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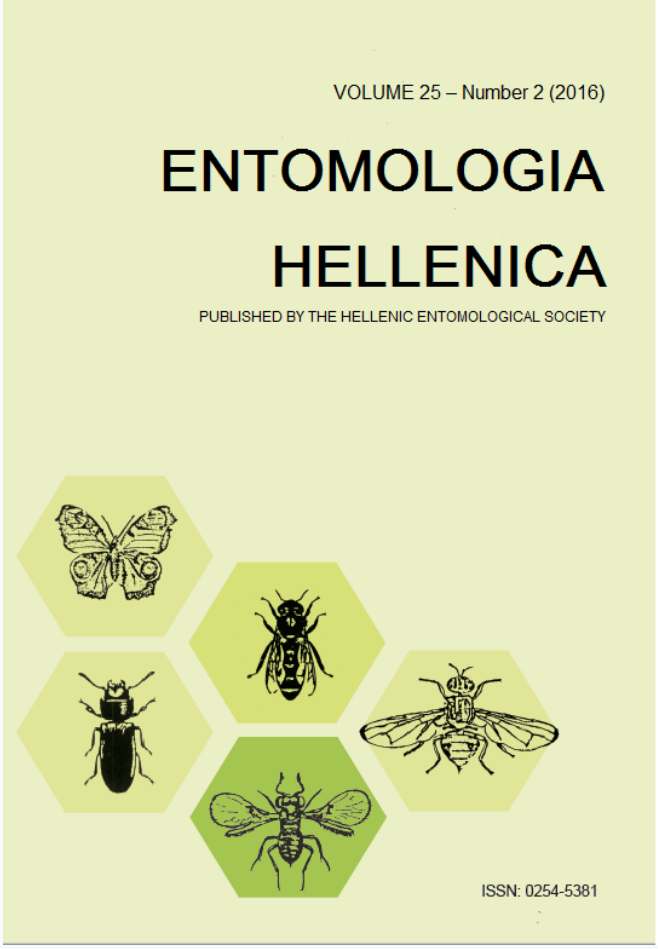


# First record of Tabanus lunatus from Iran

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**SHORT COMMUNICATION**

# First record of *Tabanus lunatus* from Iran

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## ABSTRACT

In August 2015, the species *Tabanus lunatus* Fabricius, 1794 (Diptera: Tabanidae) was recorded for the first time from Iran. Two females were collected in Nazlo area near Urmia. Information on its morphology and distribution is given.

KEYWORDS: Iran, new record, Tabanidae, *Tabanus lunatus*.

Tabanidae is a large family that contains almost 4400 described species in 144 genera and with cosmopolitan distribution (Abu El-Hassan et al. 2013). Tabanid flies are one of the largest groups of blood-sucking pests and important vectors of pathogenic agents to domestic and large wild animals as well as humans (Altunsoy and Kılıç 2010).

Chvala (1988) listed more than 600 species in the Palaearctic region. So far, 80 species of Tabanidae have been recorded in Iran (Dousti et al. 2011). Also, until now no species of Tabanidae has previously been recorded from Urmia. Accordingly, this study has added *Tabanus lunatus* Fabricius, 1794 (Diptera: Tabanidae) to the list of the Iranian Tabanidae.

Two females were randomly collected by A.S. with a hand-net in August 2015, in a pasture of Nazlo area near Urmia where donkeys were kept. The specimens collected were killed in a cyanide bottle with potassium cyanide and pinned. The samples were transferred to the Parasitology Laboratory in the Veterinary Medicine Faculty of Urmia University, Iran. The key of Chvala et al. (1972) was used for identification. All specimens were preserved dry and were deposited in the collection of Urmia University, Iran.

### Subfamily Tabaninae
### *Tabanus lunatus* Fabricius, 1794

**Material examined**: Iran, West Azerbaijan province, Urmia, Nazlo area (N 37° 32′, E 45° 05′), 1313 m a.s.l., c 12 km N of Urmia, 7. 6. 2015, 2 ♀♀.

**Description:** Medium- sized species, eyes in female with microscopic hairs and three bands. Frons narrower, lower callus oval to rectangular and separated from subcallus, eye margins and median callus black or brownish. Antennae mostly reddish-yellow. Palpe stout. Wing clear with dark viens, no appendix to vein $R_4$. Abdomen usually brownish on anterior four tergites (Fig. 1).

**Distribution:** This is a Mediterranean species recorded from Europe, Near and Middle East, as well as from central Asia and North Africa. Also known from Iraq,

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Turkey, Armenia, Syria, Lebanon, Israel and Jordan (Al- Talafha et al. 2005).

FIG. 1. Female of *Tabanus lunatus*: dorsal view.

*Tabanus lunatus* represents the 50th species of the genus *Tabanus* recorded from Iran. Other species belong to *Atylotus* (5), *Silvius* (1), *Chrysops* (4), *Hybomitra* (6), *Nemorius* (2), *Dasyrhamphis* (2), *Haematopota* (9), *Philipomyia* (1) and *Therioplectes* (1) (Chvala 1988, Dousti et al. 2011).

The total number of Tabanidae species currently known from Iran is 81 and this fauna is clearly still little studied since the numbers of species recorded in Turkey, an adjacent country, is as high as 165 (Altunsoy and Kılıç 2010). The faunistic data given in this report are of medical and veterinary importance. Further entomological surveys during different seasons and in different habitats may reveal greater diversity of Tabanidae in Iran.

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# Πρώτη καταγραφή του *Tabanus lunatus* στο Ιράν

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## ΠΕΡΙΛΗΨΗ

Τον Αύγουστο του 2015, το *Tabanus lunatus* Fabricius, 1794 (Diptera: Tabanidae) καταγράφηκε για πρώτη φορά στο Ιράν. Δύο θηλυκά συλλέχθηκαν στην περιοχή Nazlo κοντά στην πόλη Urmia. Στην εργασία αυτή δίδονται πληροφορίες σχετικά με τη μορφολογία και την εξάπλωση του είδους αυτού.

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