

The 80th anniversary of Arkady Stepanovich Lelej Аркадий Степанович Лелей — к 80-летию со дня рождения



On August 25, 2026, Arkady S. Lelej, an outstanding Russian entomologist and a very fine person, turns 80. In addition to their warmest regards to him, Arkady's colleagues and friends prepared a Supplement of the Euroasian Entomological Journal on this special occasion. 34 authors from Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brazil, Croatia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Iran, Japan, South Africa, USA, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, and Russia (Feodosiya, Moscow, Nizhny Novgorod, Novosibirsk, Petrozavodsk, Saransk, St. Petersburg, and Vladivostok) took part in preparing this Supplement. They have jointly presented 23 papers dedicated to various aspects of Hymenoptera studies, including descriptions of three insect genera and 19 species as new to science. Among them, 15 new taxa (two genera and 13 species) are named in Arkady's honor.

We celebrated Arkady's 75th anniversary just five years ago. On that occasion, a Special Issue of the Journal of Hymenoptera Research was published (<https://doi.org/10.3897/jhr.84.72212>). In this Issue, Arkady's biography, together with a full list of his published papers and taxa described by him, is given. Nevertheless, Arkady did not decrease his productivity since that time. He continues to work intensively, coupling research

with organizational activities. Arkady continues to lead the Laboratory of Entomology of the Federal Scientific Center of the East Asia Terrestrial Biodiversity in Vladivostok. He is the Head of the Publishing Commission, and a member of both the Scientific Council and Dissertation Panel of the Center. Starting from 2021, he published more than 25 papers dedicated to various hymenopteran taxa as well as to members of other insect orders, in addition to about 400 papers published during the previous years.

List of selected papers authored by Arkady Lelej (2021–September 2026)

2021

Okayasu J.A., Lelej A.S., Williams K.A. 2021. Review of the genus *Eotrogaspidia* Lelej, 1996 (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae: Trogaspidiini) // Zootaxa. Vol.4920. No.1. P.56–90.

Lelej A.S. 2021. A new species of the genus *Petersenidia* Lelej (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae) from Indonesia, eastward of Wallace's line // Zootaxa. Vol.5006. No.1. P.101–105.

Lelej A.S. 2021. Discovery of the genus *Odontomyrme* Lelej, 1983 (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae) in New Guinea and description of *O. rasnitsyni* sp.n. // Far Eastern Entomologist. No.437. P.1–5.

Lelej A.S., Prisniy Yu.A. 2021. The velvet ants (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae) of Belgorod Region, Russia // Field Biological Journal. Vol.3. No.1. P.12–17. [In Russian]

Lelej A.S., Terine J.B., Kumar G.P. 2021. New species of Ticoplinae (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae) from India // Zootaxa. Vol.5052. No.4. P.567–578.

Okayasu J., Williams K.A., Lelej A.S., Pham T.H. 2021. Review of female *Andreimyrmex* Lelej (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae: Smicromyrmecini) // Zootaxa. Vol.5061. No.1. P.1–38.

Sutanto D.D., Williams K.A., Nugroho H., Lelej A.S. 2021. To the knowledge of the velvet ant Genus *Bischoffitilla* Lelej (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae) in Indonesia // Treubia. Vol.48, Is.1. P.1–12.

Terine J.B., Lelej A.S., Kumar G.P. 2021. Discovery of the genus *Strangulotilla* Nonveiller, 1979 (Hymenoptera, Mutillidae) in India and description of a new species from Western Ghats // Zootaxa. Vol.5057. No.3. P.429–436.

Terine J.B., Lelej A.S., Kumar G.P. 2021. Discovery of the genus *Andreimyrmex* Lelej, 1995 (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae) in India and description of a new species from the Western Ghats // Zootaxa. Vol.5020. No.1. P.18

2022

Brothers D.J., Lelej A.S., Williams K.A. 2022. Clarification of the status of *Paraferreola* Šusterka, 1912 as an available genus name in Pompilidae, and the identity of *Sphex ursus* Fabricius, 1793 in Mutillidae (Hymenoptera) // Journal of Hymenoptera Research. Vol.91. P.429–444.

Lelej A.S., Proshchalykin M.Yu., Maharramov M.M. 2022. A review of the Mutillidae (Hymenoptera) of Azerbaijan // Zootaxa. Vol.5155. No.1. P.61–86.

Waichert C., Rodriguez J., Lelej A.S., von Dohlen C.D., Pitts J.P. 2022. Revealing diagnostic characters through morphological evolution in cleptoparasitic spider wasps (Hymenoptera, Pompilidae, Ceropales) // Zoologica Scripta. Vol.51, Is.3. P.365–380.

2023

Lelej A.S. 2023. Review of the tribe Ctenotillini (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae) from Oriental and Palearctic Regions // Far Eastern Entomologist. No.480. P.1–22.

Lelej A.S. 2023. Discovery of the genus *Odontomutilla* Ashmead, 1899 (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae) in Myanmar with description of a new species // Far Eastern Entomologist. No.476. P.1–7.

Lelej A.S., Williams K.A. 2023. Review of the tribe Smicromyrmecini Bischoff, 1920 (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae) // Zootaxa. Vol.5231. No.2. P.101–140.

Lelej A.S., Williams K.A., Terine J.B., Okayasu J., Parikh G.R., Kumar G.P. 2023. Review of the tribe Mutillini (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae) from the Oriental Region // Zootaxa. Vol.5228. No.4. P.455–476.

Loktionov V.M., Lelej A.S., Vasilenko D.V., Perkovsky E.E. 2023. Discovery of a new extinct spider wasp (Hymenoptera, Pompilidae) from Eocene Rovno amber // Zootaxa. Vol.5352. No.3. P.426–432.

2024

Lelej A.S. 2024. Revision of the Palearctic genus *Skorikovia* Ovtchinnikov, 2002 (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae) // Zootaxa. Vol.5529. No.1. P.52–72.

Lelej A.S. 2024. Review of the velvet ants (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae) of Wallacea with special reference to Lombok // Far Eastern Entomologist. No.504. P.1–25.

Terine J.B., Lelej A.S., Kumar G.P. 2024. Discovery of a new species of the genus *Cephalotilla* Bischoff, 1920 (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae) from India // Zootaxa. Vol.5399. No.2. P.190–194.

2025

Brothers D.J., Lelej A.S., Yanega D. 2025. Re-evaluation of the grammatical genders of the names “*Smicromyrmex*” and its derivatives, and “*Ephutomma*” (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae) // Zootaxa. Vol.5665. No.2. P.277–280.

Lelej A.S. 2025. The color syndrome of species in the genus *Odontomutilla* Ashmead, 1899 (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae), and a description of two new red-headed species // Zootaxa. Vol. 5715. No.1. P.236–243.

Lelej A.S. 2025. Revision of the genus *Dentilla* Lelej in Lelej et Kabakov, 1980 (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae) // Zootaxa. Vol. 5633. No.2. P.288–315.

Okayasu J., Lelej A.S., Williams K.A., Brabants C.M., Nguen L.T.P., Nguen A.D., Pham T.H., Thruong T.T.C. 2025. Current knowledge on the velvet ants (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae, Myrmecidae) of Vietnam: faunal review and new distributional records // Zootaxa. Vol.5668. No.1. P. 1–104.

2026

Lelej A.S. 2026. An annotated catalogue of the Mutillidae and Myrmecidae (Hymenoptera) of the Palearctic Region, with the keys to the genera // Zootaxa. Vol.5861. No.1. P.1–151.

Lelej A.S. 2026. Review of the genus *Rasnitsynitilla* Lelej, 2006 (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae) // Far Eastern Entomologist. No.558. P.1–24.

In these works, two genera, 31 species of Hymenoptera from two families are described in total as new to science. The whole list of the new taxa described by Arkady Lelej therefore includes 393 names.

List of the hymenopteran taxa described by Arkady Lelej (2021–September 2026)

Family Mutillidae

- Andreimyrmex paniya* Terine, Lelej et Kumar, 2021
Bischoffitilla mickeli Lelej, 2024
Cephalotilla manikandani Terine, Lelej et Girish Kumar, 2024
Denistilla Lelej, 2023
Dentilla bischoffi Lelej, 2025
Dentilla dehghanii Lelej, 2025
Eosmicromyrmilla balakrishnani Lelej, Terine, Kumar, 2021
Eosmicromyrmilla subbuka Lelej, Terine, Kumar, 2021
Eotrogaspidia adhabar Okayasu, Lelej et Williams, 2021
Eotrogaspidia buddha Okayasu, Lelej et Williams, 2021
Eotrogaspidia hauseri Okayasu, Lelej et Williams, 2021
Eotrogaspidia melanopleura Okayasu, Lelej et Williams, 2021
Krombeinidia mokrousovi Lelej, 2024
Krombeinidia wallacei Lelej, 2024
Odontomutilla listopadovi Lelej, 2023
Odontomutilla storozhenkoi Lelej, 2025
Odontomutilla williamsi Lelej, 2025
Odontomyrmex rasnitsyni Lelej, 2021
Petersenidia mikhailovi Lelej, 2021
Promecidia lombok Lelej, 2024

Rasnitsynitilla alexandri Lelej, 2026
Rasnitsynitilla brachypteroides Lelej, 2026
Rasnitsynitilla christiani Lelej, 2026
Rasnitsynitilla sinevi Lelej, 2026
Rasnitsynitilla vanharteni Lelej, 2026
Skorikovia bactriana Lelej, 2024
Skorikovia maxim Lelej, 2024
Smicromyrme brothersi Lelej, 2024
Storozhenkotilla nathani Lelej, 2023
Strangulotilla sureshani Terine, Lelej et Kumar, 2021
Williamstillia Lelej, 2023
Yamanetilla yamanei Lelej, 2024

Family Pompilidae

Paleogenia waichertae Loktionov, Lelej et Perkovsky, 2023

We know that Arkady's personality and proficiency in insect collecting, are highly valued by his colleagues (in total, 106 entomologists from 27 countries, including authors of this Supplement), who named 131 (!) insect and arachnid taxa in Arkady's honor (SPIDERS: ARANEAE: Ctenidae (1); INSECTA: COLEOPTERA: Curculionidae (2), Salpingidae (1); DIPTERA: Asilidae (6), Cecidomyiidae (1), Chironomidae (2), Dolichopodidae (1), Ephydriidae (1), Hybotidae (2), Phoridae (1), Platystomatidae (1), Rhagionidae (2), Syrphidae (5); HEMIPTERA: Aphilidae (1); HYMENOPTERA: Ampulicidae (1), Andrenidae (2), Apidae (1), Aulacidae (1), Bethyidae (4), Braconidae (16), Bradynobaenidae (1), Cephidae (1), Chrysididae (3), Colletidae (3), Crabronidae (6), Cynipidae (1), Diapriidae (3), Drynidae (2), Encyrtidae (2), Eulophidae (2), Eurytomidae (2), Formicidae (3), Halictidae (1), Ichneumonidae (11), Mutillidae (9), Mymaridae (1), Pamphiliidae (1), Peleserphidae (2),

Pompilidae (5), Proctotrupidae (1), Pteromalidae (4), Radiophronidae (2), Sphecidae (1), Tenthredinidae (1), Torymidae (1), Vespidae (4); LEPIDOPTERA: Sesiidae (1), Uraniidae (1); MICROCORYPHIA: Machilidae (1); ORTHOPTERA: Acrididae (1), Gryllidae (2), Tetrigidae (1).

Similar examples among modern entomologists are probably hard to find. We feel privileged to know him as one of the great modern entomologists, as well as a friend and a delightful human being.

The editorial board of this Supplement is grateful to all the authors of articles and the reviewers for their high-quality work and dedication, Euroasian Entomological Journal's chief editor, and the production team for their efforts in making this tribute possible. We especially thank the administration of the Federal Scientific Center of the East Asia Terrestrial Biodiversity (Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences) for comprehensive support.

And, of course, we extend our warmest gratitude to Arkady Stepanovich Lelej for his inspiring dedication and impressive results in scientific work — he is an example to follow in striving for the heights of research. We wish him many years of continued scientific contributions, collaborations, and good health!

Happy birthday, our dear Arkady Stepanovich!

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