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***Margaiostus sundukovi* sp. nov., the first record of the genus in the Palaearctic region (Coleoptera: Elateridae)**

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Abstract

The genus *Margaiostus* Stibick, 1978, previously known from North and South America, is recorded for the first time in the fauna of the Palaearctic region. *M. sundukovi* sp. nov. is described from the Far East of Russia. The position of this species within the genus and the distribution of *Margaiostus* are discussed.

Key words: Coleoptera, Elateridae, Hypnoidini, new species, new records, Palaearctic region, Russia, Far East, click beetles

Introduction

Hypnoidini is a comparatively small and rather well delimited tribe of the elaterid subfamily Denticollinae (Costa *et al.* 2010; Bouchard *et al.* 2011). The fauna of the Palaearctic region numbers six genera and about 80 species of this group (Platia & Gudenzi 2005; Cate *et al.* 2007; Platia 2011). However, the Hypnoidini fauna of many regions of the East Palaearctic is still poorly known. More than 25 new species have been described from this territory over the last two decades (Dolin 1998, 1999; Dolin & Cate 1998, 2001, 2002, 2003; Mertlik 2001; Platia & Gudenzi 2005), and it is highly probable that many more species will be discovered there in the future.

Some years ago, in the course of studying the elaterid fauna of the Lazovsky State Nature Reserve (Southern Primorye, Russia), I received several specimens of a strange Hypnoidini click-beetle, which I identified as *Homotechnes* sp. (Prosvirov 2009, 2014). However, after detailed examination of the genitalia of both sexes it became evident that this species is not related to the *Homotechnes* or to any other Palaearctic genus of Hypnoidini. It was found that the peculiar structure of the aedeagus and the sclerites of the bursa copulatrix of this species are similar to those of *Margaiostus* Stibick, 1978, a genus with five species, previously known only from North and South America (Stibick 1978). In other respects this species is also like a species of *Margaiostus*, but clearly differs from all known species of the genus, so I describe it below as a new species.

Material and methods

Most specimens were obtained from my colleagues and at present are kept in my personal collection (Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia; hereinafter CPM), with the exception of one specimen from the collection of the Zoological Museum of Moscow State University (Moscow, Russia; hereinafter ZMMU). Most of the type material will be stored in the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (St. Petersburg, Russia; hereinafter ZISP) and ZMMU (see indications in the list of material). The rest will be stored in CPM.

The examined specimens were mounted on transparent plastic plates or white glue boards. The genitalia were removed, cleaned and fixed beside the body of the specimen in glycerine mounts. The procedure of making mounts was described by Prosvirov & Savitsky (2011).

The material was studied under MBS-1 stereomicroscope and a Micromed 3 trinocular microscope.