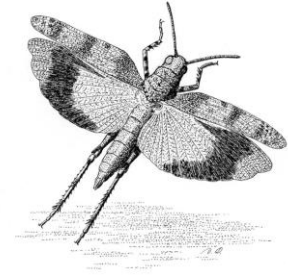


Forschungsförderung der DGfO



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Gefördertes Projekt:

Diversification in and around the Atlas Mountains: Revision of the genus *Thalpomena* Saussure, 1884

Abstract

Thalpomena Saussure, 1884 is a North African endemic genus, largely restricted to the Atlas Mountains and adjacent mountain ranges. Currently, seven species with four subspecies are described from the Atlas Mountains, one species occurs in Libya and one in the Somalian Highlands. The taxonomy of the genus has last been updated in 1949 by Dirsh, who published a revision of the genus including its allies (*Cophotylus*, *Crinita*, *Pseudocoetes*). However, in his descriptions he already mentioned the vague status of many taxa. Since then, the taxonomy of the genus has been largely untouched.

In our study, we investigate the systematic relationships within the genus for the first time using molecular methods. Our sampling includes all known species with more than 360 individuals covering most of the distribution range. We combined molecular data from six mitochondrial (COI, ND5, ND2, cytB, 16S & 12S) and one nuclear gene (H3) with distribution data from collections and the literature and obtained biometric measurements of 10 characters to gain a comprehensive view of the interspecific relationships within the genus. The combination of these methods will help to perform a full revision of the genus including its relationship with the hypothetically closely related *Pseudocoetes*. Moreover we will perform biogeographical analyses to test if the mountain ranges acted as isolating barriers promoting diversification in the genus.