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## On the Ampedini Gistel, 1848 (Coleoptera: Elateridae) of Central Asia, with a description of a new species of the genus *Reitterelater* Platia & Cate, 1990

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### Abstract

Some species of the Ampedini Gistel, 1848 of Central Asia are considered. A new species of the genus *Reitterelater* Platia & Cate, 1990 is described from Uzbekistan: *R. kovalenkoi* sp. nov. The systematic position of the little-known species *Ampedus rusicus* Gurjeva, 1972 comb. rev. is discussed; notes on *Reitterelater* and allied genera are given.

**Key words:** Coleoptera, Elateridae, click beetles, Elaterinae, Ampedini, new species, Palaearctic region, Central Asia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan

### Introduction

The fauna of Elateridae of Central Asia is highly peculiar due to the presence of many endemic species (Gurjeva 1965); however, most elaterids of this region are still little-known. In spite of this, the species of the tribe Ampedini Gistel, 1848 of Central Asia are rather well studied due to the monograph of Gurjeva (1979b) and several subsequent works (Dolin 1985; Dolin & Atamuradov 1994; Platia 2001). The Ampedini is represented in this region by two genera, *Ampedus* Dejean, 1833 and *Reitterelater* Platia & Cate, 1990. About 25 species of *Ampedus* and one species of *Reitterelater* have been recorded in Central Asia to date (Orlov 2000; Cate *et al.* 2007; Platia 2016).

In 2015 interesting material of elaterids from Uzbekistan collected by Ya.N. Kovalenko during a scientific expedition in 2014 was received. Among these click-beetles a new species of the genus *Reitterelater* was discovered. This species is described and discussed below. In addition, some notes on *Reitterelater* and allied genera are given, and the systematic position of the little-known species *Ampedus rusicus* Gurjeva, 1972 is discussed.

### Material and methods

Materials from the following collections were used in this study:

- ZISP the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (St. Petersburg, Russia), including material from the collection of A.P. Semyonov-Tyan-Shansky (hereinafter CAS).  
CPM the collection of A.S. Prosvirov (Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia).

The holotype of *Reitterelater kovalenkoi* sp. nov. will be stored in the collection of the Zoological Museum of Moscow State University (Moscow, Russia) (hereinafter ZMMU).

The examined specimens were mounted on transparent plastic plates (most pinned specimens were remounted on plates). The genitalia were removed, cleaned and fixed beside the body of the specimen in glycerol mounts. The procedure of making such mounts was described by Prosvirov & Savitsky (2011).

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

Photographs were taken using a Canon EOS-40D and Canon EOS-6D cameras with a Canon MP-E 65 mm lens. Extended focus technology was used. Photographs of the genitalia were taken from glycerol mounts. Some photographs of the genitalia were taken with an additional Raynox DCR-250 super macro conversion lens. Some photographs of the genitalia also were taken using a Micromed 3 trinocular microscope with a video eyepiece Toupcam 5.1 MP.

Body length of the specimens was measured from the apical margin of the frons to the apices of the elytra. Body width was measured at the widest point of the body (usually near the middle of the elytra) using a measuring eyepiece of the stereomicroscope.

The holotype of the new species was marked with red labels indicating the type status, the name of the species and the author. The labels of the specimens are quoted verbatim; slash (/) indicates separation of the labels; additional information and translation of the labels are given in square brackets.

## Taxonomy

### *Reitterelater kovalenkoi* sp. nov.

(Figs. 1, 4, 7, 10)

**Type locality.** Uzbekistan, Navoiy Region, Nuratau Mountains.

**Type material. Holotype,** female, **Uzbekistan:** “Узбекистан, Навоийская обл., Нурагинский р-н, хр. Нурагау, окр. киш. Сентоб, 40°34'50.9"N 66°39'26.2"E, h ~ 800 m, 17.IV.2014, Я.Н. Коваленко leg. / в сухом древесном грибе в сообществе с *Triplax rubrica*” [C Uzbekistan, Navoiy Region, Nurata District, Nuratau Mountains, Sentob Village env., 40°34'50.9"N, 66°39'26.2"E, ca. 800 m, 17 April 2014, Ya.N. Kovalenko leg. / in dry bracket fungus in association with *Triplax rubrica* Reitter, 1891] (ZMMU).

**Comparative material.** *Reitterelater fulvus* (Reitter, 1891). 6 males, 8 females. 1 male: “Казахстан, г. Алма-Ата, на лету, coll. И. Кабак, 26.04.1977 года” [SE Kazakhstan, Alma-Ata (at present Almaty) City, in flight, 26 April 1977, I.I. Kabak leg.] (ZISP); 1 female: “Андаракъ, 13.VI.06, Л. Бергъ” [Kyrgyzstan, Batken Region, Leilek District, Andarak Village, 13 June 1906, L. Berg leg.] (ZISP, CAS); 1 male: “Узбекистан, Ташкентская обл., пос. Невич, Чаткальский заповедник, 21–22.V.1989, А.В. Компанцев leg. / под корой лежащего тополя” [NE Uzbekistan, Tashkent Region, Nevich Village, Chatkal State Nature Reserve, 21–22 May 1989, A.V. Kompantzev leg. / under bark of fallen poplar tree] (CPM); 3 male, 1 female: “Узбекистан, Ташкентская обл., Зап. Тянь-Шань, п. Невич, Чаткальский заповедник, п/к тополя, дупло ореха, 17.V.1989, А.В. Компанцев leg.” [NE Uzbekistan, Tashkent Region, West Tian Shan, Nevich Village, Chatkal State Nature Reserve, under bark of poplar tree, walnut tree hollow [sic!], 17 May 1989, A.V. Kompantzev leg.] (CPM); 2 females: “Ташкентская обл., Чаткальск. запов., п. Невич, 20.V.89, Компанцев А.” [NE Uzbekistan, Tashkent Region, Chatkal State Nature Reserve, Nevich Village, 20 May 1989, A.V. Kompantzev leg.] (ZISP); 1 female: “Ташкент, 15.III.22” [NE Uzbekistan, Tashkent Region, Tashkent City, 15 March 1922] (ZISP); 1 female: “Пахталык-Куль, 25.V.25” [Uzbekistan, Pakhtalyk-Kyl, 25 May 1925] (ZISP); 1 male: “Заамин. район, с. Аччи, на свет с 20 до 2х часов, 18.05.76 г.” [CE Uzbekistan, Jizzakh Region, Zaamin District, Achchi Village, to light from 8 p. m. to 2 a. m., 18 May 1976] (ZISP); 1 female: “окр. Андижана, 13–17.V.911, Николаев” [E Uzbekistan, Andijan Region, Andijan City env., 13–17 May 1911, Nikolaev leg.] (ZISP); 1 female: “Фергана: окр. г. Скобелева, 5.I..920, Архангельск.” [E Uzbekistan, Fergana Region, Skobelev (at present Fergana) City env., 5 January 1920, Arkhangelsk. (probably Arkhangelsky) leg.] (ZISP).

**Diagnosis.** *R. kovalenkoi* sp. nov. is closely related to *R. fulvus* (Figs. 2, 5, 8, 11, 13, 15). It can be distinguished from this species by the distinctly smaller and slenderer body (body lengths are 7.1 mm and about 12.0 mm, body widths are 2.0 mm and about 3.5 mm, respectively), shorter middle antennomeres, and different shape of the genitalia.

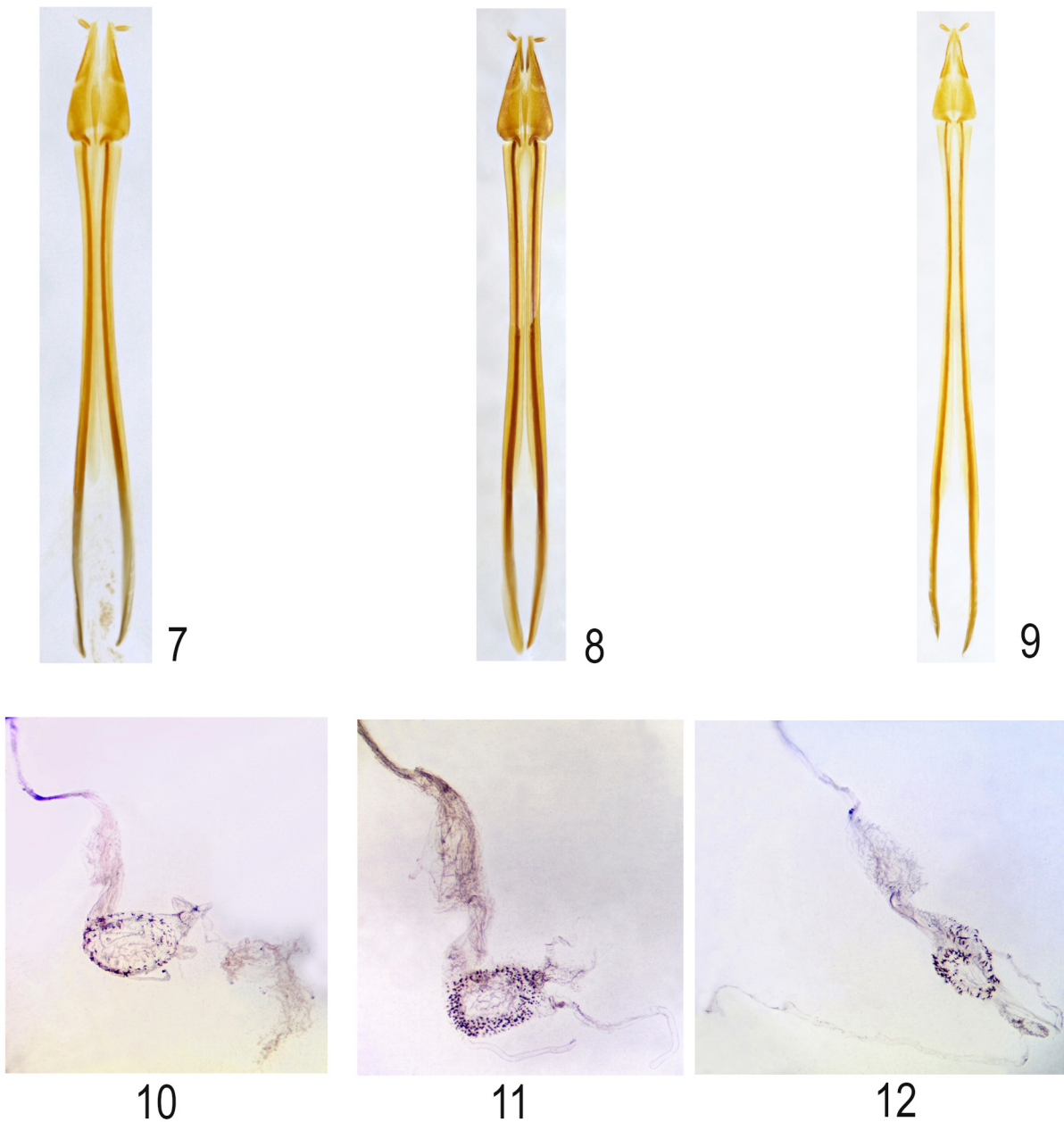
**Description. Female:** Length 7.1 mm; width 2.0 mm. Body elongate, rather flattened. Shiny, all body reddish brown; head, mandibles, antennae, pronotum, and underside darker; base of pronotum, scutellum along margin, and basal margin of elytra darkened. Body covered with dense and long semirecumbent and some erect golden setae.



**FIGURES 1–6.** Habitus of Ampedini species, dorsal (Figs. 1–3) and lateral (Figs. 4–6) view. **1, 4.** *Reitterelater kovalenkoi* sp. nov., holotype, female (7.1 mm). **2, 5.** *R. fulvus*, female (11.7 mm; Uzbekistan). **3, 6.** *Ampedus russiae*, paratype, female (10.6 mm; Tajikistan). Not to scale.

**Head.** Much wider than long (length/width 0.44), shape typical of Ampedini. Punctures umbilicate, dense; intervals between punctures on average less than half as great as diameter of one puncture. Antennae reaching short of apex of hind angles of pronotum to length of apical antennomere, weakly serrate from antennomere 4. Antennomere 1 thickened, bean-shaped; antennomere 2 globose, 0.7 times as long as antennomere 3; antennomere 3 weakly elongate; antennomere 4 elongate and broadened at apex, 1.5 times as long as antennomere 3; antennomeres 5 to 10 subequal in length, elongated and slightly broadened at apices, about 0.9 times as long as

antennomere 4; last antennomere ovate, subapically slightly tapered (ratio of length/width of antennomeres from 1 to 5 is 1.7, 1, 1.5, 1.5 and 1.3, respectively). Antennomeres 2 and 3 shining, smooth, covered with recumbent and sparse erect setae; more distal antennomeres densely punctured, covered with dense recumbent and certain erect setae.



**FIGURES 7–12.** Genitalia of Ampedini species: ovipositor, ventral view (Figs. 7–9); part of female genital tract, general view (Figs. 10–12). **7, 10.** *Reitterelater kovalenkoi* **sp. nov.**, holotype, female. **8, 11.** *R. fulvus*, female (Uzbekistan). **9, 12.** *Ampedus russicus*, paratype, female (Tajikistan). Not to scale.

**Thorax.** Pronotum more than 2 times as wide as head, slightly wider than long (length 1.7 mm; width 1.9 mm), widest behind middle, more anteriorly evenly narrowed toward front angles, almost parallel-sided in basal 1/3 of pronotum, slightly sinuate in front of hind angles; very weakly convex. Basal impression of pronotum triangular, indistinct. Hind angles of pronotum rather short, sharply rounded at apex, directed straight backwards, with two slightly divergent carinae, internal carina notably longer than external one. Pronotal punctures umbilicate, double, consisting of large punctures and distinctly smaller ones. Punctures in lateral parts of pronotum very dense, weakly

elongate; intervals between punctures on average less than half as great as diameter of one puncture; on disk and at base of pronotum punctures sparser, intervals between punctures on average larger than or subequal to diameter of one puncture.



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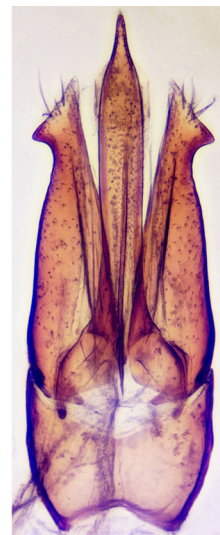
14

Paratypus  
*Ampedus*  
*russicus* Gurjeva

Зерафш. хр.  
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**FIGURES 13–16.** Ampedini species, habitus of male, dorsal view (Figs. 13, 14); aedeagus, ventral view (Figs. 15–16). **13, 15.** *Reitterelater fulvus*, male (9.5 mm; Uzbekistan). **14, 16.** *Ampedus russicus*, paratype, male (8.6 mm; Tajikistan). Not to scale.



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**FIGURES 17–18.** Habitat of *Reitterelater kovalenkoi* sp. nov. (photographs by Ya.N. Kovalenko). 17. Biotope, general view. 18. Bracket fungus in which *R. kovalenkoi* sp. nov. was collected.

Prosternal sutures double, weakly curved, slightly gaping anteriorly. Prosternal lobe short, broadly rounded, not covering mouthparts, with distinctly carinate anterior margin. Prosternum slightly broadened anteriorly, then almost parallel-sided. Prosternal punctures umbilicate, rather coarse and dense; intervals between punctures on average less than half as great as diameter of one puncture; in anterior 1/3 of prosternum punctures distinctly smaller. Anterior and lateral parts of hypomeron with dense, elongate simple punctures, intervals between punctures equal to 1–2 diameters of one puncture; basal 1/5 of hypomeron without punctures. Prosternal process sharply bent in posterior half, with prominence near apex, about 1.5 times as long as diameter of procoxal cavity, slightly bent inwards immediately behind procoxal cavities. Base of prosternal process between procoxae broad, at sides rounded and slightly prominent. Hypomeron, mesoventrite and metavenrite punctate similarly; punctures of mesoventrite rounded, lateral punctures of metavenrite elongate, in middle of metavenrite punctures rounded, smaller. Mesofemur slightly broadened. Metaxocal plate strongly broadened at base, about 4 times as wide as narrowest part.

Scutellum elongate, rounded posteriorly, slightly depressed at sides in middle, about 1.5 times longer than

wide. Elytra oblong, slightly wider than pronotum, widest near middle, almost three times as long as pronotum (both elytra together: length 4.9 mm; width 2.0 mm); almost parallel-sided until about posterior 1/3, in posterior 1/3 slightly tapering to apex; shoulders obtusely rounded. Disc of elytron flat, with striae; punctures of striae shallow, elongate, not exceeding stria width; interstriae with sparse rounded punctures, which distinctly smaller than punctures of striae.

Metathoracic wings completely developed, reaching apex of elytra.

**Abdomen.** Punctures of abdomen mostly elongate, rounded at anterior margin, intervals between punctures subequal to or smaller than diameter of one puncture.

**Female genitalia** (Figs. 7, 10). Ovipositor relatively long; baculum long, strongly sclerotized (ratio baculum/ovipositor length 0.8); coxite moderately sclerotized, with several setae, narrowed to apex, with distinct stylus. Bursa copulatrix with many sclerotized spines situated along its margin and anteriorly with group of spinules.

**Male.** Unknown.

**Larva.** Unknown.

**Distribution.** Central Uzbekistan: Navoiy Region, Nuratau Mountains.

**Bionomics.** Holotype of *R. kovalenkoi* sp. nov. was collected in dry bracket fungus (Fig. 18). This fungus grew on a foliage tree in a river valley (Fig. 17). It is very probable that the larva of this species is a xylobiont, like the larvae of many other Ampedini species, and develops in rotten wood, tree hollows, or bracket fungus. Other aspects of biology of *R. kovalenkoi* sp. nov. remain unknown.

**Etymology.** Named in the honour of its collector, my colleague and friend, the entomologist Yakov N. Kovalenko.

### ***Ampedus* (s. str.) *russicus* Gurjeva, 1972 comb. rev.**

(Figs. 3, 6, 9, 12, 14, 16)

*Ampedus russicus*: Gurjeva, 1972: 303, fig. 13.

*Ampedus* (*Ectamenogonus*) *russicus*: Gurjeva, 1975: 108, figs. 2, 4; 1979b: 169, figs. 221–225, 287.

*Ectamenogonus russicus*: Cate *et al.*, 2007: 136.

**Material.** Type material of *Ampedus russicus* (ZISP): holotype, male: “Зеравш. хр., уш. р. Кштут, окр. к-ка Артуч, 25.V.67, Гурьева” [Tajikistan, Sughd Region, Zarafshan Range, Kshtut River gorge, Artuch Vill. env., 25 May 1967, E.L. Gurjeva leg.]. Paratypes: 1 male, 1 female: same data as holotype; 1 male: “Зеравш. хр., оз. Маргузор, 22.V.967, Гурьева” [Tajikistan, Sughd Region, Zarafshan Range, Marguzor Lake, 22 May 1967, E.L. Gurjeva leg.]. All type specimens are labelled as “*Ampedus russus*” but the published available name is *A. russicus*.

**Additional material.** 7 larvae, same data as holotype (ZISP).

**Distribution.** Tajikistan, Sughd Region, Zarafshan Range.

**Systematic remarks.** This species was originally described in the genus *Ampedus* (Gurjeva 1975) and later was treated as a member of the subgenus *Ampedus* (*Ectamenogonus*) sensu Gurjeva (Gurjeva 1975, 1979b). Later it was established that the type species of this subgenus, *Ectamenogonus montandoni* sensu Gurjeva, was misidentified and it was recognized as *Brachygonus megerlei* (Lacordaire, 1835) (Chassain 1992; Kubáň 1995). Moreover, after studying the true *Ectamenogonus montandoni* (Buysson, 1889), the genus *Ectamenogonus* Buysson, 1893 was placed in the tribe Megapenthini Gurjeva, 1973 (Platia & Cate 1990) and some species of *Ampedus* (*Ectamenogonus*) sensu Gurjeva, including *A. russicus*, at present are treated as members of this genus and tribe (Cate *et al.* 2007).

Examination of the type material of *A. russicus* has shown that the external morphology and genitalia of this species are typical for species of the genus *Ampedus*. The morphology of the larva of *A. russicus* is also similar to other known larvae of *Ampedus* (see Gurjeva 1979b). Therefore this species is now reassigned to *Ampedus* (see also notes below).

It should be noted that other species of this group, *Ectamenogonus melanotooides* (Reitter, 1891), known from the Caucasus, according published data (Gurjeva 1979b) is also a member of the Ampedini, but its generic attribution requires further clarification.

## Notes on *Reitterelater* and allied genera

The genus *Reitterelater* was originally described for the accommodation of species previously referred to *Ectamenogonus* sensu auct. (nec. Buysson, 1893) (Platia & Cate 1990). Later some other species were included in this genus (Kishii 1998, 1999; Ôhira 2000; Cate *et al.* 2007; Platia & Schimmel 2007; Platia 2010). There are some disagreements concerning the validity of *Reitterelater*, which is synonymized by some authors under *Brachygonus* Buysson, 1912 (Chassain 1992; Kubán 1995; Delnatte *et al.* 2011). A similar opinion is stated concerning the validity of the monotypic Japanese genus *Kometsukia* Kishii, 1957 (Gurjeva 1979a). I suppose that these suggestions are true of *K. vesticornis* Kishii, 1957 and *R. dubius* Platia & Cate, 1990. These species, according to their morphological characters, actually must be regarded as members of *Brachygonus* (Kishii 1957; Platia & Cate 1990). However, this is not true of *R. fulvus*, the type species of the genus *Reitterelater*.

According to my studies and the published data, *R. fulvus* is allied with species of the genus *Brachygonus*, but distinctly differs from them in the shape of the prosternal process and morphology of the larva (Fig. 5; see also Gurjeva 1979b; Dolin & Atamuradov 1994). Moreover, these characters of *R. fulvus* are more or less similar with characters of many species of *Ampedus*. The presence of two carinae of the hind angles of the pronotum and the different shape of the female genitalia distinguish *R. fulvus* from the typical *Ampedus*, but only the latter character could be regarded as taxonomically important while the shape of the pronotal hind angles is a rather variable character within Elateridae (Hayek 1973). All above mentioned statements are also true of *R. kovalenkoi* **sp. nov.** Therefore, the exact systematic position of *Reitterelater* requires further clarification. It is likely that *Reitterelater* must be reduced in rank to a subgenus of the genus *Ampedus*, but the taxonomic composition of the former is still not clear, as the morphology of some species of *Reitterelater* is little-known. It is possible that some of these species actually belong to *Ampedus* or *Brachygonus*. On the contrary, some species at present included in *Ampedus* could likely be members of *Reitterelater*.

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