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# New records on the distribution and diversity of *Merodon* Meigen, 1803 (Diptera, Syrphidae) in Middle East and Central Asia

Laura Likov<sup>\*†</sup>, Snežana Radenković<sup>1</sup>, and Ante Vujić<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Novi Sad – Serbia

## Abstract

Recent research by Vujić et al. (2021a) stated 234 species in total from genus *Merodon* (Diptera, Syrphidae), from which 17 species are still undescribed so far from the region of the Middle East and Central Asia. This region was recognized as one of the centers of diversity and endemism of the genus *Merodon* (Kaloveloni et al., 2015; Vujić et al., 2019; Likov et al., 2020; Vujić et al., 2021). The 17 species mentioned above are as follows: one species from *spinitarsis* species group (distributed in Israel and Turkey), one species from *murorum* species group (distributed in Iran), two species from *aberrans* species group (distributed in Iran, Israel and Lebanon), one species from *clavipes* species group (distributed in Iran), two species from *avidus* species group (distributed in Iran and Azerbaijan), one species from *pruni* species group (distributed in Israel and Palestina), five species from *tarsatus* species group (distributed in Iran, Turkmenistan, Israel, Afghanistan and Pakistan), two species from *ottomanus* species group (distributed in Iran and Turkey), one from *caudatus* species group (distributed in Israel), and one unplaced species (distributed in Pakistan). This contribution contains basic distributional data for these species and discussion about diversity of *Merodon* species in these regions.

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<sup>\*</sup>Speaker

<sup>†</sup>Corresponding author: laura.likov@dbe.uns.ac.rs

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