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## **Contribution to the knowledge of the histerid beetles (Coleoptera, Histeridae) of North India**

S. MAZUR, A.V. SHAVRIN & A.V. ANICHTCHENKO

**A b s t r a c t :** Faunistic records of 23 species belonging to 16 genera of Histeridae from North India, primarily from Uttarakhand province, are presented. All identified species are new to the fauna of Uttarakhand. Three species are reported from India for the first time: *Eulomalus pupulus* COOMAN, 1937, *Atholus maindronii* (LEWIS, 1901) and *A. pirithous* MARSEUL, 1873. The habitus of all studied species is illustrated.

**K e y w o r d s :** Coleoptera, Histeridae, India, fauna, new records.

### **Introduction**

The histerid beetles (Coleoptera) are well represented in the Indian subcontinent. Members of this family are small to medium in size, round, oval or elongated in shape, generally black and shining with hard exoskeleton. They are predacious in habit both in larval and adult form, occurring in a variety of habitats namely in soil, in dung of various animals, in termite, nests and under bark. The Indian fauna of Histeridae was studied by early workers like J.Ch. FABRICIUS, G. PAYKULL, Ch. WIEDEMANN, W.F. ERICHSON, S.A. MARSEUL, C.G. THOMSON, G. LEWIS and others entomologists. Amongst the above workers MARSEUL (1853) and LEWIS (1892, 1894) studied extensively on the fauna of India and its neighbouring countries and described a large number of Indian species. Later H. BICKHARDT (1913) and A. COOMAN (1932) contributed more to the knowledge about Indian Histeridae. Recently J. THÉRON & W. SCHAWALLER (1978), S. MAZUR (1975) and Y. GOMY (1976) contributed further to our knowledge. Till now about 275 species from 57 genera are known from India in comparison to about 4500 species and 400 genera all over the world (MAZUR 2011a).

The aim of this study is to report the faunistic results of the Histeridae collected by two of coauthors undertaken during June 2011 and April 2012 in North India, Uttarakhand province, Uttar Pradesh [classified by LÖBL & SMETANA (2004) as belonging to the Palaearctic fauna].

### **Material and methods**

This paper is based on specimens which are deposited in the following institutions and private collections:

CHSM - private collection of S. Mazur, Warszawa, Poland

DUBC - Beetle Collection of Daugavpils University, Ilgas, Daugavpils district, Latvia

The distributional data were verified by Mazur (1997, 2004, 2011a). The habitual photographs were conducted using Canon digital camera with MP-E 65 mm Macro lens, Helicon Focus automontage software, and processed on Adobe Photoshop.

## Results

### Subfamily *Dendrophilinae* REITTER, 1909

#### *Diplostix* sp. (Fig. 1)

**Material examined:** Uttarakhand province: 1 spec.: 15 km SW New Tehri, N30°15.874' E78°21.587', h=869 m, 18-20.04.2012, A. Anichtchenko (DUBC).

#### *Eulomalus pupulus* COOMAN, 1937 (Fig. 2)

**Material examined:** Uttarakhand province: 1 spec.: left side of Kosi River, 5 km N Ramnagar, N29°432' E79°140', 19-23.06.2011, A. Shavrin (DUBC).

**Distribution:** The species is known from Vietnam, Burma (Myanmar), Nepal, Sumatra, Borneo, Taiwan, China (Yunnan, Hainan). This is the first record for India here.

#### *Pachylomalus andrewesi* (LEWIS, 1904) (Fig. 3)

**Material examined:** Uttarakhand province: 3 spec.: left side of Kosi River, 5 km N Ramnagar, N29°432' E79°140', 7-11.06.2011, A. Anichtchenko & A. Shavrin (DUBC).

**Distribution:** The species was known from South India. First record for North India and Uttarakhand province.

#### *Platylomalus mendicus* (LEWIS, 1892) (Fig. 4)

**Material examined:** Uttarakhand province: 4 spec.: left side of Kosi River, 5 km N Ramnagar, N29°432' E79°140', 7-11.06.2011, A. Anichtchenko & A. Shavrin (DUBC).

**Distribution:** The species is known from Far Eastern Russia (Maritime province [=Primorskiy Krai]), Japan, China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Indonesia. Recorded also from India by Cooman (1937): "de diverses localités d'Indochine, des Indes, de Java".

### Subfamily *Histerinae* GYLLENHAL, 1808

#### *Atholus maindronii* (LEWIS, 1901) (Fig. 5)

**Material examined:** Uttarakhand province: 1 spec.: 8 km W Bijnor, Ganga River, N29°22'45.06" E78°1'52.41", 08.04.2012, A. Anichtchenko (DUBC), Haryana province: 1 spec.: Karnal, 18.05.2001, M. Raković (CHSM); 1 spec.: New Dehli, 27.09.1997, P. Pucholt (CHSM).

**Distribution:** The species is known from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nepal. It is the first record for India.



**Figs 1-4.** Habitus of Histeridae: (1) *Diplostix* sp.; (2) *Eulomalus pupulus* COOMAN; (3) *Pachylomalus andrewesi* (LEWIS); (4) *Platylomalus mendicus* (LEWIS). Scale bar: 1.0 mm.

***A. pirithous* MARSEUL, 1873 (Fig. 6)**

*reitteri* BICKHARDT

**M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d :** Uttarakhand province: 1 spec.: 2 km N Govind Ghat [Gobindghat], Joshimath-Badrinath pass, valley of Alaknand River, 12-13.06.2011, A. Shavrin & A. Anichtchenko (DUBC); 2 spec.: Uttarkashi E 14 km, 1500 m, N30°45'02" E78°34'26", 10-12.04.2012, R. Cibulskis (DUBC); 1 spec.: Uttarkashi distr., N30°44'999" E78°34'412", 10-12.04.2012, A. Anichtchenko (DUBC); 1 spec.: same distr., left tributary of Bhagurathi River, h=2300 m, N30°57'41.57" E78°41'54.75", 13-15.04.2012, A. Anichtchenko (DUBC); 1 spec.: Govind Ghat [Gobindghat], valley of Alaknanda River, N30°62' E79°55', 14-15.06.2011, A. Anichtchenko & A. Shavrin (DUBC).

**D i s t r i b u t i o n :** The species is known from Russia (Maritime province), Japan, China, Taiwan, Korea, Vietnam, Nepal, Oman. It is new records for India here.

***Apobletes schauemei* MARSEUL, 1861 (Fig. 7)**

*tener* MARSEUL

**M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d :** Uttarakhand province: 1 spec.: left side of Kosi River, 5 km N Ramnagar, N29°432' E79°140', 7-11.06.2011, A. Shavrin (DUBC).

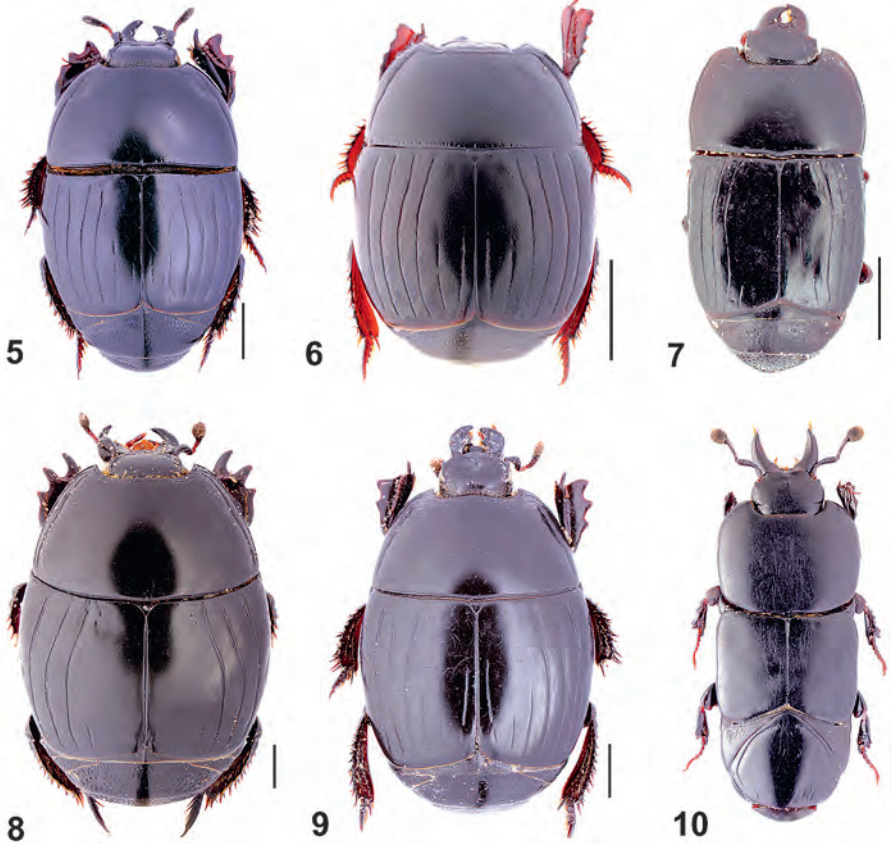
**D i s t r i b u t i o n :** The species is known from China (Hainan), Taiwan, Nepal, Burma, Japan and Oriental region. For India recorded from Meghalaya (Chakraborty & Biswas, 2000).

***Hister furcipes* MARSEUL, 1854 (Fig. 8)**

*bellicus* LEWIS

**M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d :** Uttarakhand province: 2 spec.: 8 km NW Jaspur, lake shore, N29°21'10.54" E78°48'30.99", 22-23.04.2012, A. Anichtchenko (DUBC); 3 spec.: 8 km W Bijnor, Ganga River, N29°22'45.06" E78°1'52.41", 08.04.2012, A. Anichtchenko (DUBC).

**D i s t r i b u t i o n :** Described originally from "East India" [India or.] without precise locality, known also from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Java and Nepal (Mazur, 2011b).



**Figs 5-10.** Habitus of Histeridae: (5) *Atholus maindronii* (LEWIS); (6) *A. pirithous* MARSEUL 1873; (7) *Apobletes schaumei* MARSEUL 1861; (8) *Hister furcipes* MARSEUL 1854; (9) *H. pullatus* ERICHSON 1834; (10) *Hololepta elongata* ERICHSON 1834. Scale bar: 1.0 mm.

***H. pullatus* ERICHSON, 1834 (Fig. 9)**

*frontalis* LEWIS, *scissifrons* MARSEUL, *Atholus pullatus* OLEXA

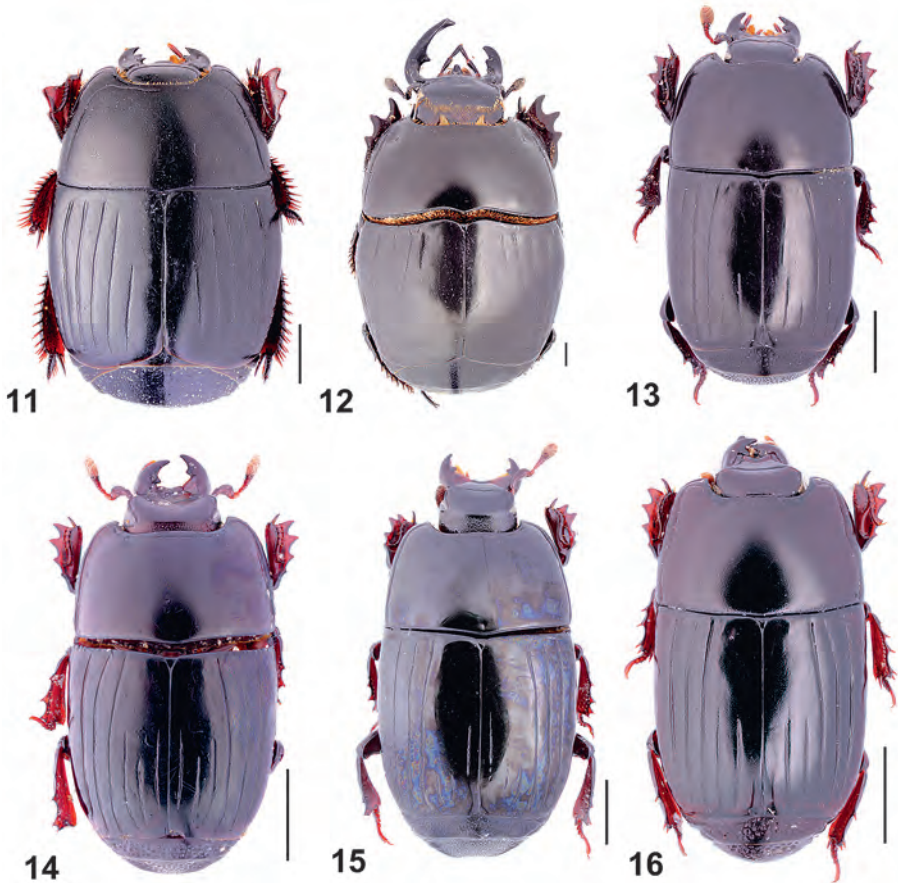
**Material examined:** Uttarakhand province: 2 spec.: Uttarkashi E 14 km, 1500 m, N30°45'02" E78°34'26", 10-12.04.2012, R. Cibulskis (DUBC); 8 spec.: 8 km NW Jaspur, lake shore, N29°21'10.54" E78°48'30.99", 22-23.04.2012, A. Anichtchenko (DUBC).

**Distribution:** The species is known from East India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Assam, Tenasserim, Ivory Coast.

***Hololepta elongata* ERICHSON, 1834 (Fig. 10)**

**Material examined:** Uttarakhand province: 2 spec.: left side of Kosi River, 5 km N Ramnagar, N29°43'2" E79°14'0", 7-11.06.2011, A. Anichtchenko & A. Shavrin (DUBC).

**Distribution:** A common Oriental species, known from India: Arunachal Pradesh.



**Figs 11-16.** Habitus of Histeridae: (11) *Nasaltus orientalis* (PAYKULL); (12) *Pachylister distorsus* (ILLIGER); (13) *Platylister (Platylister) atratus* (ERICHSON); (14) *P. (P.) odiosus* (MARSEUL); (15) *P. (P.) sororius* LEWIS; (16) *P. (Popinus) confucii* MARSEUL. Scale bar: 1.0 mm.

***Nasaltus chinensis* (QUENSEL, 1806)**

*incisus* ERICHSON, *mandibularis* GUÉRIN-MÉNEVILLE

**Material examined:** Uttarakhand province: 2 spec.: 8 km NW Jaspur, lake shore, N29°21'10.54" E78°48'30.99", 22-23.04.2012, A. Anichtchenko (DUBC); 1 spec.: 8 km W Bijnor, Ganga River, N29°22'45.06" E78°1'52.41", 08.04.2012, A. Anichtchenko (DUBC).

**Distribution:** The species is known from Japan, Nepal, South Korea, China, Taiwan, East India (Arunachal Pradesh), Oriental region, introduced to Fiji, Samoa, New Hebrides, Australia, Solomon Is., Hawaii, Trinidad, French Guyana.

***N. orientalis* (PAYKULL, 1811) (Fig. 11)**

**Material examined:** Dehli province: 1 spec.: New Dehli, Central Ridge Reserve, 25-26.06.2011, A. Anichtchenko (DUBC).

**Distribution:** The species is known from Pakistan, East India, Nepal, China, Sri Lanka, introduced to Seychelles.

***Pachylister distorsus* (ILLIGER, 1807) (Fig. 12)**

*bengalensis* WIEDEMANN, *major* HERBST

**Material examined:** Uttarakhand province: 2 spec.: 8 km NW Jaspur, lake shore, N29°21'10.54" E78°48'30.99", 22-23.04.2012, A. Anichtchenko (DUBC); 1 spec.: 8 km W Bijnor, Ganga River, N29°22'45.06" E78°1'52.41", 08.04.2012, A. Anichtchenko (DUBC).

**Distribution:** Known from East India (Coromandel), West Bengal, Myanmar, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

***Platylister (Platylister) atratus* (ERICHSON, 1834) (Fig. 13)**

*buteanum* DESBORDES

**Material examined:** Uttarakhand province: 10 spec.: left side of Kosi River, 5 km N Ramnagar, N29°43' E79°140', 7-11.06.2011, A. Anichtchenko & A. Shavrin (DUBC).

**Distribution:** The species is known from Japan, South China, Taiwan, India (Meghalaya, West Bengal), Nepal, Indochina.

***P. (P.) odiosus* (MARSEUL, 1861) (Fig. 14)**

*dissimile* MOTSCHULSKY, *marseulii* CANDEZE

**Material examined:** Uttarakhand province: 1 spec.: left side of Kosi River, 5 km N Ramnagar, N29°43' E79°140', 7-11.06.2011, A. Anichtchenko (DUBC).

**Distribution:** The species is known from India (Kerala, West Bengal), Sri Lanka, Indochina, Tenasserim, Borneo, Java.

***P. (P.) sororius* LEWIS, 1904 (Fig. 15)**

**Material examined:** 1 spec.: left side of Kosi River, 5 km N Ramnagar, N29°43' E79°140', 7-11.06.2011, A. Anichtchenko & A. Shavrin (DUBC).

**Distribution:** The species is known from India (Meghalaya, Malabar, Nilgiri Hills), Nepal, Burma, Vietnam.

***P. (Popinus) confucii* MARSEUL, 1857 (Fig. 16)**

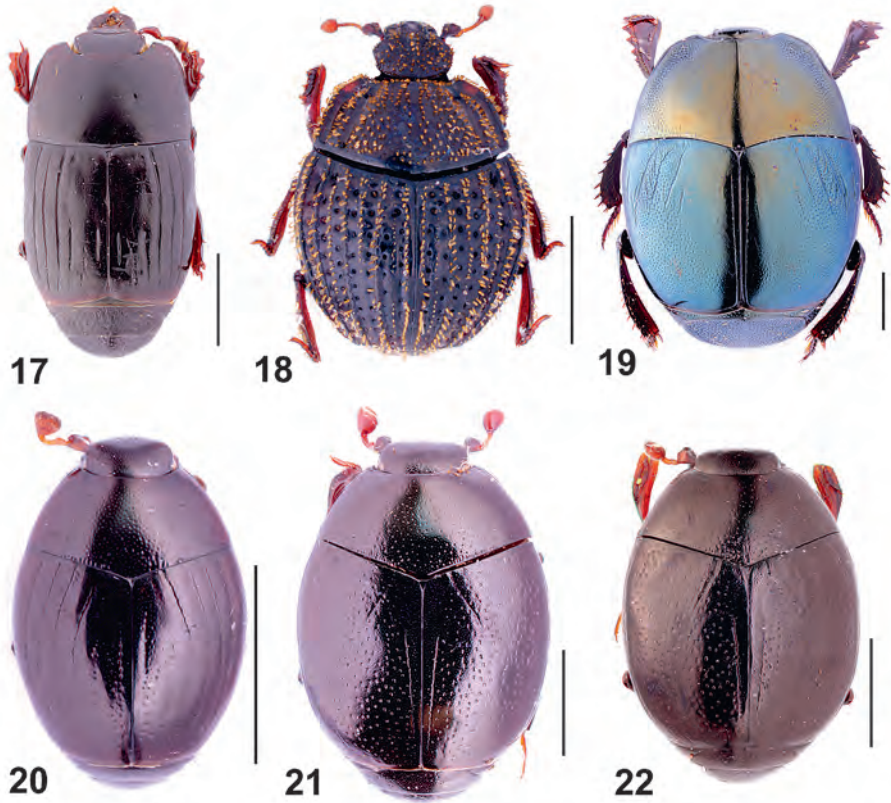
*hageni* MARSEUL, *quinquestriatum* MOTSCHULSKY

**Material examined:** Uttarakhand province: 15 spec.: 15 km SW New Tehri, N30°15.874' E78°21.587', h=869 m, 18-20.04.2012, A. Anichtchenko (DUBC); 1 spec.: left side of Kosi River, valley of Kosi River, 5 km N Ramnagar, N29°25'57" E79°08'21", 23-26.04.2012, R. Cibulskis (DUBC).

**Distribution:** The species is known from India (Arunachal Pradesh), China (Guandong, Hainan), Nepal, Oriental region.

***Platysoma brahmani* LEWIS, 1910 (Fig. 17)**

**Material examined:** Uttarakhand province: 2 spec.: left side of Kosi River, 5 km N Ramnagar, N29°43' E79°140', 7-11.06.2011, A. Anichtchenko (DUBC).



**Figs 17-22.** Habitus of Histeridae: (17) *Platysoma brahmani* LEWIS; (18) *Epiechinus hispidus* (PAYKULL); (19) *Saprinus (Saprinus) splendens* (PAYKULL); (20) *Parepierus corticicola* BICKHARDT; (21) *Tribalus (Eutribalus) colombius* MARSEUL; (22) *T. (Eu.) koenigius* MARSEUL. Scale bar: 1.0 mm.

**Distribution:** The species is known from India (Sikkim, Uttaranchal), Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal.

**Subfamily Onthophilinae W.S. MACLEAY, 1819**

***Epiechinus hispidus* (PAYKULL, 1811) (Fig. 18)**

*birmanus* LEWIS

**Material examined:** Uttarakhand province: 2 spec.: left side of Kosi River, 5 km N Ramnagar, N29°43' E79°140', 7-11.06.2011, A. Anichtchenko (DUBC).

**Distribution:** Species described originally from "East India", known from Nepal, Burma, Sri Lanka and Indochina.

**Subfamily Saprininae C.E. BLANCHARD, 1845**

***Saprinus (Saprinus) splendens* (PAYKULL, 1811) (Fig. 19)**

*advena* MARSEUL, *ater* W.J. MACLEAY, *elegans* PAYKULL, *ovalis* MARSEUL, *rasselas* MARSEUL, *speciosus* ERICHSON, *viridicupreus* C.E. BLANCHARD

**Material examined:** Uttarakhand province: 12 spec.: left side of Kosi River, 5 km N Ramnagar, N29°432' E79°140', 7-11.06.2011, A. Anichtchenko & A. Shavrin (DUBC).

**Distribution:** The species is known from Capland, tropical Africa, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India (Kashmir), South Korea, Japan, Oriental region, Australia.

**Subfamily Tribalinae BICKHARDT, 1914**

***Parepieus corticicola* BICKHARDT, 1913 (Fig. 20)**

**Material examined:** Uttarakhand province: 5 spec.: 15 km SW New Tehri, N30°15.874' E78°21.587', h=869 m, 18-20.04.2012, A. Anichtchenko (DUBC).

**Distribution:** The species was known from India (Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam) and Nepal.

***Tribalus (Eutribalus) colombius* MARSEUL, 1864 (Fig. 21)**

**Material examined:** Uttarakhand province: 5 spec.: 15 km SW New Tehri, N30°15.874' E78°21.587', h=869 m, 18-20.04.2012, A. Anichtchenko (DUBC).

**Distribution:** The species is known from India (Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Assam, Andaman Is.), Sri Lanka, Burma, Taiwan, Vietnam.

***T. (Eu.) koenigius* MARSEUL, 1864 (Fig. 22)**

**Material examined:** Uttarakhand province: 17 spec.: left side of Kosi River, 5 km N Ramnagar, N29°432' E79°140', 7-11.06.2011, A. Anichtchenko & A. Shavrin (DUBC).

**Distribution:** The species is known from India (Andaman Is.), China (Hainan), Vietnam, New Guinea, Aru Is., Tenasserim, Australia.

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**Zusammenfassung**

Insgesamt 23 Arten der Histeridae werden aus Nordindien, insbesondere aus Uttarakhand, nachgewiesen. Alle identifizierten Arten sind neu für die Fauna von Uttarakhand. Drei Arten werden erstmals für Indien gemeldet: *Eulomalus pupulus* COOMAN 1937, *Atholus maindronii* (LEWIS, 1901) und *A. piriithous* MARSEUL 1873. Der Habitus aller Arten wird abgebildet.



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## Authors' addresses:

Dr. Sławomir MAZUR  
 Department of Forest Protection and Ecology,  
 Warsaw University of Life Science,  
 Nowoursynowska 159, bld. 34, 02-776 Warszawa, Poland  
 E-mail: slawomir.mazur@wl.sggw.pl

Dr. Alexey V. SHAVRIN & Dr. Alexander V. ANICHTCHENKO  
 Institute of Systematic Biology, Daugavpils University,  
 Vienibas 13, Daugavpils, LV-5401, Latvia.  
 E-mail: ashavrin@hotmail.com, beetl2000@mail.ru

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Autor(en)/Author(s): Mazur Slawomir, Shavrin Alexey V., Anichtchenko Alexander V.

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