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SHORT COMMUNICATION

P.G. Nemkov. A KEY TO THE DIGGER WASPS OF THE GENUS *MELLINUS* (HYMENOPTERA, CRABRONIDAE, MELLININAE) OF THE RUSSIA. – Far Eastern Entomologist. 2008. N 185: 19-20.

П.Г. Немков. Определительная таблица роющих ос рода *Mellinus* (Hymenoptera, Crabronidae, Mellininae) России // Дальневосточный энтомолог. 2008. N 185. С. 19-20.

Mellinus Fabricius, 1970 is a small digger wasps genus of the monotypical subfamily Mellininae distributed in North and Central America [2, 5] and Eurasia [1, 5]. Thirteen recent and one fossil species of this genus are known, but only two related and very similar species

inhabit the Palaearctic. *Mellinus* in the Russia earlier were not specially studied, there are only the keys to the species of the European part of the Russia [4] and Russian Far East [3]. The key suitable for the whole Russian territory is given here, however it is quite probable that this key is useful for all Palaearctic Region.

Key to the species

1. Thorax with whitish spots. Gastral terga II, III, and V (in female) or VI (in male) with whitish band or a pair of lateral spots. In female flagellum reddish and more or less darkened above, femora reddish (sometimes darkened basally) with whitish spots. Body length 10.0-14.0 mm. Distribution: Europe, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kirgizia, Mongolia, North China, Korea . . . . . ***M. crabroneus* (Thunberg, 1791)**
– Thorax and gaster with yellow spots or, if with whitish, only gastral tergum III with a pair of lateral spots. In female flagellum black (somewhat brownish below), femora black with yellow spots or without them 2
2. Mesopleura and scutellum with yellow spots. Gastral terga II, III, and V (in female) or VI (in male) with yellow band or a pair of lateral spots. Hindtibia brownish-yellow. Body length 11.0-16.0 mm. Distribution: Europe, Russia (except Far East), Turkey, Kazakhstan . . . . . ***M. arvensis arvensis* (Linnaeus, 1758)**
– Mesopleura, scutellum, and hindtibia black. Usually only gastral tergum III with a pair of lateral spots. Body length 10.0-16.0 mm. Distribution: Russia (Far East), North China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Nepal . . . . . ***M. arvensis obscurus* Handlirsch, 1888**

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© **Far Eastern entomologist (Far East. entomol.)** Journal published since October 1994.
Editor-in-Chief: S.Yu. Storozhenko
Editorial Board: A.S. Lelej, V.S. Sidorenko, N.V. Kurzenko, P.G. Nemkov
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