



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.4018.3.8>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:44D5F826-7B66-46C3-90D7-A013B060C30D>

A new species of *Neuraphes* Thomson, 1859 (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Scydmaeninae) from Kazakhstan

PETER HLAVÁČ^{1,2} & OTO NAKLÁDAL¹

¹Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences, Department of Forest Protection and Entomology, Kamýcká 1176, CZ-165 21 Praha 6-Suchbát, Czech Republic. E-mails: peterclaviger@gmail.com; nakladal@fld.czu.cz

²Corresponding author

Abstract

Neuraphes (s. str.) *kazakhstanicus*, new species of the tribe Cyrtoscydmini, is described from Kazakhstan. The genus is for the first time recorded from Central Asia. A detailed morphological study is presented.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae, *Neuraphes*, new species, taxonomy, Kazakhstan, Palaearctic region

Introduction

The genus *Neuraphes* Thomson, 1859 contains 118 Palaearctic species attributed to two subgenera (Newton, pers. database). The nominal subgenus includes 45 species distributed from northern Africa through the Iberian Peninsula to the rest of Europe and Turkey to the Caucasus region. Only one species has been recorded from the eastern Palaearctic region, *Neuraphes* (*Neuraphes*) *pudibundus* Kurbatov, 1988 from Amurskaya Oblast, Russian Far East. The subgenus *Pararaphes* Reitter, 1891 with 72 known species has a similar distribution but more species are known from the eastern Palaearctic region: Himalaya Mts and China (13), eastern Siberia (2) and Japan (1). *Neuraphes* has not been known from Central Asia so far, thus the species described below is the first record of the genus from this vast area. For detailed information on the distribution of *Neuraphes* see Davies (2004) and Jałoszyński (2015).

Although *Neuraphes* can be easily separated from other members of Palaearctic Cyrtoscydmini and it is also relatively easy to distinguish both known subgenera (Jałoszyński 2004) by the presence (*Neuraphes* s. str.) or absence (*Pararaphes*) of a pair of distinct foveae on vertex, the majority of described species pose serious problems in identification. All 54 species described before 1900 by authors as Croissandeau, Müller & Kunze, Reitter, Saulcy and others, were described only on the basis of external characters which give little information about species affinities. Most of these species have never been properly studied and their aedeagi are unknown. The same problem affects 30 species described between 1900–1950. Of many species descriptions published from 1950 till the XXI century, only 25 were accompanied by illustrations of the aedeagus, the most important character to discriminate species in both subgenera. Unfortunately, the illustrations of aedeagi of all species described by Herbert Franz (25 species described, 10 already synonymized) are of such poor quality and indefinite orientation that they are almost useless and identifications of these species without studying types are impossible. There are two important papers which considerably improved the taxonomy of the genus in Europe. Castellini (2006) redescribed and illustrated the aedeagi for five European species of *Neuraphes* (s. str.) and seven species of the subgenus *Pararaphes* and described two new species, one from Sardinia and another from Sicily. Unfortunately, the subgeneric division of *Neuraphes* was ignored, which was an usual practice of this author, and therefore subgeneric affinities of his two new species, *Neuraphes poggi* Castellini, 2006 and *Neuraphes terebratus* Castellini, 2006, remains unknown. Meybohm (2009) revised species closely related to *Neuraphes* (*Pararaphes*) *planiceps* Reitter, 1885 from Southern Alps, and his study includes five species, one of which was new. A