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A new species of *Scelolyperus* CROTCH, 1874 from Kirgizstan (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Galerucinae)

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ABSTRACT. *Scelolyperus kroliki*, a new species is described from Kirgizstan. It is close to *S. altaicus* MANNERHEIM, 1825 and its relatives but distinctly differs in the structure of male genitalia

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, new species, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, Galerucinae, Luperini, *Scelolyperus*, Kirgizstan.

The genus *Scelolyperus* CROTCH, 1874 was proposed for *Scelolyperus tejonicus* CROTCH, 1874 from northern America. Two additional species were described by HATCH (1971). CLARK (1996) reviewed North American members of the genus *Scelolyperus* CROTCH and placed in it 27 species. For many years the genus *Scelolyperus* was treated as a New World taxon. BRANCSIK (1899) proposed a new genus *Eugalera* for *Eugalera reitteri* BRANCSIK, 1899 from Siberia. OGLOBLIN (1936) suggested, with some doubts, that *Eugalera reitteri* is conspecific with *Luperus altaicus* MANNERHEIM, 1825. WILCOX (1973) placed *Luperus altaicus* MANNERHEIM, 1825 and *Luperus sericeus* JACOBSON, 1894, both taxa from Central Asia, within the genus *Scelolyperus* CROTCH. CLARK (1996) having examined specimens of *Luperus altaicus* concurred with WILCOX (1973) that this species does belong in *Scelolyperus*. Thus, the range of the genus *Scelolyperus* extends up to Central and East Asia.

The fact was overlooked or ignored by most European authors and Asiatic members of the genus *Scelolyperus* were usually classified within the genus *Luperus* subgenus *Calomicrus* STEPHENS, 1831 (LOPATIN 1977, MEDVEDEV 1982, MEDVEDEV and DUBESHKO 1992). Ron BEENEN (letter inf.) suggested me that the

genus *Scelolyperus* CROUCH in Asia comprises actually three species: *S. alaticus* (MANNERHEIM, 1825) and its subspecies *S. altaicus eous* (OGLOBLIN, 1936), *S. pseudoaltaicus* (MEDVEDEV, 1975), and *S. sericeus* (JACOBSON, 1894), probably also *Luperus grandis* JACOBSON, 1894 is a member of *Scelolyperus*. CLARK (1996) suggested that perhaps several of the Old World species now included in *Luperus* or similar genera (especially *Calomicrus*) properly belong in *Scelolyperus*. The same opinion presented Jose M. VELA, a great European specialist in the tribe Luperini in his letter to me.

In the material collected recently by my friends Roman KRÓLIK and Andrzej LASOŃ in Kirgizstan I have found specimens of *Scelolyperus* externally very similar to *Scelolyperus altaicus* (MANN.) but with distinct male genitalia. Its description is given below.

***Scelolyperus kroliki* n. sp.**

ETYMOLOGY

Dedicated to my friend Roman KRÓLIK, excellent specialist in buprestid beetles.



1-4. *Scelolyperus kroliki* n. sp.: 1 – male dorsal, 2 – penis dorsal, 3 – penis lateral, 4 – apex of penis dorsal

DIAGNOSIS

All Asiatic species of the genus *Scelolyperus* CROTCH are very similar and can be distinguished properly by the structure of male genitalia. They are characterized by distinctly metallic blue or green pronotum and elytra. *Scelolyperus sericeus* (JACOBS.) is well characterized by black legs with metallic sheen, while remaining species, including *S. kroliki*, have legs partly yellow. *Scelolyperus pseudoaltaicus* (MEDV.) is the smallest species with length 4.5-5.6 mm, while in *S. altaicus* (MANNH.), *S. grandis* (JACOBS.), and *S. kroliki* n. sp. length usually is above 6 mm, but the smallest specimens may be 4.7-5.5 mm long. Male genitalia are the best diagnostic character. Apex of penis and shape of penis in profile in *S. lyperus kroliki* n. sp. is unique (for figures of male genitalia of remaining species see MEDVEDEV 1975 and LOPATIN 1977).

DESCRIPTION

Length: 6.4-6.7 mm; width of elytra in humeral part: 2.3-2.4 mm, length/width ratio: 2.78-2.79, length of antennae: 5.2-5.5 mm. Body elongate, elytra almost parallelsided (fig. 1).

Head, pronotum, elytra, thorax and abdomen deep metallic blue. Antennal segment 1 black dorsally, yellow ventrally, segments 2-4 yellow, segment 5 yellowish ventrally, obscure to black dorsally, segments 6-11 black, or segment 6 ventrally on short distance yellowish. Femora mostly black with yellow apices. Fore tarsi mostly yellow, only two apical segments obscure. Mid and hind tarsi in holotype from base to apex gradually yellow to obscure, in paratype almost black.

Pronotum transverse, 1.40-1.42 times as wide as long, sides distinctly rounded, emarginate before posterior corners, both anterior and posterior corners distinct, angulate. Surface of pronotum with distinct lateral pits, finely, regularly punctate, distance between punctures several times wider than puncture diameter, interspaces smooth, shiny. Elytra with great humeral calli, without impressions or obtuse costae, finely punctate but punctures slightly coarser and denser than on pronotum.

Antennae long, approximately 0.82 times as long as length of body. Length ratio of antennal segments: 100:80:100:140:135:130:125:125:120:135. Segment 3 approximately 1.25 times as long as segment 2, segment 4 approximately 1.4 times as long as segment 3, apical segment thin, elongate. Hind tibiae slightly curved.

Aedeagus as in figs 2-4.

MATERIAL EXAMINED

Holotype male: "KYRGYZSTAN: Ysyk-Köl r., 42°27'N/78°31'E, 1890 m, 6 km SE of Teploklyuchenka, Terskey Ala-Too Mts., 10.06.2003, Roman Królik leg" (preserved at the Department of Biodiversity and Evolutionary Taxonomy, University of Wrocław, Poland); three paratypes male: "KYRGYZSTAN: Ysyk-Köl r., 42°27'N/78°31'E, 1890 m, 6 km SE of Teploklyuchenka, Terskey Ala-Too Mts., 10.06.2003, leg. Andrzej Lason"; paratype male: "KYRGYZSTAN: Ysyk-Köl r., 42°25'N/78°26'E, 2010 m, 10 km S of Karakol, Terskey Ala-Too Mts.,

09.06.2003, Roman Królik leg” (preserved at the Department of Biodiversity and Evolutionary Taxonomy, University of Wrocław, Poland and in the private collections of Roman KRÓLIK, Kluczbork, Poland, Andrzej LASOŃ, Białystok, Poland, and Andrzej WARCHAŁOWSKI, Wrocław, Poland).

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