On the status of some of the Cantharis Linnaeus, 1758 species described in the first half of the 19th century by Ménétriers, Gebler and Fischer von Waldheim (Coleoptera: Cantharidae)

О статусе некоторых видов Cantharis Linnaeus, 1758, описанных в первой половине 19-го века Менетрие, Геблером и Фишером фон Вальдгеймом (Coleoptera: Cantharidae)

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KEY WORDS: Coleoptera, Cantharidae, Cantharinae, Cantharis, taxonomy, Palaearctic region.

19-го века Менетрие, Геблером и Фишером фон Вальдгеймом, предложены следующие новые синонимы: Telephorus biplagiatus Ballion, 1871, syn.n. — как junior synonym of Cantharis cantholoma Gebler, 1833; Podabrus vittatus Fischer von Waldheim, 1844, syn.n. — as a junior synonym of Cantharis daurica Gebler, 1832; Podabrus lunulatus Fischer de Waldheim, 1844: 34, syn.n. — as a junior synonym of Cantharis terminata Faldermann, 1835; and Telephorus edentulus Baudi di Selve, 1872, syn.n. and Rhagonycha beckeri Pic, 1902, syn.n. — as junior synonyms of Cantharis pygmaea Менетрие, 1832.}

ABSTRACT. Description of several Cantharis taxa introduced in the first half of the 19th century by Ménétriers, Gebler and Fischer von Waldheim are restudied, and the following new synonyms are proposed: Telephorus biplagiatus Ballion, 1871, syn.n. is suggested as a junior synonym of Cantharis cantholoma Gebler, 1833; Podabrus vittatus Fischer von Waldheim, 1844, syn.n. — as a junior synonym of Cantharis daurica Gebler, 1832; Podabrus lunulatus Fischer de Waldheim, 1844: 34, syn.n. — as a junior synonym of Cantharis terminata Faldermann, 1835; and Telephorus edentulus Baudi di Selve, 1872, syn.n. and Rhagonycha beckeri Pic, 1902, syn.n. — as junior synonyms of Cantharis pygmaea Менетрие, 1832.

PЕЗЮМЕ. На основании переизучения описания ряда таксонов рода Cantharis, предложенных в середине 19-го века Менетрие, Геблером и Фишером фон Вальдгеймом, предложена следующая новая синонимия: Telephorus biplagiatus Ballion, 1871, syn.n. предлагается рассматривать в качестве синонима Cantharis cantholoma Gebler, 1833; Podabrus vittatus Fischer von Waldheim, 1844, syn.n. — в качестве синонима Cantharis daurica Gebler, 1832; Podabrus lunulatus Fischer de Waldheim, 1844: 34, syn.n. — в качестве синонима Cantharis terminata Faldermann, 1835; а Telephorus edentulus Baudi di Selve, 1872, syn.n. и Rhagonycha beckeri Pic, 1902, syn.n. — в качестве синонимов Cantharis pygmaea Менетрие, 1832.

ABSTRACT. Description of several Cantharis taxa introduced in the first half of the 19th century by Ménétriers, Gebler and Fischer von Waldheim are restudied, and the following new synonyms are proposed: Telephorus biplagiatus Ballion, 1871, syn.n. is suggested as a junior synonym of Cantharis cantholoma Gebler, 1833; Podabrus vittatus Fischer von Waldheim, 1844, syn.n. — as a junior synonym of Cantharis daurica Gebler, 1832; Podabrus lunulatus Fischer de Waldheim, 1844: 34, syn.n. — as a junior synonym of Cantharis terminata Faldermann, 1835; and Telephorus edentulus Baudi di Selve, 1872, syn.n. and Rhagonycha beckeri Pic, 1902, syn.n. — as junior synonyms of Cantharis pygmaea Менетрие, 1832.

KEY WORDS: Coleoptera, Cantharidae, Cantharinae, Cantharis, taxonomy, Palaearctic region.

Introduction

Soldier beetles of the genus Cantharis Linnaeus, 1758 are widespread and speciose in the Holartic realm, their number exceeds 250 species, a considerable part of which are recorded from the Mediterranean region, and several oldest taxa were described by Linnaeus [Delkeskamp, 1977; Kazantsev, Brancucci, 2007]. When first Coleoptera material started pouring in from the vast southeastern and asiatic territories of Russia in the first half of the 19th century, quite a few new Cantharis species were discovered by the pioneers of Russian entomology, Мénétriers [1832], Gebler [1832; 1833], Faldermann [1835] and Fischer von Waldheim [1844]. Some of these new taxa were introduced as Cantharis, some as Telephorus Schaeffer, 1766 and some as Podabrus Dejean, 1833. The reason for such confusion was that Cantharis was believed at that time to belong both in Cantharidae [e.g. Fabricius, 1775] and Meloidae [e.g. Latreille, 1802], and the latter two genera were regarded as replacement names for Cantharis by the followers of Latreille. For instance, Fischer von Waldheim described his new taxa under the name of Podabrus, adding the word Cantharis in smaller letters below Podabrus [Fischer von Waldheim, 1844], while Gebler and Мénétriers followed Fabricius’s opinion and continued to attribute these soldier beetles to Cantharis [Мénétriers, 1832; Gebler, 1832; 1833]. It is worth mentioning that in case of Cantharis

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(sensu Fabricius) and Telephorus it was clear that the taxa came from one genus, whereas Podabrus was quite a different genus that now belongs in a different tribe, Podabrini. All that, along with rather brief and inadequate, in contemporary terms, descriptions, added to the confusion and led to a situation when some of these names, such as C. oculata Gebler, 1817, C. daurica Gebler, 1832, C. annularis Ménétriés, 1836, were widely used, while others, such as C. cantholoma Gebler, 1833, Podabrus lunulatus Fischer von Waldheim, 1844 or P. vittatus Fischer von Waldheim, 1844, although available and valid, were listed in catalogues as incertae sedis and, even if tentatively included in certain genera, never used for identification purposes [Kazantsev, Brancucci, 2007; Kazantsev, 2011].

This could have certainly been resolved by the study of type specimens. Unfortunately, no syntypes of soldier beetle taxa described by Ménétriés, Gebler or Fischer von Waldheim from the territory of the former Russian Empire have been found in the Zoological Museum of Moscow University, or in the Zoological Institute, Saint Petersburg, where they should be deposited.

The present study is a further contribution to the knowledge of Cantharis of Russia. The original descriptions of some of the taxa proposed in the first half of the 19th century were re-examined and compared with the ample material from the respective regions. This study allows eliminating the obscurity of some of the taxa that have so long remained largely unused and suggesting new synonymies.

Material and Methods

The studied specimens were pinned or glued on cardboard plates. For examination the abdomina were detached from the relaxed specimens and treated for several hours in 10% KOH at room temperature, then, with the extracted genitalia, placed in a microvial with glycerin for photography.

MSP-1 zoom stereoscopic dissecting microscope with x8–x80 magnification range were used. Photographs were taken with a Canon EOS 6D camera and Canon MP-E 65 mm lens.

Figs 1–2. General view of Cantharis, males: 1 — C. cantholoma; 2 — C. daurica.
Рис. 1–2. Общий вид Cantharis, самцы: 1 — C. cantholoma; 2 — C. daurica.
Taxonomy

Family Cantharidae Imhof 1856 (1815)
Subfamily Cantharinae Imhoff 1856 (1815)
Tribe Cantharini Imhoff 1856 (1815)

Cantharis Linnaeus, 1758

Cantharis Linnaeus, 1758; 400. Type species: Cantharis fusca Linnaeus, 1758.

Subgenus Cantharis Linnaeus, 1758

Cantharis Linnaeus, 1758; 400. Type species Cantharis fusca Linnaeus, 1758.

Cantharis (s.str.) cantholoma Gebler, 1833

Fig. 1.

Cantharis cantholoma Gebler, 1833; 280. = Cantharis auilensis Pic, 1914: 4.
= Cantharis bimaculifera Heyden, 1888: 41.
= Telephorus bplagiatus Ballion, 1871: 351, syn.n.
= Cantharis bplagiaticollis Pic, 1914: 5.
= Cantharis chianschanensis Pic, 1913: 187.
= Cantharis funestula Pic, 1906: 82.
= Cantharis kirtischenkoi Barovskij, 1926: 240.
= Cantharis musarti Pic, 1913: 187.
= Cantharis unplugiata Pic, 1914: 5.
= Cantharis xantholoma Gebler, 1833, incorrect subsequent spelling.

REMARKS. The type of Cantharis cantholoma Gebler, 1833 has not been found yet. Its description reads as follows: ‘Brevi lutei; vertice, thoracis punctis duobus, pectore, scutello, elytris thorace latioirubis abdominique nigris, margine lutei. Long. 3 lin. Lat. 1 lin. (Semel prope Loktewsk capta).’ [Fischer von Waldheim, 1844].

This description of a ‘Podabrus' from ‘Tataria magna' (which is anywhere from the Caspian Sea to the Far East Pacific Coast, north of what is considered now Central Asia) perfectly fits to just one cantharine species from this vast area. It is Cantharis daurica Gebler, 1832, whose coloration is unique due to the black longitudinal elytral stripes (Fig. 2). Cantharis daurica is distributed in East Siberia (Tuva, Transbaikalia), Far East (Amurskaya Oblast) and Mongolia [Kazantsev, Brancucci, 2007; Kazantsev, 2011]. As these species apparently belong to a single taxon, and also taking into account that Fischer regarded Podabrus as a replacement name for Cantharis, Podabrus vittatus Fischer de Waldheim, 1844, syn.n. is proposed as a junior synonym of Cantharis daurica Gebler, 1832.

Cantharis (s.str.) terminata Faldermann, 1835

Fig. 3.

Cantharis terminata Faldermann, 1835; 192.
= Cantharis dahlgreni Wittmer, 1984: 1.
= Telephorus fissicollis Fairmaire, 1884: 179.
= Podabrus lunulatus Fischer de Waldheim, 1844; 34, syn.n.
= Malthis melanoscelis Kolenati, 1846: 41.
= Cantharis sudetica Letzner, 1847: 75.
= Nocydalis vesuhiella Bourgeois, 1843: 19.

REMARKS. The type of Podabrus lunulatus Fischer de Waldheim, 1844 appears to have been lost. However, its description is unexpectedly explicit: ‘[Podabrus] flavo-fusco; thorace marginitato nitido, medio nigro-maculato; ely- tris pallide fusco-flavii, elytris posticis nigro-nigris, nigro-lateralis, fusco-flavii.’ [Fischer von Waldheim, 1844].

This description of a Podabrus from ‘Rossia meridionali’ perfectly fits to just one cantharine species in southern Russia. It is Cantharis terminata Faldermann, 1835, whose coloration is unique due to the black ‘lunula’ at the apex of each elytron (Fig. 3). Cantharis terminata is distributed in the centre and south of the European part Russia, Western and Central Europe, throughout the Caucasus, in Kazakhstan and the Middle East [Kazantsev, Brancucci, 2007; Kazantsev, 2011]. As these species apparently belong to a single taxon, Podabrus lunulatus Fischer de Waldheim, 1844, syn.n. is proposed as a junior synonym of Cantharis terminata Faldermann, 1835.
On the status of some of the *Cantharis* species

**Subgenus Cyrtomoptila Motschulsky, 1860**

*Cyrtomoptila* Motschulsky, 1860: 398.

Type species *Cantharis* lateralis Linnaeus, 1758.

= *Absidiella* Wittmer, 1972: 130. Type species *Pseudobsidius* kaszabi Wittmer, 1971.

= *Gymnocantharis* Wittmer, 1979: 328. Type species *Gymnocantharis himalaica* Wittmer, 1979.

= *Wittmercantharis* Satô, 1986: 259. Type species *Telephorus vulcanus* Lewis, 1895.

*Cantharis* (*Cyrtomoptila*) *pygmaea* Ménétriés, 1832

Fig. 4.

*Cantharis* *pygmaea* Ménétriés, 1832: 162.

= *Cantharis* inforticornis Pic, 1913: 187.

= *Rhagonycha beckeri* Pic, 1902: 56, syn.n.

= *Telephorus* *edentulus* Baudi di Selve, 1872: 106, syn.n.

REMARKS. The type of *Cantharis* *pygmaea* Ménétriés, 1832 has not been found either. Its description reads as follows: ‘Fusca, thorace submarginato, flavescenti; elytris fuscis; antennarum basi, pedibus anoque flavo-lividis; tibiis posticis infuscatis. Long. 2 li. 1/3. Larg. 1 li. Elle est très voisine de la *C. fulvicollis*, mais elle est deux fois plus petite, et autrement colorée. A Lenkoran’ [Ménétriés, 1832].

This description, although brief, allows rather confident attribution of the taxon, which is in fact related and similar to *C. lateralis*, distinguishable by the absence of light margin on the elytra (Fig. 4). *Cantharis* *pygmaea* is distributed in the steppe and semi-desert areas of southern Russia (Dagestan, Volgograd Oblast), also from Azerbaijan (‘Lenkoran’) [Ménétriés, 1832], Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Iran to Mongolia [Kazantsev, Brancucci, 2007; Kazantsev, 2011]. The species *C. edentula* (Baudi, 1872) and *C. beckeri* (Pic, 1902) described, respectively, from southern Russia (‘Ross. mer.’) and Volgograd Oblast (‘Sarepta’) [Baudi a Selve, 1872; Pic, 1902], are very similar to *C. lateralis* as well, also differing by the uniformly black elytra. Both of them were notably introduced without being compared to *C. pygmaea*. Syntypes of *Rhagonycha beckeri* Pic, 1902 from the Museum of Natural History in Paris and the Zoological Institute in Saint-Petersburg were studied, and the taxon was transferred first from *Rhagonycha* to *Cantharis* and then to the subgenus *Cyrtomoptila* [Dahlgren, 1972; Kazantsev, 2010]. The type of *C. edentula* has not been found yet. Nevertheless, as there seem to occur just one such cantharine in the Pre- and Transcaspian steppe and semi-desert areas, and as the three above-mentioned species apparently belong to a single taxon,
Telephorus edentulus Baudi, 1872, syn.n. and Rhagonycha beckeri Pic, 1902, syn.n. are proposed as junior synonyms of Cantharis pygmaea Ménétriés, 1832.

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