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New species of the genus *Blaps* Fabricius, 1775 (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae) found in Siberia

Новые находки чернотелок рода *Blaps* Fabricius, 1775 (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae) в Сибири

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KEY WORDS: Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, *Blaps*, South and West Siberia, new species, new locality.

КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, *Blaps*, Южная и Западная Сибирь, новый вид, новый локалитет.

ABSTRACT. *Blaps oblonga* Kraatz, 1883 which was previously known from Central Asia has been found in a basement of a building near the railway station of Novosibirsk; it is the first record of this species in Siberia. A new species, *Blaps rybalovi* sp.n., from East Siberia (Sayano-Shushenskiy State Nature Reserve) is also described; a diagnosis, together with figures of habit, specific structures and distribution map, are provided.

РЕЗЮМЕ. *Blaps oblonga* Kraatz, 1883, известный ранее из Средней Азии, обнаружен в подвале дома в Новосибирске около железнодорожной станции, и впервые приводится для Сибири. Описан новый вид — *Blaps rybalovi* sp.n. из Восточной Сибири (Саяно-Шушенский заповедник), отличающийся от близких видов: *B.chinensis* Faldermann, 1835 параллельносторонним узким телом, на вершине не вытянутым в хвостик, а от *B. tenuicornis* Gebler, 1847 рядом признаков: меньшими размерами (менее 1 см), равномерно дуговидно изогнутым основанием наличника, суженой к основанию переднеспинкой, рёбрышком у внешнего угла оснований надкрылий, образованным эпиплеврами, более тонкими ногами, отсутствием глубокой вырезки у вершины на нижней стороне бедер передних ног, более редкой и тонкой пунктировкой верха. Приводится диагноз, рисунки габитуса и специфичных структур жуков, дается карта с локалитетом вида.

Introduction

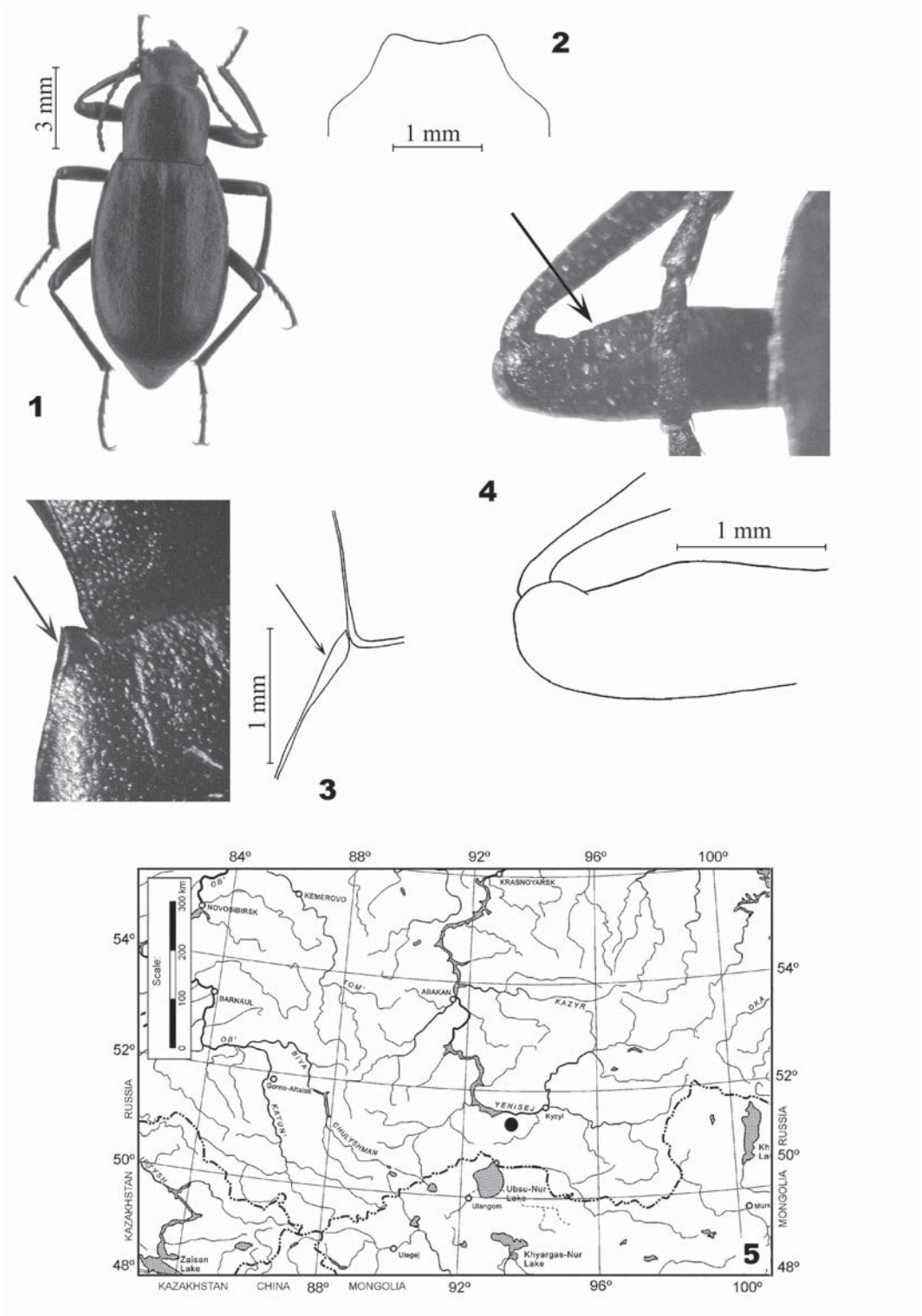
Nine species of the genus *Blaps* Fabricius, 1775 were previously known from Siberia [Mordkovich, Knor, 1990; Medvedev, 1992] and ten species from Mongolia neighbouring southern parts of Siberia [Medvedev, 1990], the major part of which are not distributed in Siberia.

Beetles of this genus differ habit in terms of their massive bodies, broad legs and moderately large sizes (more than 2 cm). Amongst them, one species which is an inhabitant of building basements in south-east Altai — *Blaps tenuicornis* Gebler, 1847 (= *B. altaica* Kelejnikova, 1970) is very specific, having a narrow, dorsally-flattened body which is more characteristic of the genus *Prosodes* Eschscholtz, 1829, which is not found in Siberia. Three small and apparently very similar females collected in Sayano-Shushensky State Reserve have been provisionally identified as *Blaps tenuicornis* Gebl. The detailed investigation of the three females revealed distinctive characters which point to a new species closely related to the *B. chinensis* species-group.

In the absence of a male, the present description of the new species is based on the female, which possesses very distinctive characters in external morphology; according to the shape of body and legs, the new species should be placed between *B. chinensis* and *B. tenuicornis*:

1. Body expanded and rounded posteriorly, apices of elytra stretched as a small tail ..... *chinensis* Faldermann, 1835
– Body almost parallel-sided, apices of elytra not stretched 2
2. Bodies not longer than 1 cm, dark-brown, looks black. Femora narrow, just a little wider than tibia, fore femora with very weak emargination underside near the tip ..... *rybalovi* sp.n.
– Bodies about 1.5 cm in length, dark-brown, does not look black. Femora 2–3 times wider than the tibia, fore femora with deep emargination underside near the tip ..... *tenuicornis* Gebler, 1847

The holotype and one paratype of this species are kept in the Siberian Zoological Museum (SZMN), Institute of Animal Systematics and Ecology, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Novosibirsk, one paratype is in the Zoological Institute RAN, St.-Petersburg (ZISP).



Figs 1–5. *Blaps rybalovi* sp.n., holotype, female: 1 — habitus, 2 — clypeus, from above, 3 — epipleural carina of left elytron, dorsally, 4 — inner side of left fore femur, 5 — distribution map.

Figs.1–5: *Blaps rybalovi* sp.n., голотип, самка: 1 — габитус, 2 — клипеус, сверху, 3 — эпиплевральное ребрышко основания левого надкрылья, дорзально, 4 — внутренняя сторона бедра левой передней ноги, 5 — карта распространения.

Another interesting *Blaps* species with an elongated body and long legs was found near "Novosibirsk-Zapadnyi" railway station. Comparison with the Tenebrionidae collection of the Zoological Institute, Saint-Petersburg, resulted in this species being identified as *B. oblonga* Kraatz, 1883.

Blaps oblonga Kraatz, 1883

MATERIAL. Russia, West Siberia, Novosibirsk City, Novosibirsk-Zapadnyi railway station, day, 20.6.1977, Coll.–? — 1 ♂ (SZMN).

NOTES. This species is distributed in southern part of Central Asia; it is likely that this beetle was brought with cargo, and later found convenient place to live in a basement of a building. However, we present this locality as a new record of this species.

Blaps rybalovi Tshernyshev et Mordkovitsh, **sp.n.**
Figs 1–5.

MATERIAL. Holotype, ♀, East Siberia, Krasnoyarsk Area, Sayano-Shushenskiy State Nature Reserve, Kara-Dzherek env., 18.VIII.1992, leg. Vagin, Rybalov (SZMN). Paratypes, idem, 2 ♀♀ (ZISP, SZMN).

DIAGNOSIS. By the shape of body, the new species belongs to the *B. chinensis* species-group, which includes smaller, dorsally-flattened beetles with elongate bodies with smooth sculptured surfaces. It can be easily differentiated from *B. chinensis* by its parallel-sided body which is not well expanded posteriorly, and from *B. tenuicornis* Gebl. by its small size, very thin legs, narrow tibiae and femora, sinuate to the base pronotum, weak emargination of the inner side in the fore femora, small scutellum, and distinct carina (formed by curved epipleuron) on the external side of elytra near the base (Fig. 2).

DESCRIPTION. Holotype, female (Fig. 1). Body elongate, almost parallel-sided, slightly expanded posteriorly, dorsally-flattened, dark-brown, almost completely black. Head small, equilateral, not wider than pronotum; frons flat, evenly sloping to temples posteriorly. Clypeus with arched base and straight distal side (Fig. 2); labrum transverse, its distal side straight, very slightly impressed just about the middle, surface densely punctured distally, with microsculpture only on the base, covered with sparse long semi-erect golden hairs; mandibles short, with distinct carinae on sides; eyes transverse, each one not separated by distal side of head into two parts; palpi short, the first and second palpomeres cylindrical, the second one twice longer than the first, apical palpomere wide, equilateral triangular shaped, surface with black sparse, short erect hairs. Antenna slender, easily overpass the base of the elytra. Surface of head sparsely and finely punctate, with distinct microsculpture, looks mat.

Pronotum slightly wider than long (approx. 1.1 times), with distinctly protruding fore angles and straight base, behind the middle distinctly sinuate to the base; all sides marginate, with the exception of the middle of the base, surface densely punctulate, with distinct microsculpture. Hypomeron with sparse and fine wrinkles, and small irregular granules. Scutellum very small, with triangular apex, almost completely hidden by the pronotum.

Elytra parallel-sided in the middle, very slightly expanded near the base, and evenly sinuate at the apex, forming a slightly stretched tip; distinctly flattened from above. Surface with sparse not deep punctures, without wrinkles, but with an irregular roughness, longitudinal ribs noticeably very weakly; glabrous as the surface of the pronotum. Dorsal side of epipleuron forming small carina near the base of the elytra (arrowed in Fig. 3) and widely jointed with ventral side near the apex.

Legs of moderate size, posterior femora not reaching the elytral apices; femora just slightly wider than the tibiae, so legs look slender; fore femora slightly emarginate at the tip on inner side (arrowed in Fig. 4), the other femora simple; tibia with two spurs on the tip: long and pointed on inner side, and short and wide on outer side; a row of thin dark setae between the spurs on the outer side; tarsi of fore- and intermediate legs 5–segmented, the longest tarsomere is the claw-segment, the rest are moderately equal in length, but intermediate tarsomeres are longer than fore-ones; first and fourth segments of posterior tarsi 1.5–2 times longer than second or third; claws simple, appendages lacking. Surface of tarsi covered with fine adpressed sparse and golden hairs, and possess a row of black setae near the tip; pedal part without adhesive pubescence.

Underside glabrous, with the exception of the periphery; the base of prothorax possessing a row of golden hairs; surface with sparse punctures and smooth wrinkles.

Length 17.0 mm, width (at elytral base) 6.4 mm.

Male unknown.

DISTRIBUTION. Type locality only (Fig. 5).

ETYMOLOGY. The species is named after Dr. L. Rybalov of the A.N. Severtzov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Moscow.

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