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THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE GENUS *CERCYON* (COLEOPTERA, HYDROPHILIDAE) IN THE NETHERLANDS

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The distribution in the Netherlands of all species of the genus *Cercyon* Leach has been examined within the framework of the European Invertebrate Survey. Most of these small beetles live in all kind of decaying material.

14,000 specimens from the larger Dutch museums and private collections have been examined.

21 species have been recognized. Ten of these seem to prefer the excrements of larger mammals and usually several species are found together in one dung-sample.

The distribution maps of these species do not show any distinct pattern; they can be found almost everywhere in our country. This is in close agreement with results obtained from elsewhere in Europe.

However, the relative abundance of the species shows clear differences for dung-samples collected in various parts of Europe, as may be concluded from some earlier published tables (e.g. Hanski & Koskela 1977, Hanski 1980) and own results.

Two of the Dutch species are strictly halobiont; they live in decaying debris on sea beeches.

The distribution of the remaining Dutch species

is again rather obscure and do not show any specific pattern, with the exception of the species of the *C. convexiusculus* group (Fig. 1-4). The four species of this group live in wet or very wet habitats near open water. At the moment too little ecological information is available to recognize which factors determine these patterns.

It might be of interest to examine the distribution of the *C. convexiusculus* group in Europe.

References

- Hanski, I., 1980. Migration to and from cow droppings by coprophagous beetles. -- *Annales Zoologici Fennici*, 17: 11-16.
- Hanski, I. & H. Koskela, 1977. Niche relations among dung-inhabiting beetles. -- *Oecologia* (Berlin): 28: 203-231. ■

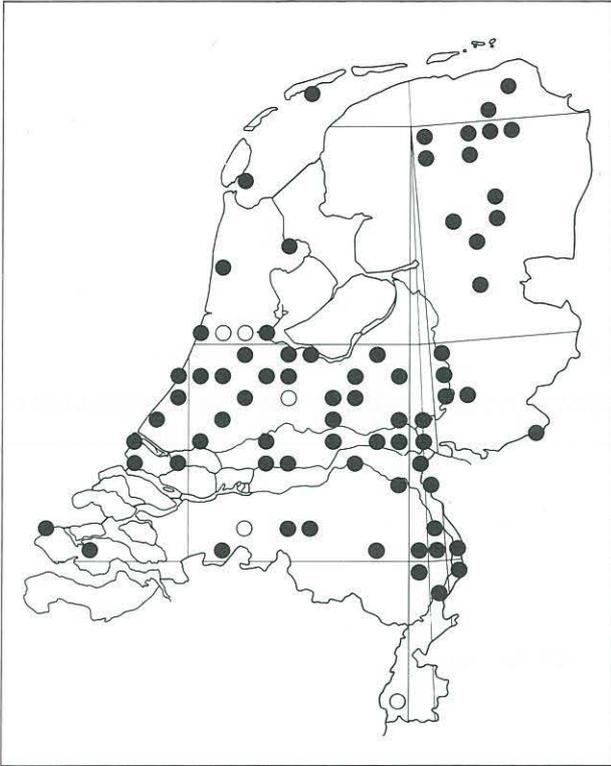


Fig. 1. *Cercyon convexiusculus*

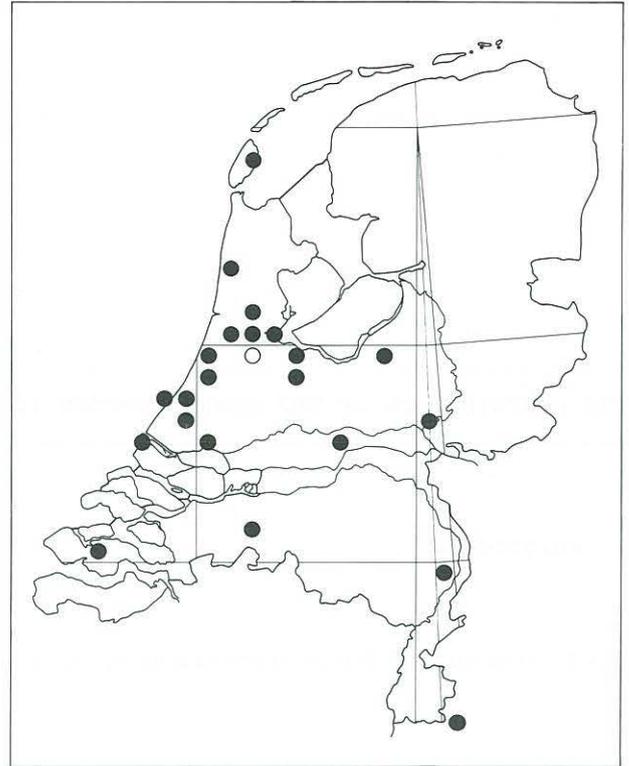


Fig. 2. *Cercyon granarius*

Fig. 3. *Cercyon sternalis*

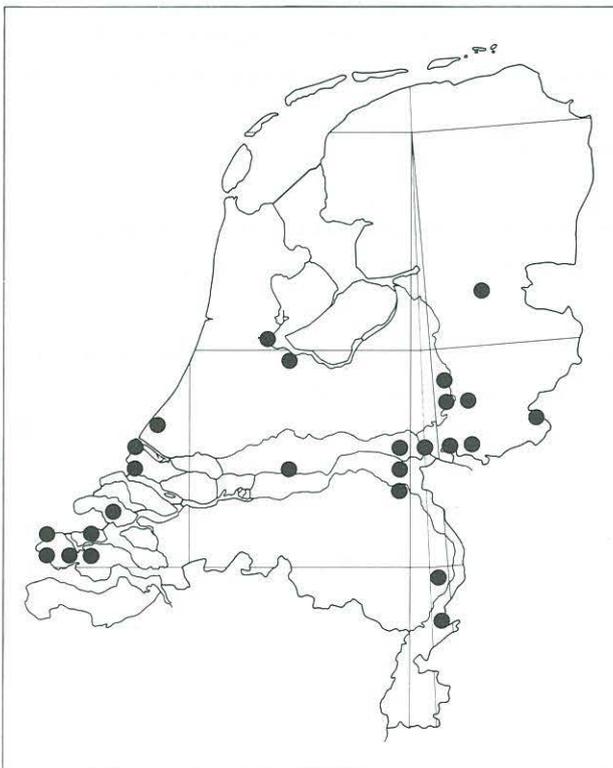


Fig. 4. *Cercyon tristis*

