Protopectinus pseudoparatinus — a new genus and species of soft winged flower beetle of the tribe Apalochrini (Coleoptera: Malachiidae) from East Africa

Protopectinus pseudoparatinus — новый вид и род жуков малашек трибы Apalochrini (Coleoptera: Malachiidae) из Восточной Африки

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ABSTRACT. A new genus and species, Protopectinus pseudoparatinus gen. et sp.n., is described in the tribe Apalochrini (Coleoptera: Malachiidae) from Tanzania, East Africa. The species looks similar to Eurasian Apalochrus Er. (former Paratinus Abeille de Perrin), but differs in presence of a comb on second segment of anterior tarsi in male. Amongst Apalochrini congeners possessing tarsal comb the new species is most close to Protapalochrus Evers due to male special characters which are weakly pronounced. From the latter genus the new species differs in special male characters as follows: antenna slightly serrate, 1st–2nd tarsomeres enlarged in comparison with remaining ones in all legs, anterior tibiae slightly widened distally whereas intermediate swollen and with flat straight area along the inner side possessing glands of pheromones. A new genus, Protopectinus gen.n., is described on the basis of characters mentioned above. External appearance, special characters and genitalia of male of the new species are illustrated, and a distribution map is provided.

РЕЗЮМЕ. Описан новый род и вид жуков малашек трибы Apalochrini (Coleoptera: Malachiidae) — Protopectinus pseudoparatinus gen. et sp.n., из Танзании и Западной Африке. Внешний вид близок к представителям евразийского рода Apalochrus Er. (бывший Paratinus Abeille de Perrin), но отличается присутствием гребешка над вторым членником передних лапок самца. По этому признаку новый вид в трибе Apalochrini сравним с родом Protapalochrus Evers, у представителей которого специфичные структуры самцов не выражены. От них новый вид отличается следующими признаками: усики слегка пильчатые, 1 и 2 членики лапок увеличены по сравнению с остальными, передние голени слегка расширены дистально, а средние голени вздуты и уплощены по внутренней стороне, несущей протоки железы феромонов. На основании указанных признаков описан новый род — Protopectinus gen.n. Даны иллюстрации внешнего вида, специфичных структур и гениталии самца, показано распространение.

Introduction

The tribe Apalochrini represents soft-winged flower beetles with typical antennae possessing extremely small second antennomere, which is round or oval, usually almost completely hidden by the scape making the antennae appear10-segmented. SE Asia, Africa and Australia are the regions of the highest species diversity of the tribe with a wide spectrum of species male characters, which are, used to define different taxa.

Apalochrini material from different regions of Africa was purchased at the 1995 Prague Entomological Fair (Insektenbörse). Amongst this, a series of beetles was acquired at the 1995 Prague Entomological Fair (Insektenbörse). Amongst this, a series of beetles was acquired at the 1995 Prague Entomological Fair (Insektenbörse).

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The genus *Protopalochrus* was recently reviewed [Tshernyshev, 2016] with special attention to species distribution, because species with tropical distribution were included in the genus, although type species, *Apalochrus flavolimbatus* Mulsant et Rey, 1853, is limited to the Palaearctic Region from North Africa to East Europe. All species of typical *Protopalochrus* occur in Palaearctic [Tshernyshev, 2016], and the taxonomic position of those distributed in Africa is still unclear.

Detail study of the male in the series of beetles from Africa purchased in Prague presented new characters allowing differentiation from the genus discussed above, namely: intermediate tibiae swollen and flattened inwardly and anterior ones widened distally, antennae dentate, aedeagus widened at about middle and slightly distally. Tarsi also look specific due to enlarged 1st and 2nd tarsomeres and a claw-segment elongate and narrow at distally. Tarsi also look specific due to enlarged 1st and 2nd tarsomeres and a claw-segment elongate and narrow at distally. Tarsi also look specific due to enlarged 1st and 2nd tarsomeres and a claw-segment elongate and narrow at distally.

**ETYMOLOGY.** The name of the genus is a combination of two words: *Proto-* is Greek πρότεις, the first, and *Palochrus* — is a name of the genus proposed by Evers to African species formerly attributed to *Apalochrus*, but possessing a comb in anterior tarsi.

**NOTES.** Species of the genus is distributed in East Africa and is known from Tanzania only.

*Protopectinus Tshernyshev*, sp.n.  
Figs 1–11.

**MATERIAL.** Tanzania East: Holotype, ♀, Coast Region, Ute, Rufiji River, Kindwitwi Guest House, 8°00’S, 38°46’E; 10–14.XII.1993, M. Sniezek leg.; paratypes, 3♂♂♂, 5♀♀, 9♀♀, idem.

**DESCRIPTION.** Holotype, male (Figs 1–2). Body elongate, parallel, not wide, very slightly expanded posteriorly. Antennae, palpi, tibiae and tarsi in anterior and intermediate legs, basal part of posterior tibiae, distal parts of coxae, edges of ventrites yellow-brown, other body parts black-brown; upper surface of head, pronotum and elytra with green-bronze metallic lustre. Surface evenly covered with semi-erect light or white pubescence, locally with single long thin erect hairs. Vesicles pale yellow, and thoracic mesepimera black.

Head slightly narrower than pronotum, flat, not impressed; eyes slightly protruding, small, round, frons flat; genae short and straight; clypeus narrow, transverse, straight; labrum narrow, transverse; palpi simple with apical segment wide and securiform; surface of head shining, densely and coarsely punctured.
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and wrinkled behind forehead, with indistinct microsculpture, sparsely covered with fine semi-erect pubescence.

Antennae dentate, 1.3 mm long, extending beyond the base of elytra (Fig. 3); 1st antennomere oval, wide, 2nd small, round almost completely hidden by the 1st, 3rd antennomere triangular, elongate, 4th antennomere oval and the same length and width as the 3rd, 5th antennomere 1.5 times as long as 4th, 5th–10th antennomeres triangular with slightly extended outer edges, apical antennomere oval, as long as 3rd antennomere; surface sparsely covered with short, light pubescence.

Pronotum transverse with evenly rounded angles, not narrowed apically, strongly impressed near base with posterior margin elevate and swollen; slightly produced anteriorly and straight posteriorly; margination of sides distinct; surface densely and coarsely punctured, with indistinct microsculpture, shining, evenly covered with fine curved semierect light pubescence and sparse long dark erect hairs.

Scutellum trapezoid, distinct and narrow, transverse and adpressed, evenly punctured and covered with fine pubescence, sides with thin margin.

Elytra parallel, very slightly widened at the apical fourth, at base slightly wider than pronotum; humeri small, slightly protruding; apices evenly rounded, simple; disc distinctly marginate on external sides, suture wide, slightly elevate, the edging continues to elytral spines and forming impressed angle covered with short white adpressed pubescence; sur-
face shining, densely and coarsely punctured, with distinct microsculpture, sparsely covered with thin white semi-erect pubescence.

Hind wings normally developed.

Legs short and strong; posterior femora extend beyond elytral apex; anterior tibiae evenly stout to distal part and flattened in apical 2/3 in internal side (Figs 5–6); posterior tibiae simple, thin, straight, femora slightly flattened; all tarsi 5-segmented, slightly compressed, not long, 2nd segment in anterior tarsi with a short comb above; 1st and 2nd tarsomeres are equal in size and each twice as large as 3rd or 4th tarsomeres, claw-segment as long as 1st and 2nd tarsomeres together and half as wide in all legs; claws short, thin, narrow, with small denticles at base.

Ventral body surface sparsely punctured, dull, evenly covered with fine, adpressed white pubescence; metathorax swollen, bituberculate, lacking appendage of hair tuft. Pygidium undivided, evenly rounded and narrowed distally, with straight distal side (Fig. 7); lateral lobes of the 8th ultimate abdominal ventrite distinctly adjoined, narrowed distally, with round emargination in middle (Fig. 8); aedeagus slightly curved dorsally, strongly widened at about the middle, with stretched, evenly narrowed and slightly down-curved lamella; bristles or denticles are not visible in the inner sac (Fig. 9). Tegmen narrow, elongate, with long thin parameres (Fig. 10).

Length 2.7 mm, width (at elytral base) 0.8 mm.

Female somewhat longer, anterior palpomere narrower, antennae much shorter, 1st and 2nd tarsomeres as wide as the other tarsomeres, not enlarged, 2nd tarsomere lacking comb; elevated edging of suture is restricted before elytral apices. Length 2.9–3.0 mm, width (at elytral base) 0.9 mm.

ETYMOLOGY. The name of the new species is taken from the name of genus Paratinus (currently a synonym of Apalochrus), which species are common in European steppes and look similar to a new species.

DISTRIBUTION. Known from type locality only, Tanzania: Coast Region (Fig. 11).

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