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THE SOLIFUGES (ARACHNIDA: SOLIFUGAE) OF GREECE

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1. Introduction

Solifugae is one of the smallest arachnid order, with c. 1100 species. They are almost cosmopolitan. Their closest relatives are the pseudoscorpions. Both groups can be distinguished from the other arachnids by their large, leg-like, two-segmented chelicerae, the enlarged pedal patella (often larger than the femur) and the presence of tracheae instead of book-lungs. The scope of the present paper is to give a complete list of the solifuges living in Greece, based on published literature. A total of 12 species is known to occur in Greece and they belong to 4 families and 8 genera. One genus and 4 species are endemic.

2. Biology

Solifuges inhabit mostly arid environments. They can reach a body-size of 10 cm. They are predators of other arthropods. The massive chelicerae are used for prey capture, fighting and mating and can cause painful bites to humans. Spermatophore is laid by the male on the soil surface and transferred into the genital opening of the female by its chelicerae. Afterwards, the female digs a burrow and lays the fertilized eggs into the soil. Nymphs are gregarious, look like adults and are active hunters. Solifuges hibernate inside the burrows. They mostly hunt at night, moving very fast in search of prey.



Fig.1. *Galeodes* sp., Akrata, N. Peloponnisos, 8 Aug. 2013, photo Alexiou.

1. Daesiidae	4
2. Galeodidae	4
3. Karschiidae	2
4. Solpugidae	2
TOTAL	12

Table 1. Number of species/family

3. List of species

Kingdom **Animalia**
 Phylum **Arthropoda**
 Class **Arachnida**
 Order **Solifugae**

Family: **Daesiidae**
 [4 genera/4 species]

Genus: ***Biton*** Karsch, 1880

A genus of Africa, SE Europe, W and C Asia.

1. ***B. ehrenbergi*** Karsch, 1880

A species of E Mediterranean, N. Africa and SW Asia.

Genus: ***Gluviopsilla*** Roewer, 1933

Monotypic genus.

2. ***G. discolor*** (Kraepelin)

Rodos island. Also W Asia and N Africa.

Genus: ***Gluviopsis*** Kraepelin, 1899

A genus of N Africa, W and C Asia.

3. ***G. rufescens*** (Pocock, 1897)

Rodos island. Also SW Asia and NE Africa.

Genus: ***Gluviella*** Caporiacco, 1948

Monotypic genus.

4. ***G. rhodiensis*** Caporiacco, 1948

Endemic to Rodos island.

Family: **Galeodidae**
 [1 genus/4 species]

The Solifuges of Greece

Genus: *Galeodes* Olivier, 1791

A genus of Mediterranean and Asia.

5. *G. graecus* C.L.Koch, 1842

A species of E Mediterranean.

6. *G. hellenicus* Roewer, 1934

Endemic to Greece (Described from Tripolis, Peloponnisos).

7. *G. rhodicola* Roewer, 1941

Endemic to Rodos island.

8. *G. ruptor* Roewer, 1934

A species of Greece and Turkey.

1. Tarsal claws of legs II-IV furnished with micro-setae. Legs II and III with 2 tarsal segments, legs IV with 3 tarsal segments.....	Galeodidae
Tarsal claws of legs II-IV smooth, tarsal segmentation otherwise.....	2
2. Legs II and III with 1 or 2 tarsal segments, leg IV with 1-4 tarsal segments.....	3
Legs II and III with 4 tarsal segments, leg IV with 6 or 7 tarsal segments.....	Solpugidae
3. Leg I with 2 claws.....	Karschiidae
Leg I with 0 or 1 claw.....	Daesiidae

Table 2. Key to the Solifugae families occurring in Greece (modified from Harvey 2003).

Family: **Karschiidae**

[2 genera/2 species]

Genus: *Barrussus* Roewer, 1928

A genus of Greece and Turkey.

9. *B. furcichelis* Roewer, 1928

Endemic to Greece (described from Vitina, Peloponnisos).

Genus: *Eusimonia* Kraepelin, 1899

A genus of Mediterranean, W and C Asia.

10. *Eu. nigrescens* Kraepelin, 1899

A species of Greece, Turkey and Syria.

Family: **Solpugidae**

[1 genus/2 species]

Genus: ***Solpuga*** Lichtenstein, 1796

A genus of S Europe and Africa.

11. ***S. scenica*** Lichtenstein, 1797 *nomen dubium*

A species of Greece, Italy and Turkey.

12. ***S. tarda*** Lichtenstein, 1797 *nomen dubium*

A species of Greece, Italy and Turkey.

4. Literature

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