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## Review of the genus *Cystocnemis* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Chrysomelinae) with descriptions of two new species

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### Abstract

Two new species of *Cystocnemis* (s. str.) Motschulsky, 1860 namely *C. levmedvedevi* sp. nov. and *C. zintshenkoi* sp. nov. are described from the Mongolian Altai (Mongolia, Hovd aimag) and Southern Altai (Kazakhstan, East-Kazakhstan region) respectively. Generic diagnosis as well as key to species and subspecies of *Cystocnemis* are provided. Zoogeographical affinities of Entomoscelini are discussed.

**Key words:** Chrysomelidae, *Cystocnemis*, *Entomomela*, new species, Mongolian Altai, Southern Altai, Dzhungaria

### Introduction

The chrysomeline tribe Entomoscelini (sensu Kippenberg 2010) contains 12 genera, out of which *Entomoscelis* Chevrolat, 1836, *Cystocnemis* Motschulsky, 1860, *Xenomela* Weise, 1884 and *Oreomela* Jacobson, 1895, were considered as sister groups by Lopatin (1989) and are closely related. *Potaninia* Weise, 1889, *Suinzona* Chen, 1931 and *Taipinus* Lopatin, 2007 form another generic cluster (Ge *et al.* 2011) related to the previous group. However, elucidating precise relationships require further phylogenetic analysis within the Entomoscelini which is not addressed here.

Among the above genera, *Entomoscelis* has the widest Holarctic distribution, with just one species, *E. americana* Brown, 1942, occurring in the Nearctic Region. Occurrence of the remaining 12 species of *Entomoscelis*, including the newly described ones from China (Ge *et al.* 2009), and the residual genera, such as *Cystocnemis*, are limited to the Palaearctic Region. Within the Palaearctic, they are concentrated in the Central Asiatic Subregion of the Sahara-Gobian Desert Region and the Scythian Steppe Region (biogeographic subdivisions of Krivokhatsky & Emeljanov 2000).

*Oreomela* is the most speciose genus of Entomoscelini with over 80 species. It is distributed through out the high mountains of Central Asia, with the centre of diversity in Tien-Shan (Lopatin & Nesterova 2004) having the mountains of South Siberia as its northern limit (Mikhailov 2007). *Cystocnemis* and *Xenomela* occupy an intermediate position between the unspecialized *Entomoscelis* and the highly specialized *Oreomela* (Jacobson 1926; Lopatin 1989). *Xenomela* comprising 11 species, the subject of recent revisions (Lopatin 1989, 2010), is distributed only in Tien-Shan.

*Cystocnemis* has remained unrevised so far and the same three species that Jacobson (1926) attributed to this genus are included in the new *Catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera* (Kippenberg 2010). However, only two of the three described species are sufficiently well defined to be included here as the position of *Cystocnemis koslovi* Jacobson, 1926 is still unclear. This species is known only from a pair of specimens collected in 1908 by the Mongolian-Sichuanian expedition of Petr Kozlov from the Alashan Mountains in China. Moreover, black color with metallic tinge, as is the case in *C. koslovi* (Jacobson 1926), is atypical for the genus *Cystocnemis*. Lack of other known conspecific or at least congeneric representative in this region prevents us from treating this species here, which is also not included in the key.

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