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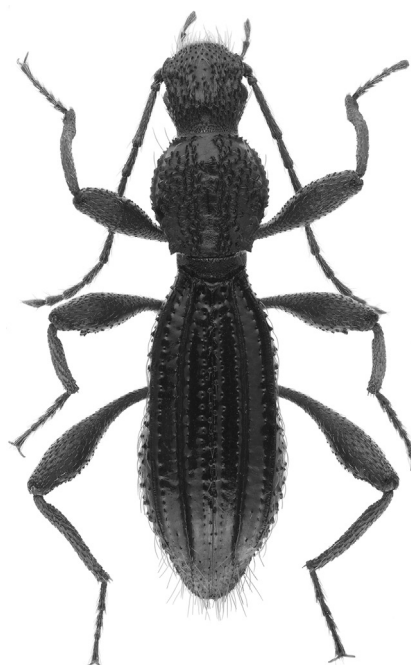


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Oxytelus (Tanycraerus) altaicus Kastcheev, 1999 – a little known rove beetle species from Kazakhstan (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Oxytelinae)

© M.Yu. Gildenkov¹, O.I. Semionenkov²

¹Department of Ecology and Chemistry, Smolensk State University, Przhhevskiy str., 4, Smolensk 214000 Russia. E-mail: mgildenkov@mail.ru

²Smolensk Lakeland National Park, Gurevich str., 19, Przhhevskoe village, Demidov District, Smolensk Region 216270 Russia. E-mail: osemionenkov@yandex.ru

Abstract. Diagnostic characters for the little known species *Oxytelus (Tanycraerus) altaicus* Kastcheev, 1999 are presented and illustrated. *Oxytelus (T.) altaicus* differs from the closely related *O. (T.) laqueatus* (Marshall, 1802) in the structure of the parameres and abdominal sternite VII. The main character in the structure of the aedeagus of *O. altaicus*, which differ this species from *O. laqueatus*, is the form of the parameres, which is especially obvious seen in the lateral view. In *O. laqueatus*, depression between paired teeth on the posterior margin of sternite VII is rounded; in *O. altaicus* this depression forms obtuse angle. Illustrations of some morphological details of *O. laqueatus* are also presented: habitus, the aedeagus, the structure of the parameres and male abdominal sternite VII.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, *Oxytelus*, *Tanycraerus*, diagnostics, Kazakhstan.

Oxytelus (Tanycraerus) altaicus Kastcheev, 1999 – малоизвестный вид из Казахстана (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Oxytelinae)

© М.Ю. Гильденков¹, О.И. Семionenков²

¹Кафедра экологии и химии, Смоленский государственный университет, ул. Пржевальского, 4, Смоленск, 214000 Россия. E-mail: mgildenkov@mail.ru

²Национальный парк “Смоленское Поозерье”, ул. Гуревича, 19, пос. Пржевальское, Демидовский район, Смоленская область 216270 Россия. E-mail: osemionenkov@yandex.ru

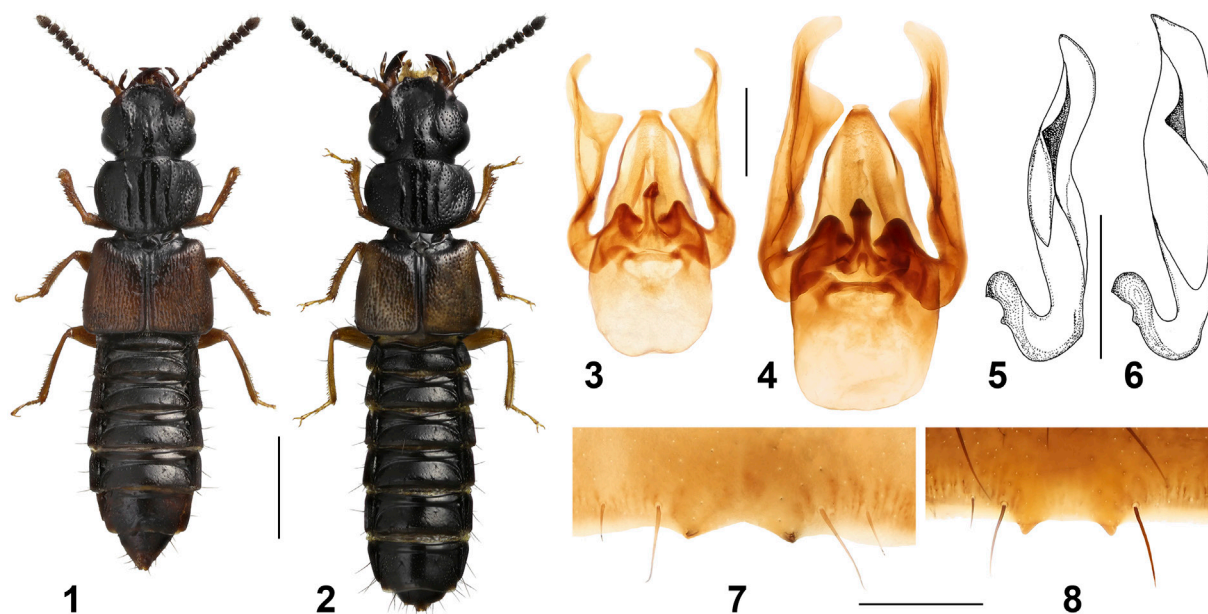
Резюме. Представлены и проиллюстрированы диагностические признаки для малоизвестного вида *Oxytelus (Tanycraerus) altaicus* Kastcheev, 1999. Приведены его отличия от близкого вида *Oxytelus (Tanycraerus) laqueatus* (Marshall, 1802) в строении парамер аedeгуса и VII sternита брюшка.

Ключевые слова: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, *Oxytelus*, *Tanycraerus*, диагностика, Казахстан.

Introduction

In their revision of the genus *Oxytelus* Gravenhorst, 1802 of China, Lü and Zhou [2012], probably for the first time, defined a group of species that are very closely related to *O. (Tanycraerus) laqueatus* (Marshall, 1802). These authors called this group as “laqueatus-allied species” and, in addition to *O. laqueatus*, they included there five more species: *O. almoresis* Cameron, 1930 from Pakistan and India, *O. houomontis* Ito, 1994 and *O. jessoensis* Bernhauer, 1907 from Japan, *O. robustus* Schubert, 1906 from China (Beijing, Gansu, Sichuan), Pakistan and India, as well as *O. tibetanus* Bernhauer, 1933 from China (Sichuan, Xizang). All species included in this group are similar to *O. laqueatus* not only in general habitus, structure of the head, the pronotum, and the elytra, but also in the shape of the posterior margin of abdominal sternites VII and VIII. Later, a new species *O. assingi* Schülke, 2012 was described from the Caucasus [Schülke, 2012]. Michael Schülke rightly noted that the new species is very close to *O. laqueatus*, also recorded for the Caucasus, and to a little known species, *O. altaicus* Kastcheev, 1999. At the same time, Schülke illustrated morphological features for the holotype of *O. laqueatus* [Schülke, 2012: 1660, figs 5–7], but for *O. altaicus* [Schülke, 2012: 1645] he gave only a

reference to description and illustrations by Kastcheev [1999: 147, figs 6, 13; 153]. He noted, however, that it would be important to study the type material for *O. altaicus*, to clarify its identity. Recently, *O. ruthenus* Semionenkov et Gildenkov, 2022 was described from European Russia and Kamchatka, which is very close to *O. assingi* [Semionenkov, Gildenkov, 2022]. *Oxytelus laqueatus* is very widespread species: in the Palaearctic, it is recorded for almost all of Europe [Schülke, Smetana, 2015]; in Asia, for the Western and Eastern Siberia, the Russian Far East, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, and Turkey. There are records of *O. laqueatus* for the Neotropical and Nearctic regions. This species has not been recorded for China and Japan. Thus, among the eight species close to *O. laqueatus*, four of them are sympatric with it: *O. almoresis*, *O. robustus*, *O. assingi*, *O. ruthenus*, and *O. altaicus* which requires clear morphological diagnoses for their separation. For *O. robustus*, the features that distinguish it from *O. laqueatus* and other species are well illustrated in the structure of sternite VIII [Lü, Zhou, 2012: 46, fig. 17], for *O. assingi* and *O. ruthenus* these are distinctive features in the structure of parameres and sternite VIII [Schülke, 2012: 1660, figs 3, 4; Semionenkov, Gildenkov, 2022: 34, figs 2, 3]. The differences of *O. almoresis* from other species in this group are not so clearly illustrated [Cameron, 1930:



Figs 1–8. Species of the genus *Oxytelus*, general view and details of structure. 1, 3, 5, 7 – *O. altaicus*, male, paratype; 2, 4, 6, 8 – *O. laqueatus*, male (Smolensk Region, Russia). 1–2 – imago, dorsal view; 3–4 – aedeagus, ventral view; 5–6 – right paramere, lateral view; 7–8 – sternite VII, posterior margin. Scale bars: 1–2 – 1 mm; 3–4, 7–8 – 0.2 mm; 5–6 – 0.25 mm.

Рис. 1–8. Виды рода *Oxytelus*, общий вид и детали строения.

1, 3, 5, 7 – *O. altaicus*, самец, паратип; 2, 4, 6, 8 – *O. laqueatus*, самец (Смоленская область, Россия). 1–2 – имаго, вид сверху; 3–4 – эдеагус, вентрально; 5–6 – правая парамера, вид сбоку; 7–8 – стернит VII, задний край. Масштабные линейки: 1–2 – 1 мм; 3–4, 7–8 – 0.2 мм; 5–6 – 0.25 мм.

221, fig. 45], there is a great similarity of that species with *O. robustus*. Diagnostic morphological features as they were noted and illustrated for *O. altaicus* [Kastcheev, 1999], do not allow its identification at all. Such ambiguity about identity of *O. altaicus* was earlier noted by Schülke [2012] and, probably because of that, this species was also ignored by the Chinese colleagues in their revision. To fill this knowledge gap, here we shed light on the identity of this species after the revision of its type material.

Material and methods

The examined material is deposited in the following collections:

cMG – private collection of Mikhail Gildenkov (Smolensk, Russia);

cOS – private collection of Oleg Semionenkov (Smolensk, Russia);

ZIN – Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (St Petersburg, Russia).

In the present study, standard methods for the taxonomic research on insects were used. Specimens were examined using MBS 10 stereomicroscope. The genital preparations were processed using 10% KOH and then fixed in euparal. Photographs were taken with a Canon EOS 5D Mark III camera and a Canon MP-E 65 mm objective using the extended focus technology.

Oxytelus (Tanycraerus) altaicus Kastcheev, 1999
(Figs 1, 3, 5, 7)

Type material. 2♂, 2 ex. (ZIN), paratypes (Figs 1, 3, 5, 7), Eastern Kazakhstan, Altai Mountains (Altai), environs of Rakhmanovskie Klyuchi

vill., with labels: “Алтай, Рахман. Ключи, 14–16.6.80. В. Кащ” (Altai, Rakhman. Klyuchi, 14–16.6.80. V. Kashch.), “Paratypus *Oxytelus altaicus* Kastcheev, 1999/ rev. M. Gildenkov, 2011” (red), “*altaicus*” (red).

Redescription. Measurements (mm), male, paratype: head width with eyes – 0.915; head width at temples – 0.93; head length from front margin of clypeus to the beginning of neck – 0.672; length of antenna – 1.158; ocular length (longitudinal) – 0.229; length of temple – 0.257; length of pronotum – 0.744; maximum width of pronotum – 1.058; sutural length of elytra (length of elytra from apex of scutellum to posterior margin of sutural angle) – 0.744; length of elytra (length of elytra from shoulder to posterior margin) – 0.944; maximum width of elytra – 1.273; maximum width of abdomen – 1.13; length of aedeagus (from base of median lobe to apex of parameres) – 0.686; length of forebody (from anterior margin of clypeus to apex of elytra) – 2.445; total length (from anterior margin of clypeus to apex of abdomen) – 4.7.

Head, pronotum and abdomen black-brown; elytra, base of antennae (antennomeres 1–4), mandibles, and labial palpi brown, with greater or lesser reddish tint; apical antennomeres (5–11) dark brown with red tint. Surface of forebody shining. Head, pronotum, and elytra distinctly, rather largely and densely punctured.

Notes. *Oxytelus altaicus* was described from Altai, Eastern Kazakhstan [Kastcheev, 1999] and is known only from the type series, of which we managed to study on the paratypes.

Due to the intraspecific variability of *O. laqueatus*, *O. altaicus* does not differ significantly from that species in the colouration, general habitus, and microsculpture of the head, pronotum, elytra, and abdomen (Figs 1, 2). The structure of the abdominal sternite VIII of both species also shows no differences between each other. *Oxytelus altaicus* reliably differs from *O. laqueatus* in the form of parameres, especially obvious in lateral view (Figs 3–6). There are also some differences between these species in the structure of male abdominal sternite VII (Figs 7, 8): depression between

paired teeth on the posterior margin of sternite VII of *O. laqueatus* rounded; in *O. altaicus* this depression forms obtuse angle.

Oxytelus (Tanycraerus) laqueatus (Marshall, 1802)
(Figs 2, 4, 6, 8)

Material. 1♂ (cMG), "England", "J. Cooter colln.", "from coll. G. de Rougemont for M. Gildenkov"; 1♂ (cOS), "Crimea, Nikitsky Garden, 11.07.1979, V.V. Belov"; 1♂ (cOS), "Russia: Chuvash Republic, Cheboksary district, Cheboksary, oak forest "Rostcha Guzovskogo", 56.137277° N, 47.177681° E, in manure, 14.10.1980, A. Berezin"; 1♂ (cOS), "Russia: Krasnoyarsk Territory, Turukhansk district, evening flight on the bank of Lower Lebedyanka River, 19.06.1992, V. Semenov"; 2♂ (cMG), "Russia: Magadan Area, env. Evensk, Floodplain of Garmanda River, in manure, 25.07.2007"; 1♂ (Figs 2, 4, 6, 8) (cMG), "Russia: Smolensk Area, Smolensk, evening flight, 16.05.2010, M. Gildenkov"; 1♂ (cMG), "Russia: Vladimir Area, Meshchera National Park, env. Tasino, 5.04.2008, V. Semenov"; 1♂ (cMG), "Russia: Murmansk Area, env. Teriberka, in manure, 04.07.2008, V. Semenov"; 3♂ (cOS), "Russia: Kamchatka, Bystrinsky Natural Park, Floodplain of Kozyrevka River, VII.2015, V. Lobanova".

Notes. For the evaluation of the possible variability of *O. laqueatus*, we studied morphological features of its males from different regions. Examination of this material revealed that the structure of the aedeagus and abdominal sternites VII and VIII in *O. laqueatus* is stable and completely correspond to the illustrations of the holotype in Schülke [2012].

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