Two desert species of beetles new to the Russian fauna (Coleoptera: Rhipiphoridae, Curculionidae)

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Two species of beetles previously known only from the desert zone of Middle and Central Asia, *Macrosiagon medvedevi* Iablokoff-Khnzorian, 1973 (Rhipiphoridae) and *Anthypurinus basicornis* (Schultze, 1898) (Curculionidae: Ceutorhynchinae), have been found in Volgograd Province.

Key words: Coleoptera, Curculionidae, new records, Russia

INTRODUCTION

The lower Volga area is well known for its diversified and heterogeneous insect fauna. It is an area where the Turanian (= Middle Asian) deserts reach their northwestern border. The ranges of many desert insects extend into this region, mostly of those with the northern Turanian distribution, i.e., occurring in northern part of Middle Asia, in Central and Southern Kazakhstan deserts and desert-steppe (= semideserts), and in southern Mongolia. A typical example of a species with this kind of distribution is a wedge-shaped beetle, *Macrosiagon medvedevi* Iablokoff-Khnzorian, recently found in Volgorad Province by M.A. Khrisanova. The occurrence of southern Turanian species with ranges mostly restricted to southern areas of Middle Asia and not extending to northern deserts (in particular, into Kazakhstan and Mongolia except its southwesternmost part) is less common. Thus, the finding of a weevil, *Anthypurinus basicornis* (Schultze), previously known only from the Tedzhen and Murgab oases and southern Uzbekistan, is of a particular interest as an example of an extralimital distribution of a southern Middle Asian desert species in the northernmost desert.

Family Rhipiphoridae

Genus *Macrosiagon* Hentz, 1830

This widely distributed genus includes 14 species in the Palaearctic (Löbl & Smetana, 2008) and occurs throughout the Saharo-Gobian Desert Region (Konstantinov et al., 2009). No member of this genus has been recorded for Russia before.

Macrosiagon medvedevi Iablokoff-Khnzorian, 1973

Material. **Russia**. *Volgograd Prov.*, Pallasovskii Distr., Lake Bulukhta, 8 August 2006, 1 spec.

Distribution. The species was described from Central Kazakhstan and subsequently recorded from southern Mongolia – Ömnögovi (= Southern Gobi) (Iablokov-Khnzorian, 1976) and Bayan-Hongor (Konstantinov et al., 2009) aimaks.

Family Curculionidae

Genus *Anthypurinus* Colonnelli, 1979

Genus *Anthypurinus* with 15 known species is distributed in the Saharo-Gobian Desert and Mediterranean Evergreen Forest regions; no species has ever been record-

ed from the steppe zone. All known hosts are succulent Chenopodiaceae (Korotyaev, 2005).

The genus has not been recorded for Russia.

Anthypurinus basicornis (Schultze, 1898)

Material. **Russia**. *Volgograd Prov.*, Pallasovskii Distr., Lake Bulukhta, 1-7 May 2007, 1 spec.; as above, but 7-17 June 2007, 4 specs.

Habitat. All specimens were collected in pitfall traps on the shore slope with salt cedar (*Tamarix ramosissima* Ledeb.) association; *Salsola* sp. and *Limonium gmelinii* (Willd.) O. Kuntze were abundant in the herbage. Collection was also made in the plain solonetz above the slope with the vegetation dominated by *Atriplex cana* C. A. Mey., and from the slope bottom toward the lake depression with zonal saline vegetation including *Salicornia* sp. young growth and *Aster tripolium* L. spots. No specimens of *A. basicornis* were found in the plains or in other parts of the Lake Elton area.

Biology. A few specimens were collected in Uzbekistan near Bukhara on *Salsola micranthera* Botsch., *Suaeda crassifolia* Pall., or resting under *Suaeda turkestanica* Litw. and an unidentified succulent chenopod (Korotyaev, 2005).

DISCUSSION

The new additions to the Russian fauna emphasize the productivity of the faunistic research in the areas along the significant biogeographic boundaries. The best example of such a survey is that carried out by the late A.Yu. Isaev (Ulyanovsk) in the middle Volga area: he found in the plain Ulyanovsk Province about 600 species (Isaev et al., 2005) of Curculionoidea (excepting Scolytidae) which is only slightly less than in the Northwestern Caucasus with its Pontian steppes, rich Euxine forests, and alpine landscapes (B.A. Korotyaev unpublished data). Largest part of the province is situated in the European mixed forests subzone, yet he found there weevils with the steppe northern Central Asian (*Ceutorhynchus potanini* Korotyaev, 1980) and predominantly desert Irano-Turanian (*Sibinia bipunctata* Kirsch, 1870) ranges.

A noteworthy point of the new records is an unexpected finding of a supposedly southern Turanian weevil, *Anthypurinus basicornis*, not known from northern deserts, at the very northern boundary of the desert zone. This should warn against great confidence to the data on the distribution of beetles except those few species whose ranges are really well known. Surprisingly, even many weevils developing on ruderal or pioneer plants which often form dense and long-standing populations over large territories are rarely found. This is true, in particular, for *A. basicornis*; the same has been reported for *A. biimpressus* Ch. Brisout, 1869 (Korotyaev, 2005), and can be said about *A. loginovae* Korotyaev, 1990. This latter species occurs in Northeastern Turkey on *Seidlitzia florida* (M. B.) Boiss., but is distributed very unevenly; sometimes a few number of individuals may be found at roadside but subsequent examination of a several square kilometre area dominated by *S. florida* provides no material.

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