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Rare, little known and newly recorded for Armenia species of scarab beetles (Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea)

© M.Yu. Kalashian¹, I.V. Shokhin², H.G. Khachatryan¹,
T.L. Ghrejian¹, G.H. Karagyan¹

¹Scientific Center of Zoology and Hydroecology, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, P. Sevak Street, 7, Yerevan 0014 Armenia. E-mail: mkalashian1@gmail.com, tkredjian@gmail.com

²Federal Research Centre the Southern Scientific Centre of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Chekhov Avenue, 41, Rostov-on-Don 344006 Russia. E-mail: ishohin@mail.ru

Abstract. New data on distribution of some rare and little known species of scarab beetles (Scarabaeoidea) in Armenia are provided. In total, 17 species from the families Lucanidae, Glaresidae and Scarabaeidae are considered. Six species: *Phalacrothorus citellorum* (Semenov et S. Medvedev, 1929), *Nimbus oblitteratus* (Panzer, 1823), *Serraphodius lederi* (Harold, 1876), *Pararhyssenus coluber* (Mayet, 1887), *Onthophagus (Palaeonthophagus) viridis* Ménétériés, 1832 and *Chioneosoma (Aleucolomus) porosum* (Fischer von Waldheim, 1823) are reported from Armenia for the first time. Additional clarified data on the areas in the country are provided for *Dorcus peyronis* Reiche et Saulcy, 1856, *Platycerus vicinus* Gusakov, 2003, *Glaresis oxiana armena* Iablokoff-Khnzorian, 1967, *Eudolus quadrinaevulus* (Reitter, 1892), *Limarus maculatus* (Sturm, 1800), *Mendidius diffidens* (Reitter, 1892), *Nobius serotinus* (Panzer, 1799), *Onthophagus (Palaeonthophagus) dorsosignatus* d'Orbigny, 1898, *O. (P.) flagrans* Reitter, 1892, *O. (P.) formaneki* Reitter, 1897 and *O. (P.) ovatus* (Linnaeus, 1767).

Key words: Coleoptera, Scarabaeoidea, Lucanidae, Glaresidae, Scarabaeidae, Armenia, new records.

Редкие, малоизвестные и впервые указанные для Армении виды пластинчатоусых жуков (Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea)

© М.Ю. Калашян¹, И.В. Шохин², А.Г. Хачатрян¹, Т.Л. Креджян¹, Г.А. Карагян¹

¹Научный центр зоологии и гидроэкологии Национальной академии наук Республики Армения, ул. П. Севака, 7, Ереван 0014 Армения. E-mail: mkalashian1@gmail.com

²Федеральный исследовательский центр Южный научный центр Российской академии наук, пр. Чехова, 41, Ростов-на-Дону 344006 Россия. E-mail: ishohin@mail.ru

Резюме. Приведены новые данные о распространении в Армении ряда редких и малоизвестных видов пластинчатоусых жуков (Scarabaeoidea). Всего рассмотрено 17 видов из семейств Lucanidae, Glaresidae и Scarabaeidae. Шесть видов, *Phalacrothorus citellorum* (Semenov et S. Medvedev, 1929), *Nimbus oblitteratus* (Panzer, 1823), *Serraphodius lederi* (Harold, 1876), *Pararhyssenus coluber* (Mayet, 1887), *Onthophagus (Palaeonthophagus) viridis* Ménétériés, 1832 и *Chioneosoma (Aleucolomus) porosum* (Fischer von Waldheim, 1823), впервые указываются для фауны Армении. Уточнены и дополнены сведения об ареалах в республике для *Dorcus peyronis* Reiche et Saulcy, 1856, *Platycerus vicinus* Gusakov, 2003, *Glaresis oxiana armena* Iablokoff-Khnzorian, 1967, *Eudolus quadrinaevulus* (Reitter, 1892), *Limarus maculatus* (Sturm, 1800), *Mendidius diffidens* (Reitter, 1892), *Nobius serotinus* (Panzer, 1799), *Onthophagus (Palaeonthophagus) dorsosignatus* d'Orbigny, 1898, *O. (P.) flagrans* Reitter, 1892, *O. (P.) formaneki* Reitter, 1897 и *O. (P.) ovatus* (Linnaeus, 1767).

Ключевые слова: Coleoptera, Scarabaeoidea, Lucanidae, Glaresidae, Scarabaeidae, Армения, новые указания.

Armenia is characterized by a rich fauna of scarab beetles (Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea). This fauna was monographically revised in the book series “Fauna of Armenian SSR” by Iablokoff-Khnzorian [1967] who mentioned 217 species for Armenia which belong according to classification accepted in his work to three families (Lucanidae, Trogidae and Scarabaeidae). Further researches noticeably enlarged this number, and in the recent edition of the Catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera [2016] 291 species were listed for Armenia, belonging to the following eight families: Geotrupidae, Trogidae, Glaresidae, Lucanidae, Ochodaeidae, Hybosoridae, Glaphyridae, Scarabaeidae. Though there exist rather comprehensive data on Armenian scarabs, the fauna cannot be considered fully revealed, and examination of materials from the

country allows us to enlarge our knowledge. In the present paper we provided data on some interesting records of Scarabaeoidea in Armenia, including data on several rare, little known and new for the country species.

Data on the general distribution, valid names and combinations are provided according to the last edition of the Catalogue above mentioned [Bartolozzi et al., 2016; Bezděk, 2016; Dellacasa et al., 2016; Ziani, Bezděk, 2016].

Most of the material is deposited in the collection of the Institute of Zoology of the Scientific Center of Zoology and Hydroecology, National Academy of Sciences of Armenia (IZAY, Yerevan, Armenia), some specimens are kept in the private collection of Mark Kalashian (MKCY, Yerevan, Armenia).

Family Lucanidae Latreille, 1804
Dorcus peyronis Reiche et Saulcy, 1856

Material. Syunik Prov.: 1 ♀, N env. Shvanidzor, 38.9850°N / 46.3746°E, 1320 m, soil traps, 15.06–26.09.2018 (T. Ghrejan, G. Karagyan); 1 ♀, Nrnadzor env., 38.9287°N / 46.4586°E, 660 m, 6.11.2019 (A. Malkhasyan).

Notes. For the first time this extremely rare Eastern Mediterranean species [Bartolozzi et al., 2016] was explicitly reported from Armenia (from Ararat and Vayotsdzor provinces) by Shokhin and Kalashian [2014]. According to Schenk [2022], beetles from Armenia belong to the subspecies *D. p. vavrai* Nonfried, 1905 distributed in Armenia, Eastern Turkey and Western Iran. Newly recorded for Syunik Province.

Platycerus vicinus Gusakov, 2003

Material. Tavush Prov.: 1 ♀, 8 km E Dilijan, 3 km S Parzlich Lake, soil traps, 2–24.07.2005 (M. Kalashian). Lori Prov.: 1 ♀, Teghut mine, tailing dump, 41.0743°N / 44.8399°E, 1105 m, soil traps, 1–24.05.2014 (M. Kalashian, G. Karagyan); 1 ♀, same mine, near refuse heap, 41.0705°N / 44.8378°E, 1210 m, soil traps, 29.04–22.07.2016 (M. Kalashian, G. Karagyan); 1 ♂, 1 ♀, same mine, near artificial pond, 41.0907°N / 44.8117°E, 990 m, soil traps, 29.04–25.05.2017 (M. Kalashian, T. Ghrejan, G. Karagyan); 1 ♀, same data, but 25.05–23.07.2017.

Notes. The species was described from Georgia and Armenia [Gusakov, 2003] and recently reported from “Hyrceanian forests of Iran” without exact province and locality data [Farashiani et al., 2022]. The species inhabits dense beech forests in northeastern Armenia and seems to be rather common in the territory of Teghut mine in Lori Province; found also in a new locality in Tavush Province.

Family Glaresidae Kolbe, 1905
Glaresis oxiana armena Iablokoff-Khnzorian, 1967

Material. Ararat Prov.: 4 ex., N env. Vedi, ~39.93°N / 44.72°E, 950 m, 7.05.1996 (M. Kalashian); 1 ex., “Goravan sands” State Sanctuary, 15.06.2004 (M. Kalashian). Syunik Prov.: 1 ex., 3 km NE Shvanidzor, at light, 27–28.06.2003 (M. Kalashian); 2 ex., S env. Shvanidzor, 38.9078°N / 46.3803°E, 450 m, freezing light traps, 17–24.04.2025 (local collectors).

Notes. Briefly described in the footnote by Iablokoff-Khnzorian [1967] based on one specimen, holotype, collected at light 24.05.1961 in Yerevan Zoo by S. Vardikian. New for Ararat and Syunik provinces. It inhabits stony semi-desert.

Family Scarabaeidae Latreille, 1802
Eudolus quadriaevulus (Reitter, 1892)

Material. Gegharkunik Prov.: 2 ex., env. Tsovaghyugh, 40.6406°N / 44.9629°E, 2130 m, 4.05.2022 (T. Ghrejan, G. Karagyan).

Notes. Rare species distributed in Transcaucasia, Greece, Anatolia and Iran [Dellacasa et al., 2016; Sakenin et al., 2018]. Iablokoff-Khnzorian [1967] did not mention any localities in Armenia. The specimens above mentioned were collected in mountain steppe, in cow dung.

Limarus maculatus (Sturm, 1800)

Material. Tavush Prov.: 1 ex., Ijevan Distr., Enokavan env., 22.08.1975 (M. Kalashian); 1 ex., 3 km E Aghavnavan, 6.05.2005 (M. Kalashian). Lori Prov.: 1 ex., Teghut mine, 41.0967°N / 44.8218°E, 920 m, soil traps, 10–28.08.2013 (G. Karagyan); 1 ex., same mine but 41.0910°N / 44.8514°E, 890 m, soil traps, 25.05–23.07.2017; 2 ex., same data but 41.0705°N / 44.8376°E, 1210 m, 13.08–13.10.2017 (M. Kalashian, T. Ghrejan, G. Karagyan).

Notes. This widely distributed Western Palaearctic species [Dellacasa et al., 2016] was considered by Iablokoff-Khnzorian [1967] as a very rare in Armenia. He reported it only from “Kavushugh” (currently Hermon in Vayotsdzor Province). In our material the species presented by the specimens from northeastern forests of Armenia, new for Lori and Tavush provinces.

Mendidius diffidens (Reitter, 1892)

Material. Ararat Prov.: 2 ex., Goravan vill. env., 29.05.1992 (M. Kalashian); 1 ex., “Goravan sands” State Sanctuary, 15.06.2004 (M. Kalashian). Syunik Prov.: 6 ex., Alvank env., 38.9181°N / 46.3394°E, 480 m, freezing light trap, 25.05–1.06.2024 (local collectors).

Notes. The species is distributed in Southern Transcaucasia, Turkey and Iran [Dellacasa et al., 2016]; very rare in Armenia, previously reported by Iablokoff-Khnzorian [1967] from Echmiadzin (now Vagharshapat in Armavir Province). It inhabits semi-deserts. New for Ararat and Syunik provinces.

Nimbus obliterated (Panzer, 1823)

Material. Syunik Prov.: 13 ex., Khndzorensk gorge, 39.5044°N / 46.4345°E, 1360 m, 11.10.2015 (T. Ghrejan).

Notes. Widely distributed in Europe, reported also from Turkey and the Caucasus (Russia, Georgia and Azerbaijan), the record from Israel is doubtful [Dellacasa et al., 2016]. Representative of winter fauna. New for Armenia.

Nobius serotinus (Panzer, 1799)

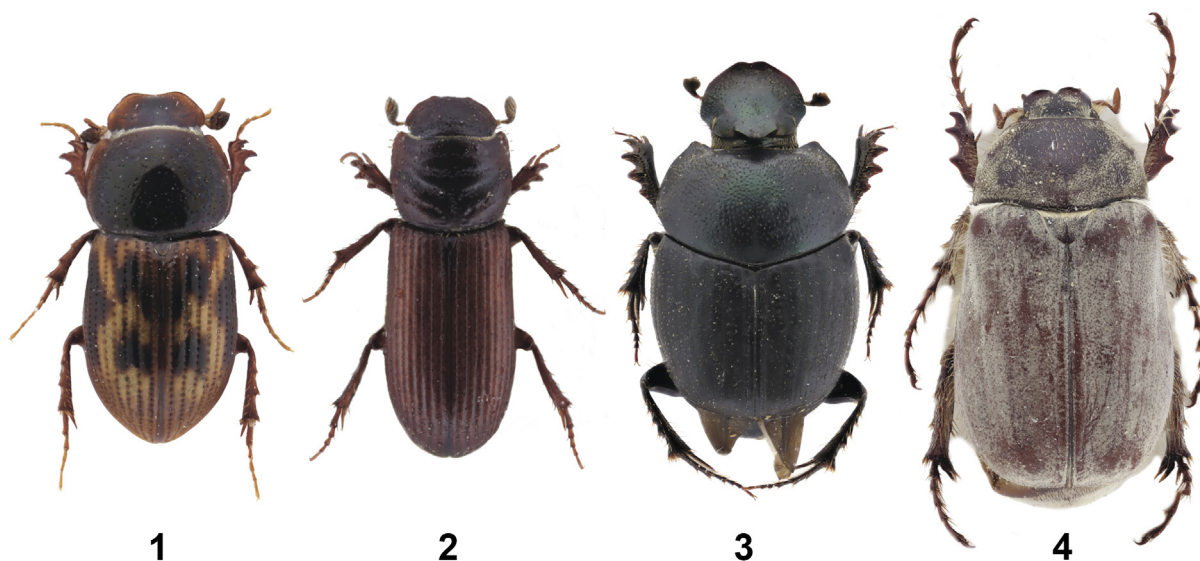
Material. Ararat Prov.: 2 ex., E env. Ararat town, 3.11.2007 (M. Kalashian). Vayotsdzor Prov.: 3 ex., N env. Vayk, 39.6872°N / 45.4846°E, 1350 m, 11.10.2014 (M. Kalashian). Aragatsotn Prov.: 2 ex., south slope of Aragats Mt., Kari-Lich Lake env., ~3000 m, 10.09.2015 (I. Shokhin); 2 ex., E env. Kuchak, 40.5180°N / 44.3744°E, 1890 m, 5.10.2019 (M. Kalashian). Syunik Prov.: 2 ex., Khndzorensk gorge, 39.5044°N / 46.4345°E, 1360 m, 11.10.2015 (T. Ghrejan). Kotayk Prov.: 3 ex., Arzakan env., 1900 m, 19.10.2019 (I. Shokhin).

Notes. The species is widely distributed in the Palaearctic from Western Europe to the Russian Far East and Northeastern China, reported from all three Transcaucasian countries [Dellacasa et al., 2016]. The material from Armenia is represented in the collections rather sparsely probably due to late flight period of the species. Iablokoff-Khnzorian [1967] did not have specimens from Armenia and even expressed doubt whether the species presents in the Caucasian fauna. The only explicit record from Armenia is provided by Akhmetova and Frolov [2008] who mentioned this species from Yerevan. Our material originates from mountain steppes and semi-deserts. Representative of winter fauna.

Phalacrothous citellorum
 (Semenov et S. Medvedev, 1929)

Material. Kotayk Prov.: 2 ex., E env. Lernanist near border of Gegharkunik Prov., burrows of *Microtus* sp., 15.05.2001 (expedition of Anti-Plague Station). Syunik Prov.: 1 ex., Sarnakunk env., burrows of *Microtus arvalis* (Pallas, 1778), 17.06.2008 (expedition of Anti-Plague Station).

Notes. The species is distributed in the Western Palaearctic from Austria and the Czech Republic to West Siberia [Dellacasa et al., 2016]. In Armenia, it is found in mountain steppe in burrows of voles. New for Armenia and the Caucasus.



Figs 1–4. Scarab beetles from Armenia, habitus.

1 – *Serraphodius lederi*, Teghut; 2 – *Pararhyssesmus coluber*, Meghri; 3 – *Onthophagus (Palaeonthophagus) viridis*, Shvanidzor; 4 – *Chioneosoma (Aleucolomus) porosum*, Gay.

Рис. 1–4. Пластинчатоусые жуки из Армении, габитус.

1 – *Serraphodius lederi*, Техут; 2 – *Pararhyssesmus coluber*, Мерпи; 3 – *Onthophagus (Palaeonthophagus) viridis*, Шванидзор; 4 – *Chioneosoma (Aleucolomus) porosum*, Гай.

Serraphodius lederi (Harold, 1876)

(Fig. 1)

Material. Lori Prov.: 1 ex., Teghut mine, near refuse heap, 41.0705°N / 44.8378°E, 1210 m, soil traps, 29.04–25.05.2016 (M. Kalashian, T. Ghrejan, G. Karagyan).

Notes. The species is listed from Georgia, South European Russia and Turkey [Dellacasa et al., 2016]. The specimen reported here was collected in somewhat disturbed beech forest ecosystem. New for Armenian fauna.

Pararhyssesmus coluber (Mayet, 1887)

(Fig. 2)

Material. Ararat Prov.: 2 ex., “Goravan sands” State Sanctuary, at light, 15.06.2004 (M. Kalashian). Syunik Prov.: 1 ex., E env. Meghri, Artsvakar gorge, 38.9207°N / 46.2713°E, 760 m, at light, 15.06.2018 (M. Kalashian).

Notes. This thermophilic species is known from the South-Western Palaearctic from Morocco to Arabian Peninsula, Afghanistan and Turkmenistan and distributed also in Afrotropical and Oriental regions [Dellacasa et al., 2016]. It inhabits semi-desert biotopes. New for Armenia and the Caucasus. In Armenia, it occupies the northernmost part of the species range.

Onthophagus (Palaeonthophagus) dorsosignatus d’Orbigny, 1898

Material. Ararat Prov.: 1♀, Yerevan, “prope Eriwan, 19.IV.1926” (collector unknown); 1♂, “val. Araxis, Davalu [now Ararat town], 25.IV.1927” (collector unknown).

Notes. According to Iablokoff-Khnzorian [1967], single specimens of this rare species were found in Armenia, in the environs of Yerevan city and Ararat town (which corresponds to the material in IZAY) and in Meghri. The latter record, most probably, belongs to the next species

as the examination of the specimens from Meghri in Iablokoff-Khnzorian’s collection (МКСУ) and identified by him as *O. dorsosignatus* are in fact *O. flagrans* Reitter, 1892 (see below). On the other hand, Kabakov [2006] reported *O. dorsosignatus* from the vicinity of Yerevan city (1♂) and from Meghri (2♂, 2♀), so the species occurs in the latter territory. It seems that the species is rather common in Turkey as there are several specimens in IZAY collected by M. Poltoratski in Sarykamysh and Kars provinces in 1915.

Onthophagus (Palaeonthophagus) flagrans Reitter, 1892

Material. Syunik Prov.: 1 ex., Lehvaz near Meghri, 26.04.1954 (S.M. Iablokoff-Khnzorian); 1 ex., NNE env. Meghri, Kaladash Mt., 16.07.1972 (S.M. Iablokoff-Khnzorian) (both specimens identified as *O. dorsosignatus*). Kotayk Prov.: 1 ex., Garni env., 15.04.1993 (G. Khanamiryan). Ararat Prov.: 2 ex., ~6 km NE Urtsadzor, 3.06.2004 (M. Kalashian); 3 ex., Khosrov State Reserve, Central area, 1350 m, ~39.98°N / 44.88°E, 17–24.06.2004 (M. Kalashian); 1 ex., same locality, but 1300–1500 m, 16–18.06.2008 (M. Kalashian). Vayotsdzor Prov.: 1 ex., Gnishik env., 11.05.1998 (G. Karagyan).

Notes. The species is reported from Central Asian countries and from Iran [Ziani, Bezděk, 2016]. Kabakov [2006] mentioned one specimen from Armenia (Ararat Province, Vedi-Urstadzor, Khosrov River valley) which was omitted in the chapter mentioned above.

Onthophagus (Palaeonthophagus) formaneki Reitter, 1897

Material. Gegharkunik Prov.: 1♂, Lichk env., 8.07.1982 (M. Kalashian). Shirak Prov.: 1 ex., Hartashen env., 41.0083°N / 43.9416°E, 2130 m, 11.06.2025 (T. Ghrejan, M. Kalashian).

Notes. This species is distributed in Southern Transcaucasia, Turkey, Syria and Iran [Ziani, Bezděk, 2016] and considered very rare by both Iablokoff-Khnzorian [1967] and Kabakov [2006]. It was reported by Iablokoff-Khnzorian [1967] from a few localities in Gegharkunik and

Kotayk provinces and from Aragats Mt. New for Shirak Province. It inhabits mountain steppes, found in cow dung.

Onthophagus (Palaeonthophagus) ovatus
(Linnaeus, 1767)

Material. Lori Prov.: 3 ex., Gerger env., 14–20.07.1974 (M. Kalashian). Kotayk Prov.: 5 ex., 2–4 km ESE Hankavan, 29.05.2001 (M. Kalashian); 3 ex., Hrazdan env., Fantan vill., burrows of *Microtus arvalis*, 10.05.2003 (expedition of Anti-Plague Station); 1 ex., 2–3 km E env. Buzhakan, 19.04.2001 (M. Kalashian). Aragatsotn Prov.: 1 ex., SW slope of Mt. Arailer, 40.40°N / 44.42°E, 1900 m, 24.05.2005 (M. Kalashian). Tavush Prov.: 3 ex., S env. Hovk, 40.78°N / 45.03°E, 1105 m, 28.05.2005 (M. Kalashian). Gegharkunik Prov.: 1♂, SW env. Drakhtik, near Sevan Lake, 8.07.2005 (M. Kalashian).

Notes. Widely distributed from Europe to the East Kazakhstan, reported also from Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkey and Iran [Ziani, Bezděk, 2016]. Iablokoff-Khznorian [1967] included this taxon to his key but expressed doubt if the species is presented in the Caucasian fauna. It was first reported from Armenia by Kalashian and Sahakyan [2004] from Gegharkunik and Kotayk provinces (from burrows of *Microtus arvalis*). But this record was published in hardly available source remained unnoticed by the subsequent authors and thus the species was not recorded for Armenia in the Catalogue [Ziani, Bezděk, 2016]. In Armenia, it inhabits mainly mountain steppe biotopes, sometimes in the burrows of voles.

Onthophagus (Palaeonthophagus) viridis
Ménétriés, 1832
(Fig. 3)

Material. Syunik Prov.: 1♂, 1♀, N env. Shvanidzor, 38.9848°N / 46.3744°E, 1280 m, soil traps, 24.07–11.09.2024 (T. Ghrejan, G. Karagyan); 8 ex., same locality, but 39.0073°N / 46.3658°E, 1730 m, from bear droppings, 22–25.04.2025 (S. Ilniczky).

Notes. This Hyrcanian species was described from Lenkoran (South Azerbaijan) [Ménétriés, 1832] and it is distributed also in the forests of north Iran [Kabakov, 2006; Ziani, Bezděk, 2016]. The first record for Armenia, that emphasizes the significance of hyrcanian faunistic elements in south of the country [Iablokoff-Khznorian, 1961].

Chioneosoma (Aleucolomus) porosum
(Fischer von Waldheim, 1823)
(Fig. 4)

Material. Armavir Prov.: 1♀, Echmiadzin Distr., Gay env., at light, 26.04.1996 (M. Kalashian). Syunik Prov.: 1♂, S env. Shvanidzor, 38.9078°N / 46.3803°E, 450 m, freezing light trap, 17–24.04.2025 (local collectors).

Notes. *Chioneosoma porosum* is one of the few species of this mostly Central Asian genus which is distributed outside the countries of the region. Besides Central Asian countries the species is known also from Southern European Russia and Iran and reaching the Caucasus westwards [Medvedev, 1951; Bezděk, 2016]. Reported by Medvedev [1951] from south Azerbaijan (Imishli District, Shirin Kum). New for Armenian fauna.

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