



## ***Anthomalachius*, a new genus of soft-winged flower beetles (Coleoptera, Malachiidae: Malachiinae)**

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### **Abstract**

A new malachiid beetle genus, *Anthomalachius* **gen. n.**, is described for *Clanoptilus spinosus* species group. Figures of male habiti, special structures, genitalia, and a distribution map for all species are given.

**Key words:** Coleoptera, Malachiidae, *Anthomalachius*, Europe, Central Asia, Russia

### **Introduction**

The *Clanoptilus spinosus* - species group (Tshernyshev, 2000) includes beetles with similar body shape but different special characters of the male elytral apices. Most of the species possess complex appendages in the depressions of the elytral apices; this character allowed Evers (1985) to transfer *Malachius spinosus* Erichson, 1840 and *M. strangulatus* (Abeille de Perrin, 1885) to *Clanoptilus* s.str. Evers (1985) provisionally synonymized other representatives of the group as *M. pseudospinosus* Medvedev, 1964, under *Clanoptilus strangulatus*, and gave *M. foveatus* Medvedev, 1964 as a subspecies of *C. strangulatus*. This decision was curious, because in *M. foveatus* the elytral appendages are lacking, and this species should be attributed not to the nominative subgenus *Clanoptilus* s.str., but to another subgenus, *Hypoptilus* (Tshernyshev, 2000), which includes species with slight impressions in the elytral apices and very fine or completely reduced elytral appendages. Another species was subsequently described - *Clanoptilus senyilia* Tshernyshev, 2000; the species group became increasingly artificial, and included representatives of two different subgenera.

All species of this group differ from all known *Clanoptilus* by the prolonged body, elongate pronotum, specific shape of antenna, completely dark coloration with green or blue metallic luster except for yellow or orange spots on the elytral apices, and specific shape of urites and genitalia. Using characteristics of the male elytral apices, the group ranges from species that possess strongly depressed apices with large double appendage such as in *C. spinosus*, to a single strong appendage in *C. senyilia*, small appendage and strong impression in *C. strangulatus*, small appendage and light impression in *C. spinosus*, and slight impression lacking appendage in *C. foveatus*. Arguments discussed above necessitate the establishment of a new genus, *Anthomalachius* gen.n., for species previously attributed to *Clanoptilus spinosus* - species group.

Holotypes of *Anthomalachius pseudospinosus* (Medvedev, 1964) and *Anthomalachius foveatus* (Medvedev, 1964) are kept in Zoological Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences, Saint-Petersburg (ZISP); all other material is deposited in the Siberian Zoological Museum (SZMN), Institute of Animal Systematics and Ecology, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Novosibirsk and Atatürk University, Faculty of Agriculture, Erzurum, Turkey (AUET).

For the description and diagnosis of the species, male genitalia were prepared; after the study, these were glued onto a card mount with water-soluble glue and pinned under the specimen.