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A new *Nalassus* Mulsant, 1854 (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Helopini), the first representative of the genus from the Russian Far East

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Abstract

A new species, *Nalassus* (*Helopocerodes*) *olgae* **sp. n.,** is described from Primorsky Krai in the Russian Far East. A new combination is established: *Nalassus* (*Helopocerodes*) *magyari* (Kaszab, 1968), **comb. n.** The new species is similar to *N. magyari* but differs in the sculpture of the metaventrite, larger body and widely flattened lateral sides of the pronotum.

Key words: Tenebrionidae, *Nalassus*, new species, new combination, Russian Far East, Eastern Asia

Introduction

The genus *Nalassus* Mulsant, 1854 is widespread in the Palaearctic and includes 69 species including descriptions published since the Palaearctic catalogue (Nabozhenko & Löbl 2008; Keskin & Nabozhenko 2010; Nabozhenko 2010, 2011a, b, 2012, 2013b). Until recently it was considered to be a Western Palaearctic genus with two isolated enclaves of distribution: the main one (from Europe to Western Kazakhstan and Iran) and Eastern Kazakhstanian (Balkhash Region, Tarbagatay Mts.) (Medvedev 1987; Nabozhenko 2013b). Another generic enclave in Eastern Asia, with the single species *Nalassus pekinensis* (Fairmaire, 1888), has been added since studying the type material. One cause of these extensive disjunctions is perhaps fragmentation and the subsequent disappearance of the Turgayan flora, which was widespread in the northern hemisphere in the Middle-Late Oligocene (Nabozhenko 2012, 2013a). The study of additional material from East Asia and North America confirmed the distribution of many species of the nalassoid branch of the tribe Helopini (Nabozhenko 2005; Nabozhenko & Keskin 2014) in these regions (Nabozhenko 2013a). Most of these species need to be revised.

A new *Nalassus* was collected in 2014 by the second author in the Russian Far East near Ussuriysk. This species is closest to *Tarpela magyari*, described by Kaszab (1968) from the Korean Peninsula (type locality: Tshon-Bon-San, paratype from Pyongyang). Kaszab wrote in the comparative diagnosis that the new species *Tarpela magyari* was closest to "*Tarpela*" *pekinensis* (now *Nalassus*). Jung (2012) figured *T. magyari*, including the aedeagus, which is structured like many other *Nalassus*: aedeagus weakly sclerotized, transformed on apex to laterally compressed keel. The thickened male antennomeres of *T. magyari* are also typical for *Nalassus* and most expressed in the subgenus *Helopocerodes* Reitter, 1922 (Medvedev 1987). Thus, this species should be included in the subgenus *Helopocerodes* of the genus *Nalassus*: *Nalassus* (*Helopocerodes*) *magyari* (Kaszab, 1968), **comb. n.** We studied 2 specimens of *N. magyari* with labels: "Loc: temple Heungguk, mt. Bukhan, Goyang city, Gyeonggi-do province, Korea. Date: 31.III.2006 Leg: Taewoo Kim". It should be noted that strongly thickened male antennomeres are found in different subgenera of *Nalassus*, and so additional studies, including molecular analyses, are needed to determine the future status of the subgenus *Helopocerodes*.

Other species of "*Tarpela*" recorded for the fauna of Korea need more thorough study. Distribution of some species on the Korean Peninsula has not been confirmed by current research (Jung 2012).

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