

Two new synonyms for *Aphodius koltzei* (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae)

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Examination of the type specimens of *Aphodius kurenzovi* Nikritin, 1969 and *A. medvedevi* Nikritin, 1969, described from Primorskiy Terr., showed that they cannot be distinguished from *A. koltzei* Reitter, 1892. Two new synonym are therefore established.

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***Aphodius* (*Aphodaulacus*) *koltzei* Reitter, 1892**

= *A. (Volinus) kurenzovi* Nikritin, 1969: 1663, **syn. n.**
= *A. (Volinus) medvedevi* Nikritin, 1969: 1662, **syn. n.**

A. kurenzovi and *A. medvedevi* were each described based on single specimen from Vinogradovka Village (Primorskiy Terr.). No additional specimens of either species were collected ever since. Berlov (1989) included both species in the keys to Russian Far East *Aphodius* species but, judging from the characters mentioned and illustrations provided, he cited Nikritin (1969) and did not have any additional data about the species.

Type specimens of *A. kurenzovi* and *A. medvedevi* are deposited in the collection of the Zoological Museum of Moscow University. They are damaged and lacking aedeagi. But the shape of the head, pronotum, and elytra and, especially, characteristic elytral pattern suggest that they both belong to *A. koltzei* Reitter, 1892.

Nikritin (1969) did not compare the two new species with *A. koltzei*, a rare species known from Amur Prov. and Primorskiy Terr. in Russia and from north-eastern China (Berlov, 1979, 1989). In the collection of Zoological Institute, 11 specimens of this species from Primorskiy Terr. are deposited: Rejneke Isl., 25.V-2.VI.2002, 2 females; Artem, 15.V-6.VI.2002, 1 male; Suputinka [Komarovka] Riv., 20.VI.1961, 1 male, 10.VI.1960, 1 female, Kabakov leg.; Suchan, 15.V.1951, 1 female, Kabakov leg.; Dyanchikhe Riv. valley, near Vladivostok, 22.VII.1924, male and female, Majeviskij leg.; Rimskogo-Korsakova islands, 28.V.1915, 1 female; Vinogradovka [type locality for *A. kurenzovi* and *A. medvedevi*], 14.V.1929, 1 male, 18.V.1929, 1 female, D'yakonov leg.

The differences between the types of *A. kurenzovi* and *A. medvedevi* are due to the sexual dimorphism of *A. koltzei*. Denser punctuation of the head and pronotum is characteristic for females, and sparser punctuation for males. Clypeus in males is relatively larger and with almost indistinct sinuation, as opposed to being relatively smaller and having very weak but distinct sinuation in females. It is most probably that *A. kurenzovi* was described from a male specimens of *A. koltzei* and *A. medvedevi* from a female specimen, contrary to the author's statement that the both beetles were males.

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