

Agrilus scythicus, a new species from Ukraine
(Coleoptera: Buprestidae)

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ABSTRACT. *Agrilus scythicus* n. sp. from Ukraine is described, illustrated and compared with *Agrilus hyperici* (CREUTZER, 1799).

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, *Agrilus scythicus* sp. n., Coleoptera, Buprestidae, Ukraine, Palearctic region.

Subgenus *Spiragrilus* after ALEXEEV comprises 13 species of Palearctic fauna (ALEXEEV 1998), five of which, namely *Agrilus antiquus* MULSANT & REY, 1963, *Agrilus cinctus* (OLIVIER, 1790), *Agrilus hyperici* (CREUTZER, 1799) and *Agrilus macroderus* ABEILLE DE PERRIN, 1897 are distributed in Central Europe. In our opinion, among Central European species, to subgenus *Spiragrilus* belongs also *Agrilus croaticus* ABEILLE DE PERRIN, 1897 (syn. *Agrilus curtii* OBENBERGER, 1913). Besides from South-eastern Europe are known *Agrilus constantini* OBENBERGER, 1927 and *A. vaginalis philippovi* ALEXEEV, 1965.

In 1998 a joint expedition of ISEZ PAN (Kraków) and State Museum of Natural History Nat. Acad. Sci. Ukraine (Lviv) worked in the Reserve "Yelanetskiy Step" which is situated in Mykolayiv region in the south of Ukraine. The Reserve was founded in 1996 (area of 1675.7 ha or 16.757 km²) and protects the remainders of virgin steppe (with *Festuca sulcata*, *Stippa* spp. – *F. sulcata*, bush and petrophyte plant communities) in the territory adjacent to the Black Sea coast. During the expedition several dozen of specimens of a new species of the genus *Agrilus* were found on leaves and stems of *Genista albida* WILLD. (= *scythica* PACZ.) (Leguminosae). By its appearance the new species is similar to *A. hyperici*.

***Agrilus scythicus* sp. n.**

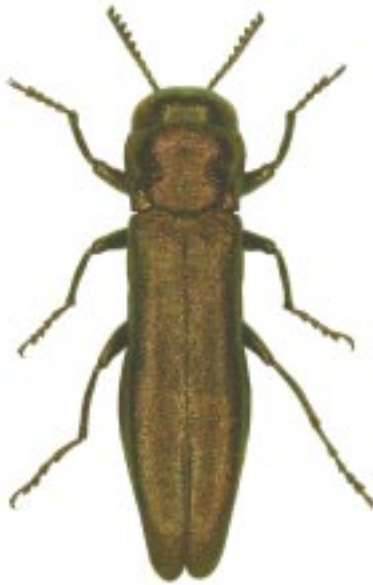
(Figs 1-2, 4, 6)

DESCRIPTION

Relatively small and slim species; body length: males 4.0-5.1 mm (holotype 4.8 mm), females 3.75-5.3 mm (allotype 5.3 mm). Body monochrome: bronze with greenish (male) or cupreous (female) frons.

Head large; frons strongly vaulted, widening upwards with delicate punctuation, basal microsculpture and fine, longitudinal, medial groove; clypeus deeply incurved on the anterior margin, distinctly separated from the frons by glabrous transverse carina; vertex broad: 0.65-0.73 times as wide as head and 3.8-5.4 times as wide as eye (eye width measured along the line of head and vertex width), delicate and shallow, spirally punctuate (fig. 2); eyes slightly extend beyond outline of head; antennae reaching nearly to half of pronotal length, antennal segments 5-11 wider than long, 4-10 triangular.

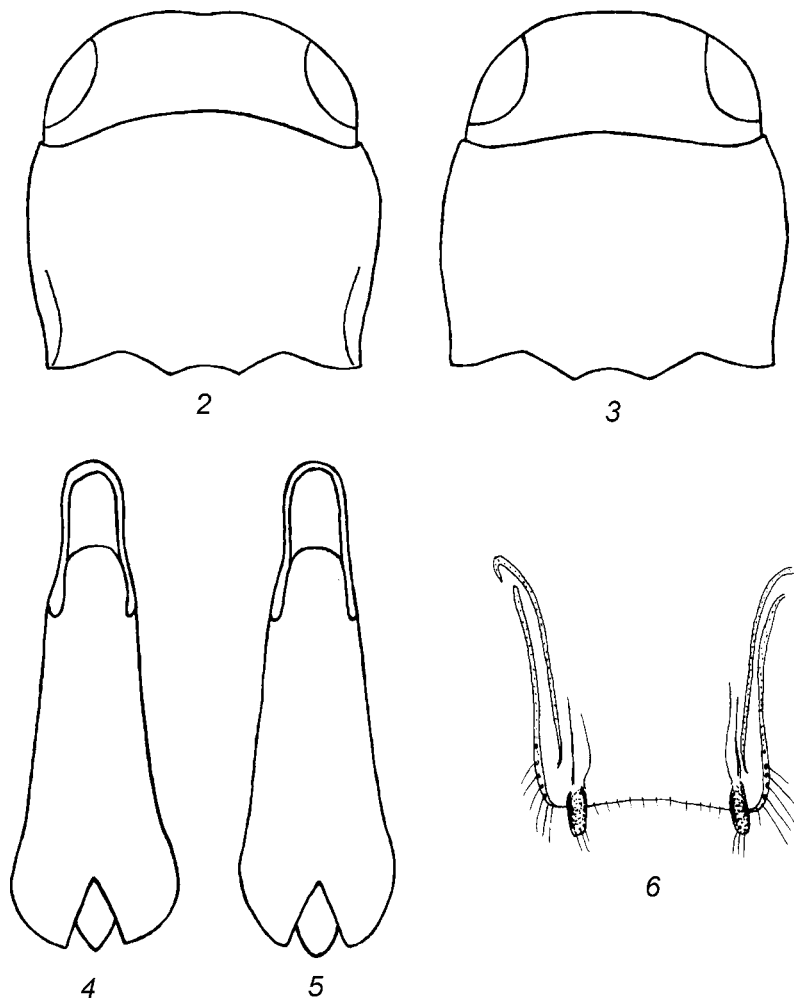
Pronotum convex, 1.4 times as wide as long, with slightly lobate anterior margin, strongly tapering rearwards, widest before anterior angles; disk with anterior central convexity slightly transversely impressed, shallow prescutellar furrow and feeble lateral impressions; pronotal sculpture consisting of fine transverse wrinkles. Prehumerus arcuate, reaching behind basal third of pronotum. Marginal and submarginal carinae subparallel, not conjoined in basal part.

1. *Agrilus scythicus* sp. n., holotype

Scutellum pentagonal, microsculptured, with sharp transverse carina.

Elytra subparallel, 3.2 times longer than wide, slightly narrowed near mid-length; apices separately arcuate with fine serration; disk with distinct humeral and adsutural impressions; sides of abdomen narrowly exposed when viewed from above; elytral sculpture fine, tile-like, with sparse, short, white pubescence.

Ventral side finely and sparsely punctured, rather lustrous; mentonniere with an indistinct median emargination, prosternal process narrow, subparallel in its middle part, then converging apically behind procoxae; anal sternite rounded apically.



2, 4, 6. *Agrilus scythicus*; 3, 5. *A. hyperici*: 2, 3 – head and pronotum; 4, 5 – aedeagus; 6 – ovipositor

Legs rather long, feebly and sparsely punctured, with basal microsculpture; all tibiae flattened; tarsi of hind legs are longer than tibiae, claws on all legs with inner tooth.

Aedeagus yellowish brown, with maximum width before apex (fig. 4), ovipositor as in fig. 6.

Sexual dimorphism. Male: frons greenish; middle part of prosternum, medial part of mesosternum and all femora from under with long, erect, white hairs; inner teeth of tarsal claws differentiated on fore, mid and hind legs. Female: frons cupreous; whole prosternum and mesosternum without long, white hairs; tarsal claws of all legs uniform, similar to those of hind tarsus of male.

Host plant

Probably *Genista albida*.

DISTRIBUTION

Southern Ukraine.

TYPE MATERIAL

Holotype (male): S. Ukraine, Mykolayiv region, "Zapovidnyk Yelanetskiy Step" Reserve near Voznisensk, 12-27 V 1998, leg. D. KUBISZ. Allotype (female): the same data as holotype, leg. M. MAZUR. Paratypes (26 males and 18 females): the same data, leg. J. BOROWSKI, T. JANICKI, D. KUBISZ, M. MAZUR. Holotype, allotype and part of paratypes deposited in the collection of the Institute of Systematic and Evolution of Animals Polish Acad. Sci. – Kraków, the other paratypes deposited in the collections: State Museum of Natural History Nat. Acad. Sci. Ukraine – Lviv; Upper Silesian Museum – Bytom, Poland; J. BOROWSKI – Rogów, Poland; R. KRÓLIK – Kluczbork, Poland.

NAME DERIVATION

This species is named after Scythia – the name applied by ancient Greeks to steppes north of Black Sea inhabited by nomads who disappeared from history about 2nd or 1st century BC.

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS

Agrilus scythicus belongs to the subgenus *Spiragrilus* ALEXEEV, 1998, to species-group with convex pronotum and feeble lateral impressions like *A. hyperici* and *A. vaginalis philippovi*. It is most similar to *A. hyperici* in small body and convexed frons. It differs from it in broad vertex, delicate and shallow punctuation of frons and vertex, pronotum strongly tapering rearwards, presence of distinct prehumeral (figs. 2 and 3), in tarsi of hind legs distinctly longer than tibiae and in pointed penis (figs 4 and 5).

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