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A new species of *Colotes* Erichson (Coleoptera: Malachiidae) from Russia

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Abstract

A new Malachiid beetle, *Colotes dubatolovi* **sp. n.**, known only from its type locality, Volgogradskaya Oblast, Russia, is described with figures of habitus, male palpi and terminal abdominal segments, and a distribution map.

Key words: Coleoptera, Malachiidae, *Colotes*, Russia

Introduction

Very small soft-winged flower beetles (1.3–2.0 mm in length) with simple head, elongate scape, oblong body shape, and 4-segmented tarsi of anterior legs in male, 5-segmented in female, are included in the genus *Colotes* Erichson, 1840. Usually the surface of these beetles has a dual coloration of black and yellow-orange. The important character which defines the genus *Colotes* in addition to those mentioned above, is the swollen maxillary palpi in male; the second and third segments varying in shape and size according to the species, which also can be used for their specific identification. Taxonomic characters of females have been poorly studied and have not been used widely for the exact definition of species.

About 180 species are included in *Colotes*, five of which can be found in the European part of Russia. Three species of *Colotes* were recorded from an area of Kazakhstan adjacent to the Volgogradskaya Oblast (Medvedev, 1980), namely *C. hampei* Redtenbacher, 1874, *C. galbula* Kiesenwetter, 1864 and *C. kasachstanicus* Medvedev, 1964. All of these differed from the specimens collected on the bank of Elton Lake which were wingless and should be attributed to the subgenus *Pseudodipnis* Abeille de Perrin, 1890, strongly differing from the only congener, *C. galbula* Kiesenwetter, by the surface coloration which is very similar to that of *C. ebaeiformis* Abeille de Perrin, 1900 (Fig. 3) found in Middle Asia. The shape of the male maxillary palpi is quite specific and differs from those in all known species (cf. Figs. 4, 5).

Material and methods

The holotype of the new species is deposited in the Siberian Zoological Museum (SZMN), Institute of Animal Systematics and Ecology, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Novosibirsk. For the description and diagnosis of the species, male genitalia were prepared; after study, these were glued onto a card mount with water soluble glue and pinned under the specimen.

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