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A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *HALMOPOTA* HALIDAY, 1856 (DIPTERA: EPHYDRIDAE) FROM ALTAI, RUSSIA

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Summary. A new species of the shore-fly *Halmopota leleji* **sp. n.** is described from Kosh-Agach, Altai (Russia). This new species belongs to the species group with pubescent body. It differs from the other species by yellow coloration of palpi, black pubescence, 6 scutellar setae and the structure of genitalia. A key to *Halmopota* species distributed in Russia is provided.

Key words: shore-flies, Ephydridae, *Halmopota*, taxonomy, new species, key, Russia.

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Резюме. Из Кош-Агача, Алтай (Россия) описан новый для науки вид *Halmopota leleji* **sp. n.** Новый вид относится к группе видов с опушенным телом. Он отличается от других видов желтой окраской щупиков, черным цветом опушения, наличием 6 щетинок на щитке и строением гениталий. Составлена определительная таблица видов рода *Halmopota* известных из России.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Halmopota* Haliday, 1856 is a small genus of the shore-flies (Diptera: Ephydriidae) which includes 10 species only. One of them, *H. salinarius* (Bouché, 1834), is common in Central Europe (Poland, Germany) and European part of Russia (Mathis & Zatwarnicki, 1995; Krivosheina, 2010), *H. hutchinsoni* Cresson, 1934 is known from the Oriental (India) and Palearctic regions (China, Tibet) (Cresson, 1934), and the remaining species are confined mainly to the southern regions of Palearctic (Mathis & Zatwarnicki, 1995).

Halmopota are relatively large flies, up to 6 mm, resembling shore flies of the genus *Ephydra* Fallén, 1810, but differing from them in having a well-developed prelabrum protruding beyond the oral opening. Diptera of the genus *Halmopota* are rare in collections. This may be due to the difficulty of capture. With the exception of *H. salinarius*, which is known to develop in large numbers in saltwater bodies (Bouché, 1834), adults of the remaining species are present in biotopes in single numbers. The usual habitats of adult flies are the banks of flowing waters, where they jump from rock to rock. Adults are very active and cautious, abruptly taking off and flying away when approached or attempted to be caught. *Halmopota* larvae are relatively large, with mature larvae exceeding 10 mm in length, and have well-developed prolegs armed with strong hooks. Larvae are known only for one species, *H. salinarius*. Their life style is similar to that of the genus *Ephydra*: they actively crawl along the bottom of the reservoir and submerged vegetation, feeding on detritus (Bouché, 1834).

The species *H. insignis* Becker, 1926 for a long time was considered to be the only species distributed in Russia (Omsk Oblast and Transbaikalian Territory) (Krivosheina, 1989). However one more species, *H. salinarius* was captured in suburbs of Baskunchak Lake in Astrakhan Oblast (Krivosheina, 2010). The investigation of the flies collected by Dr. N. Vikhrev in Altai allowed us to recognize one new species of the genus *Halmopota*.

Holotype and paratypes of the new species are kept in the collection of the Zoological Museum, Moscow University (ZMMU).

***Halmopota leleji* Krivosheina, sp. n.**

<https://zoobank.org/NomenclaturalActs/D49199F1-3576-48D1-B4BA-898566093939>

Figs 1–4

TYPE MATERIAL. Holotype – ♂, **Russia**: Altai Republic, env. of Kosh-Agach, 50.0°N, 88.6°E, h=1750 m, 2–4.VII 2016, leg. N. Vikhrev (ZMMU). Paratypes: the same place and date, 5 ♂, 6 ♀ (ZMMU).

DIAGNOSIS. The species belongs to the species group of the genus *Halmopota* with pubescent body. The new species differs from *H. villosus* Becker, 1907 by the following characters: body black, not brown; antenna black, not brown, palpus yellow-orange, not dark grey, pubescence of body black and shorter, hairs of pubescence

stronger, scutellum about as long as wide, not 2 times as long as wide, apical scutellar and basal lateral scutellar setae are the strongest and discal scutellar setae shorter than the basal, scutellum about as long as wide, 2 notopleural setae well developed (Becker, 1907; Krivosheina, 1989). The new species differs from *H. hutchinsoni* Cresson, 1934 by the following characters: 3 fronto-orbital setae, not 7–8, 1 strong facial seta, not 4–6, anterior dorsocentral setae visible, longer than pubescence of the body, 2 anepisternal setae strong, not 1 seta, 1 katapisternal seta strong, not absent, wing with veins C and R_{4+5} yellow, not dark, abdominal tergite 4 a little shorter than tergites 2 or 3 (Cresson, 1934).

The new species differs from *H. chinensis* Krivosheina, 1989 by the following characters: scutellum about as long as wide, not 1.5 times as long as wide, scutellum with 6, not 4 scutellar setae, katapisternum with 1 strong seta, not absent (Krivosheina, 1989).



Fig. 1. *Halmopota leleji* sp. n., male: 1 – head, lateral view; 2 – aedeagus and gonite, lateral view; 3 – epandrium and surstylus, dorsal view; 4 – scutellum, dorsal view.

The species obviously differs from *H. tomentosus* Canzoneri et Meneghini, 1974 (Canzoneri & Meneghini, 1974) by shorter and sparser pubescence. The description of the above mentioned species was too short and incomplete to discover some more diagnostic characters (Krivosheina, 1989).

DESCRIPTION. MALE. Black in grey and golden pollen, covered with black pubescence, fore and mid tibia brownish, tarsi yellow, apical tarsomere dark.

Head (Fig. 1) black in grey pollen, antenna black, frons brown. Arista black, continuously narrowing to apex; palpus yellow and apically darkened, 3 fronto-orbital setae, 1 strong facial seta and a row of long hairs downwardly. Gena high, eye-to-gena index 1.8, postocular seta like a vertical row consisting of 8–10 long thick and thin setae, varying in strength.

Thorax black in grey and golden pollen, scutum with 3 golden stripes, 1 intra-alar seta, 2 supra-alar setae behind the suture, 2 postalar setae, 1–2 developed acrostichal setae in front of scutellum, 5 dorsocentral setae, anterior setae thin but long and distinctly visible over shorter pubescence, 1–2 posterior dorsocentral setae well developed, 2 strong anepisternal setae and sometimes several long hairs, 1 strong katepisternal seta, 2 notopleural setae, postpronotum pubescent, one longer hair sometimes present on postpronotum. Scutellum black in grey pollen, about as wide as long (1.1:1), scutellar setae virable (Figs. 1, 4), normally 2 scutellar apical setae are the strongest, 2 basal scutellar setae are strong and a little shorter than the apical, 2 distal scutellar setae developed, normally 2 times shorter than the basal. Halteres yellow. Legs black in grey pollen, fore and midtibiae brownish, tarsi yellow with apical tarsomeres dark. Midtibia of male with a comb of short setae at about 2/3 from apex. Wings hyaline, veins C to R_{4+5} yellow, other veins dark.

Abdomen black in grey pollen, segments 2–3 are equal in length, segment 4 a little shorter than 2 or 3 segment, segment 5 elongate, 1.6 times as long as wide.

Genitalia. Epandrium round, cercus covered with long and short setae, surstyli short, rounded exteriorly, with notch on inner margin (Fig. 3), aedeagus short and broad, gonite broad basally and thin apically (Fig. 2).

FEMALE. Black in grey and golden pollen, covered with long black pubescence, fore, mid and sometimes hind tibia brownish, tarsi yellow, apical tarsomere dark. Same as male with the exception of the following characters. Anepisternum with 2–3 long setae, 2–4 notopleural setae, being asymmetrical in number, postpronotum from pubescent without strong seta to pubescent with 1 longer black hair, scutellar setae varying in size and length, discal scutellar setae from 1/2 to 3/4 as long as basal scutellar setae.

REMARKS. The three species with long pubescens of the body were described in the genus *Halmopota*: *H. villosus* Becker, 1926, *H. hutchinsoni* Cresson, 1934 and *H. tomentosus* Canzoneri et Meneghini, 1974. The species *H. villosus* was described from the only female. However later Giordani Soika (1956) studied the seria of specimens from Tibet and wondered why T. Becker described *H. villosus* from female for he discovered some more pubescent males from the same locality. M. Krivosheina (1989) described these males as *H. chinensis* Krivosheina, 1989 for the pubescence of those specimens was not significant. As a result of this discussion we compare external characters of the new species not only with three well known “pubescent” species but with *H. chinensis* also.

Besides the external characters, the new species differs by the structure of genitalia. The general plan of genital morphology is very close to *H. insignis*: surstyli rounded exteriorly and curved internally, aedeagus broad and gonit apically straight and thin (Krivosheina, 1989).

However *H. leleji* sp. n. and *H. insignis* are easily distinguished by the presence or absence of velvety-black and white spots on frons and scutum as well as developed or not developed pubescence of the body.

DISTRIBUTION. Russia: Altai (Kosh-Agach).

ETYMOLOGY. The species is named in honour of the famous Russian entomologist Arkady Leley, specialist in Hymenoptera and editor of many systematic books, including Key to Insects of the Far East.

Key to Russian species of the genus *Halmopota*

1. Body covered with thick black pubescence, scutellum with 6 setae. Altai *H. leleji* sp. n.
– Body without thick black pubescence, scutellum with 4 setae2
2. Frons and scutum velvety-black with bright white spots. Astrakhan Oblast, Omsk Oblast, Transbaikalian Territory *H. insignis* Becker
– Frons brown, scutum black with grey or golden pollen. Astrakhan Oblast. Kalmykia
..... *H. salinarius* Bouché

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