**Introduction**

Skyros is with an area of approximately 209 km2 the largest of the Thellesian Sporades, a group of islands within the Aegean archipelago. It is situated in the western Aegean sea, quite isolated from other islands with the closest being Euboea 40 km away. Additionally it is approximately 50 km from the remaining Thellasian Sporades. It stretches roughly from north-west to south-east with two major mountains and a depression in the middle of the island. Mount Kochylas is tallest at 792m and dominates the south-eastern part, while Mount Olympus is quite a bit lower at 402 in the north-western part. We see that the north-western part has large areas covered in coniferous forests, especially *Pinus halepensis* Mill 1768., while the south-eastern part is mostly covered in dry, spiny shrubland consisting mainly of *Quercus coccifera* L. 1753*,* *Quercus ilex* L. and *Acer sempervires* L.. Additionally, large parts of the island is covered with maquis, phrygana and grasslands. The south-eastern part is by and large uninhabited with only few permanent structures to be found, while the northern part contains the main city of the island as well as other, smaller settlements. The whole island shows signs of extensive grazing by the goats which can be seen roaming the islands, with large flocks being seen especially in the south-eastern part. (MORE DETAILED? MAYBE SOMETHING ABOUT WATERWAYS/LAKES?)

Not much work have looked at the Staphylinidae fauna of the western Aegean islands before, and only a single collecting trip have been taken to Skyros before. This was in 2015 by researchers from the University of Copenhagen (SOURCE, Kræmer 2015??). Thus, in order to investigate the Staphylinidae fauna of Skyros a trip was made by the authors in the end of March 2019. We tried collecting as broadly as possible, to get closer to a true species list for the island and thus we used both various methods and habitats to get as broad a sample as possible.

**Introduction**

The third largest of the Greek Dodecanese Islands with an area of approximately 290 km2, Kos is situated in the southeastern Aegean Sea. The nearest distance to the southwestern Turkish coast (Muğla), to which it was connected until the Pleistocene (TRIANTIS & MYLONAS 2009), is less than 5 km. The island has only one major mountain, the Dikeos range with the highest elevation at 843 m. While most of the area at lower altitudes is characterized by arid habitats, populated places, and more or less intensely cultivated land, rather extensive pine and cedar forests are still present at intermediate and higher altitudes. There are no permanent streams or rivers on the island; major wetlands are a salt lake (Alikes) in the north and a swamp (Psalidi) with mainly reed vegetation in the northeast. The vegetation of the area near the summit of Dikeos is characterized by cedar, more or less scattered shrubs on the steep slopes, grazed stony grassland, and phrygana. The Staphylinidae faunas of several larger East Mediterranean islands (Crete, Cyprus, Rhodos, Lesbos, Samos, Chios, Karpathos) have been addressed recently. The known overall diversities and numbers of endemic species are as follows: Crete (total species number not assessed; 67 named plus several unnamed species endemic), Cyprus (325 species in total, 27 of them endemic), Rhodos (131 species; eleven species endemic, three of them unnamed), Lesbos (201 species; eleven endemic species, nine of them named), Samos (140 species in total; 18 species endemic, seven of them undescribed), Karpathos (69 species; eleven species endemic, three of them undescribed), Chios (43 species; two species endemic, one of them undescribed). The figures for total species numbers are based on ASSING (2005, 2013a-b, 2015a-c, 2016a-b) and ASSING & WUNDERLE (2001). They include recent additions (Assing 2017a, b) and the additional records reported in the appendix of this paper; those for Cyprus are based also on SCHÜLKE & SMETANA (2015). Unlike the figures for endemic species, those for total species numbers are strongly biased, especially owing to different study intensities (number of collectors; duration of study period(s) and number of field trips) and different study seasons. For more details regarding species numbers, numbers of endemic species, and other island-related aspects of previously studied East Mediterreanean islands see the articles cited above.

Practically nothing was previously known about the staphylinid fauna of Kos. The only records I have been able to find are those of Medon dilutus pythonissa (SAULCY, 1865), M. semiobscurus (FAUVEL, 1875), and M. subfusculus FAGEL, 1969 (ASSING 2009b, 2013c), Micranops pilicornis (BAUDI, 1870) (ANLAŞ & FRISCH 2014), Scopaeus debilis (HOCHHUTH, 1851) (FRISCH 1999), Megalinus flavocinctus (HOCHHUTH, 1849) (BORDONI 2014), and of Myrmecopora fugax (ERICHSON, 1839) (ASSING 1997). In order to explore the staphylinid fauna of Kos, a field trip was conducted by the author in December 2016. This field trip focused on the autochthonous epigeic fauna of various forest, shrub, grassland, and ruderal habitats. Special habitats such as compost and dung, which generally host a great diversity of widespread Staphylinidae, were largely neglected. Additional material came from a short field trip conducted by Heinrich Meybohm in April 2012. In an appendix, additional records of Staphylinidae from Cyprus, Rhodos, Samos, and Lesbos are reported, and the Carabidae collected during the 2016 field trip are listed. The section on Carabidae is authored by Thomas Forcke, Keltern.

Material and methods

The material treated in this study is deposited in the following public and private collections: MNHUB ........... Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität, Berlin (J. Frisch) NMP ................. National Museum of Natural History, Praha (J. Hájek) cApf ................. private collection Wolfgang Apfel, Eisenach cAss .................. author´s private collection cBra .................. private collection Volker Brachat, Geretsried cFel cFel .................. private collection Benedikt Feldmann, Münster cFor .................. private collection Thomas Forcke, Keltern cMey ................ private collection Heinrich Meybohm, Großhansdorf The Pselaphinae, Scydmaeninae, and Carabidae are all deposited in cBra, cMey, and cFor, respectively. Reference material of the remaining species is deposited in MNB and cAss. The maps were created using MapCreator 2.0 (primap) software.

**Results**

During the time of the 2016 field trip, Kos was unusually cold for the season. Moreover, there had been only little precipitation in the preceding months, so that all the temporary streams were dry. Consequently, the conditions for recording Staphylinidae were not optimal, particularly not regarding riverine and other wetland fauna, as well as the species typically collected from under stones, such as myrmecophiles. In all, 514 adult specimens of Staphylinidae were collected in various localities distributed across most of the island (Map 1) during the 2016 field trip. Additional 53 specimens came from the field trip conducted by Heinrich Meybohm in 2012. The material is composed of 54 species, two of them possibly unnamed (Atheta (Mocyta) sp. 1, Kenotyphlus sp.), three of them previously recorded, and the remainder reported from Kos for the first time (Tab. 1). Five of these species (Amarochara wunderlei; Atheta laevigata; Oligota anatolica; Leptomastax orousseti, Quedius curtidens) even represent first records from Greece. Of special interest is the record of Quedius curtidens, which had not been recorded since the original description, which is based on a unique holotype. Including the previously recorded species, the currently known staphylinid fauna of the island includes 58 species (see checklist), a diversity intermediate between figures for Chios and Karpathos. Most of the material was collected by sifting. Owing to the weather conditions, only very