

### **A new species of the genus *Cephaloncus* WESTWOOD from Turkmenistan (Insecta: Coleoptera: Malachiidae)**

With 7 figures

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**Abstract.** A new species, *Cephaloncus polevodi* sp. n., from Turkmenistan, known only from its type locality, is described; figures of male habitus and genitalia are given and a distribution map is provided.

**Key words** Coleoptera, Malachiidae, *Cephaloncus*, new species, key, Central Asia, Turkmenistan.

#### **Introduction**

Small malachiid beetles (2–3 mm in length) with normally developed wings and 5-segmented tarsi of anterior legs are included in the genus *Cephaloncus* WESTWOOD, 1863. Usually, surface of these beetles with double coloration. The main character which defines the genus *Cephaloncus* in addition to those mentioned above is the interocular impression of the head in the male. It consist of three main parts: medial impression, appendage in the medial impression and lateral impressions near the lower side of eyes. Different shape and development of these structures can be used for identification of species in this genus. Systematic characters of females are not given due to the scarcity of females in collections. The key given below is to males only but can be used for preliminary identification of females.

A review of the *Cephaloncus* fauna in Central Asia was presented in my previous work (TSHERNYSHEV 1997) where sketches of male heads and other special structures were shown. In the present article only written descriptions of these characters for different species are given in the key. For the detailed information it is better to see my previous work or sources of descriptions cited in References below.

Up to now, 10 species and one subspecies of *Cephaloncus* have been described from Central Asia. Another new species was found in material from Turkmenistan, collected by V. POLEVOD. It is very small and can be placed near *Cephaloncus mordkovitshi* TSHERNYSHEV, 1997 according to the coloration of the elytra, which have a wide yellow transverse stripe in middle and light margins of elytral apices (fig. 1). Interocular impression is quite characteristic (fig. 2), trans-

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verse and deep. This and other characters can be used to separate this new species from the other *Cephaloncus* species in the following key:

### Key to *Cephaloncus* species in Central Asia (males)

1. Elytra unicolorous dark. 2
- Elytra unicolorous light, or with light spots or stripes (fig. 1). 3
2. Interocular area flat, with narrow and transverse impression, appendage in impression level with forehead in profile, lateral impressions near the lower side of eyes weak. *C. reducticeps* (PIC, 1932)
- Interocular area convex, impression subquadrate, appendage in impression attached below level of forehead, lateral impressions near the lower side of eyes distinct. *C. gracilispinus* WITTMER, 1956
3. Elytra unicolorous yellow, sometimes with small dark spots near shoulders; interocular impression transverse, with basal part lower than lower part of eyes, distal part of impression lower than upper margin of eye. On sides the impression margin approaches very close to eyes and is emarginate. Appendage in impression short and strong, inserted on the same level as anterior margins of eyes. *C. jelineki* WITTMER, 1979
- Elytra dark with light spots or stripes. 4
4. Apices of elytra light. 5
- Apices of elytra dark. 7
5. Elytra with wide yellow margin on sides reaching to base, slightly expanded in middle and widely at elytral apices. Interocular impression wide but not deep, not reaching level of hind margins of eyes, appendage apparently triangular shaped, lateral impressions near the lower side of eyes weak and oval. *C. mordkovitshi* TSHERNYSHEV, 1997
- Elytra without yellow margin on sides. 6
6. Elytral base under the pronotum with narrow yellow stripe. Interocular impression wide and deep, transversal, with the distal part being not reaching level of hind margins of eyes, appendage apparently oval, lateral impressions near lower side of eyes strong and deep, trapezium-shaped (fig. 2). *C. polevodi* sp. n.
- Elytral base dark, elytra with two yellow spots in the middle, apices with narrow yellow margins, head black with very wide and deep interocular impression distal side of which extends beyond level of margins of eyes, appendage is a thin longitudinal lamella, lateral impressions near lower side of eyes round, very strong and deep. *C. khnzoriani* WITTMER, 1964
7. Elytral base light. 8
- Elytral base dark. 10
8. Only small narrow area behind shoulders light. 9
- Basal part of elytra with two light transverse stripes not reaching the suture, interocular impression wide, not deep, appendage small, lateral impressions near the lower side of eyes lacking. *C. kubani* ŠVIHLA, 1984
9. Interocular impression not wide, moderately deep, appendage simple, distinct, lateral impressions near lower side of eyes distinct (in subspecies *C. reitteri afghanistanus* WITTMER, 1956 in elytral base there is an additional spot and the interocular impression is wider). *C. reitteri* (FLEISCHNER, 1910)
- Interocular impression wide, transverse, deep in middle, appendage consisting of two lamellae, lateral impressions near lower side of eyes strong, widening distally and fused with upper part of interocular impression. *C. kryzhanovskiyi* TSHERNYSHEV, 1997
10. Interocular impression wide, transverse, reaching middle part of eyes, appendage thin, rounded at the tip, lateral impressions lacking. *C. nuristanicus* WITTMER, 1956
- Interocular impression narrow, weakly elongate, subhexagonal with rounded angles, appendage elongate and stout, lateral impressions near the lower side of eyes distinct. *C. kunarensis* WITTMER, 1958

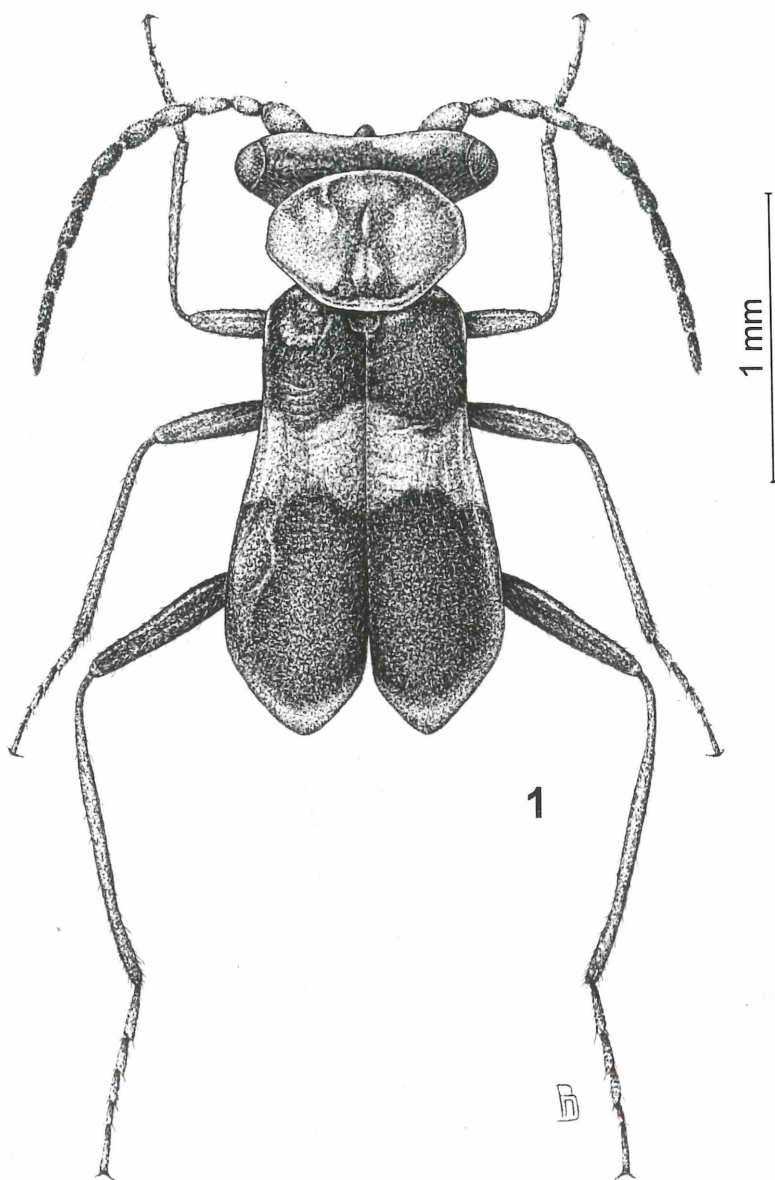


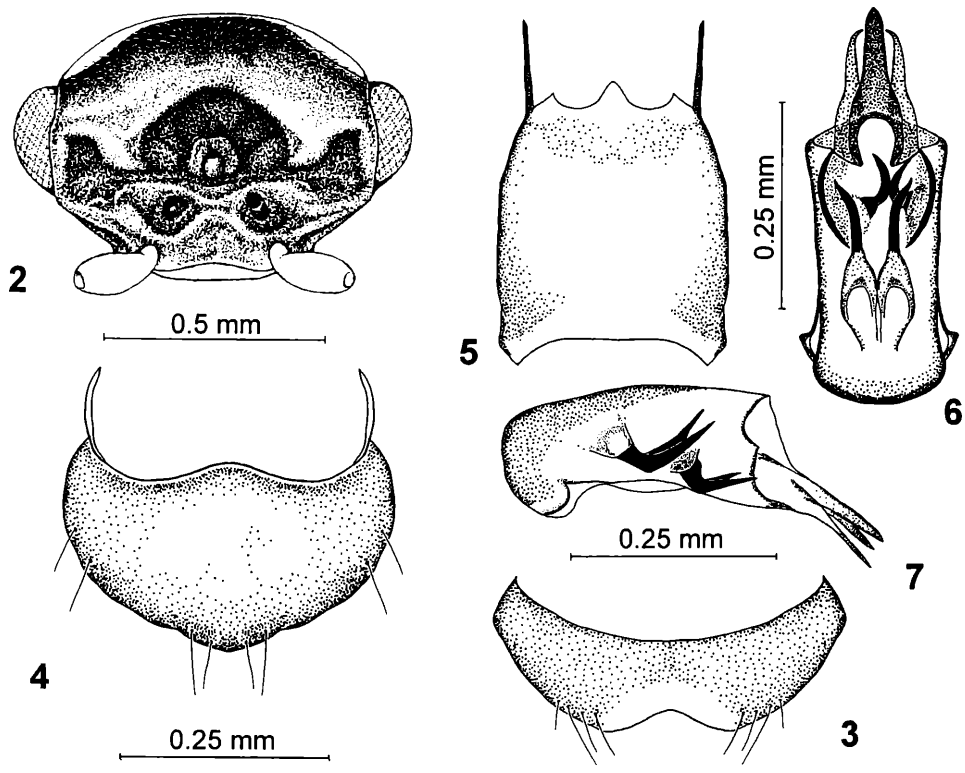
Fig. 1: *Cephaloncus polevodi* sp. n., male, habitus.

### Description of a new species

#### *Cephaloncus polevodi* sp. n. (Figs 1–7)

**Material.** Holotype, male, Turkmenistan, Bakharden Area, Ipai-Kala Vill., 20.V.1997, swept from grass, leg. V. POLEVOD (SZMN).

Holotype of the new species is kept in the Siberian Zoological Museum (SZMN), Institute of Animal Systematics and Ecology, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences,



Figs 2–8: *Cephaloncus polevodi* sp. n., male.  
2 – head, dorsally; 3 – apical sternite; 4 – apical tergite; 5 – tegmen; 6 – aedeagus, dorsally;  
7 – aedeagus, laterally; 8 – distribution map.

Novosibirsk. For the description and diagnosis of the species male genitalia have been prepared. Once the genitalia had been studied, they were glued using G-1300 (Yo Yo) glue onto a card mounted and pinned under the specimen.

**E t y m o l o g y** The species is named after my colleague from Kemerovo Museum, outstanding artist, Vladimir POLEVOD, who has collected this new species in Turkmenistan.

**D e s c r i p t i o n** Holotype, male (fig. 1). Body elongate, narrow, slightly expanded posteriorly. Head yellow with the occiput and three apical joints of antennae dark. Pronotum yellow, with dark longitudinal median stripe. Scutellum black. Elytra brownish black each with small yellow spot at base under the pronotum and yellow transverse stripe in middle; apices light-brown. Underside black, legs yellow with all tarsi and posterior femora somewhat darker. Surface evenly covered with sparse, very fine and short light pubescence. Vesicles yellow, trochanters and thoracic mesepimera brown.

Head wider than the pronotum, front with interocular impression wide and deep, transverse, with distal part not higher than upper margins of eyes, appendage appearing oval, lateral impressions near lower sides of eyes strong and deep, trapezium-shaped (fig. 2); genae short and straight, clypeus narrow, transverse, labrum short, transverse; palpi elongate, joint 2 transverse, apical joint slender, cylindrical, 1.3 times longer than the joint 1, with thin acuminate apex; surface of head shiny, punctures sparse, microsculpture indistinct, pubescence as on pronotum and elytra. Antennae (fig. 1) reaching the anterior third of the elytra, the segment 1 large, oblongo-clavate, remaining segments shorter, cylindrical, less than half of the length of the 1 segment, apical segment somewhat longer than intermediates and evenly sinuate at apex, surface evenly covered with short light erect pubescence.

Pronotum transverse, anterior margin strongly convex, posterior straight; all angles rounded and posterior ones obliquely truncate; surface very sparsely punctured, smooth and shiny, with sparse fine pubescence.

Scutellum short and transverse, almost hidden by the pronotum.

Elytra oblong, widening posteriorly, at the base not wider than the pronotum; shoulders distinct, but not protrudent; apices separately rounded near the suture, simple; surface shining, weakly shagreened, with sparse semierect fine and light pubescence.

Legs long and thin, posterior femora reaching the elytral apices; tibiae thin, terate, straight; femora compressed, all tarsi 5-segmented, narrow, without combs or other special structures; claw-segment the longest, somewhat shorter than segments 1 and 2 taken together in anterior and intermediate legs, and of the same length as segments 1 and 2 taken together in posterior legs; claws narrow, with small pellucid lamella at base.

Ventral surface of body densely punctured, with sparse white appressed pubescence; apical sternite transverse, narrow, 4 times wider than long, apex weakly emarginate in the middle (fig. 3); apical tergite transverse, 1.7 times wider than long, tapering, and truncate at apex (fig. 4), tegmen subquadrate, with thin apodems (fig. 5), aedeagus complex with two sharp structures on sides and one above the apex, which bears two pairs of curved spines internally (fig. 6).

Length (male) 1.7 mm, width (at elytral base) 0.6 mm.

**F e m a l e** Unknown.

**D i s t r i b u t i o n** Type locality only (fig. 7).

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