Nationalis Pragae, Series B, Natural History 60(3–4): 149–64.

Háva J (2010) *Thorictus arabicus* sp. nov., a new species from Saudi Arabia (Coleoptera: Dermestidae: Thorictinae: Thorictini). Latvijas Entomologs 49: 32–34.

Háva J (2013) Revision of the subfamily Thorictinae, tribe Thorictini (Coleoptera: Dermestidae) from the Afrotropical Region. Part 1 – genera *Afrothorictus*, *Macrothorictus*. Annals of the Ditsong National Museum of Natural History 3: 91–98.

Háva J (2014) A revision of the subfamily Thorictinae, tribe Thorictini (Coleoptera: Dermestidae) from the Afrotropical Region. Part 2 – genus *Thorictus – T. castaneus* species group. Annals of the Ditsong National Museum of Natural History 4: 54–58.

Háva J (2015a) World Catalogue of Insects (Vol. 13). Dermestidae (Coleoptera). Leiden/Boston: Brill, 419 pp. https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004286610

Háva J (2015b) Revision of the subfamily Thorictinae, tribe Thorictini (Coleoptera: Dermestidae) from the Afrotropical Region Part 3 – genus *Thorictus – Thorictus orientalis* group (described species). Annals of the Ditsong National Museum of Natural History 5: 15–27.

Háva J (2020a) Dermestidae World (Coleoptera) – World Wide Web electronic publication (open in 2004): http://www.dermestidae.wz.cz [version 2018, update January 2020]

Háva J (2020b) Revision to the subfamily Thorictinae, tribe Thorictini (Coleoptera: Dermestidae) from Afrotropical Region Part 4 – genus *Thorictus – Thorictus orientalis* group (descriptions of three new species). Folia Heyrovskyana, Series A 28(1): 10–14.

Háva J (2021) A new *Thorictus* Germar, 1834 species from Sultanate of Oman (Coleoptera, Dermestidae, Thorictinae). Linzer Biologische Beiträge 52(2): 983–986.

Háva J, Švarc M (2020) Contribution to the knowledge of *Thorictus* Germar, 1834 from Iran (Coleoptera: Dermestidae: Thorictinae). Elateridarium 14: 169–173.

Herrmann A, Háva J, Zhang S (2011) A contribution to knowledge of Dermestidae (Coleoptera) from China. Studies and Reports, Taxonomical Series 7: 131–138.

John H (1963) Revision der Gattung *Thorictus* Germar (Thorictidae, Clavicornia Col.). Eine Bestandaufnahme, Kritik und Neubeschreibungen. Entomologische Abhandlungen und Berichte aus dem Staatlichen Museum für Tierkunde in Dresden 28: 177–255.

Leschen RA, Beutel R (2010) Coleoptera, Beetles: Morphology and Systematics (Elateroidea, Bostrichiformia, Cucujiformia Partim). Walter de Gruyter.

Lenoir A, Háva J, Hefetz A, Dahbi A, Cerdá X, Boulay R (2013) Chemical integration of Thorictus myrmecophilous beetles into Cataglyphis ant nests. Biochemical Systematics and Ecology 51: 335–42. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bse.2013.10.002
Sánchez-Piñero F, Gómez JM (1995) Use of ant-nest debris by darkling beetles and other arthropod species in an arid system in south Europe. Journal of Arid Environments 31(1): 91–104. https://doi.org/10.1006/jare.1995.0052

Tronquet M (1998) Oxypoda (s. str.) laeviuscula n. sp. du Moyen-Orient (Coleóptera, Staphylinidae). Bulletin de la Société entomologique de France 103(1): 73–74.