

New records of *Aphodius* species from Russia (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae)

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Four *Aphodius* species collected in the Astrakhan Province are recorded from Russia for the first time.

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Fauna of the dung beetles of the subfamily Aphodiinae of Russia is still unsatisfactory known. In many regions, especially in the southern part of the country, aphodiines were poorly or not sampled. Recently we had the opportunity to collect scarab beetles in vicinity of Dosang railway station (Astrakhan Province, 46.97°N, 47.90°E). In the collected material we found a number of rare species which were not so far reported from Russia or were only known from single findings from ambiguous localities. All the specimens mentioned are deposited in the collection of Zoological Institute, St. Petersburg.

Aphodius digitalis D. Koshantschikov, 1894. 1 spm., Dosang railway station, attracted to light, 23.V.2007 (Frolov, Akhmetova). This species was known from Middle Asia and Kazakhstan (Nikolajev, 1987) but is recorded from Russia for the first time.

A. badenkoi Nikolajev, 1987. 1 male, environs of Dosang village, fixed sands, from horse dung, 17.IV.2007 (Frolov, Akhmetova). This species was known from Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan up to Ustyurt Plateau in the west (Nikolajev, 1987).

A. curtulus Harold, 1866. 3 spm., environs of Dosang, fixed sands, sifted from sand, 7-11.X.2006 (Frolov, Akhmetova); 2 spm., 8 km NE of Dosang, fixed sands, from under plant roots, 21.IV.2007 (Frolov, Akhmetova); 3 spm., same locality, 17.IV.2007 (Frolov, Akhmetova); 1 spm., environs of Dosang, fixed sands, from dry horse

dung, 13-15.IV.2007 (Frolov, Akhmetova). The species was described from "Southern Russia" but no exact localities were known for this species so far except for one record from Buruny, Astrakhan Province (Shokhin, 2002). The author of this record, however, was not sure that the specimens mentioned belong to *A. curtulus* Harold.

A. variicolor D.Koshantschikov, 1894. 3 spm., environs of Dosang village, fixed sands, from horse dung, 7-11.X.2006 (Frolov, Akhmetova). This rare species was described from Urda (North-Western Kazakhstan). Although it was cited from Lower Volga region (Nikolajev, 1987), no reliable records from the contemporary territory of Russia have been known until the recent finding.

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