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NEW FAUNISTIC RECORDS OF MINUTE BROWN SCAVENGER BEETLES (COLEOPTERA LATRIDIIDAE) FROM THE PALAEARCTIC REALM

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Plewa R., Lasoń A. - New faunistic records of minute brown scavenger beetles (Coleoptera Latridiidae) from the Palearctic realm.

We present faunistic data on seventeen species of Latridiidae (Coleoptera) from the Palearctic realm, studied between 2003 and 2025. All taxa were recorded for the first time in eleven countries in Europe, Asia, and North Africa: *Cartodere nodifer* (Westwood) (Azerbaijan, Romania), *Corticaria aequalis* (Uzbekistan), *C. fagi* Woll. (Greece [Peloponnese]), *C. fulva* (Comolli) (Azerbaijan), *Corticarina curta* (Woll.) (Albania), *Enicmus brevicornis* (Mann.) (Azerbaijan, Russia: Far East), *E. transversus* (Oliv.) (Kazakhstan), *E. barimani* Rücker (Azerbaijan), *Latridius minutus* (L.) (Azerbaijan), *Melanophthalma distinguenda* (Comolli) (Slovenia), *M. fuscipennis* (Mann.) (Albania), *M. maura* Motsch. (Greece [Crete], Kazakhstan, Romania), *M. pallens* (Mann.) (Tunisia), *M. rhenana* Rücker et Johnson (Albania, Azerbaijan, Greece [Peloponnese], Ukraine), *M. rispini* Rücker et Johnson (Azerbaijan, Greece [Peloponnese]), *M. sericea* (Mann.) (Albania, Azerbaijan), and *Stephostethus pandellei* (Bris.) (Turkey).

KEY WORDS: Corticariinae, Latridiinae, distribution, Europe, Asia, North Africa

INTRODUCTION

The Catalogue of Palearctic Coleoptera (CPC), which includes a checklist of minute brown scavenger beetles (Latridiidae), was published almost two decades ago (JOHNSON, 2007). Since then, numerous taxonomic and nomenclatural changes have occurred, making it outdated in many respects. Recently, a comprehensive study was published summarising the Latridiidae fauna of the Western Palearctic, listing 243 species (RÜCKER, 2020). This work also provides new information on species distribution, descriptions of morphological characteristics of individual taxa, and identification keys. Since 2020, one new species of Latridiidae has been described in the Palearctic realm from China (RÜCKER, 2021), three from Kyrgyzstan (PLEWA and REIKE, 2024), and one from Iran (MÍKA, 2025).

The aim of this study is to provide additional information on the occurrence of Latridiidae in various countries of the Palearctic realm.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

All Latridiidae beetles were collected from 2003 to 2025 during several entomological expeditions to eleven countries in Europe, Asia, and North Africa. The

following collecting methods were used: entomological net, shaking beetles from tree branches onto an entomological umbrella, sifting rotten wood and hay, direct collection by hand (catching in flight or on fungal bodies), collecting at artificial light sources and various types of self-trapping, such as the purple multifunnel trap (Lindgren funnel trap) or Moericke trap (yellow pan trap) (Fig. 1), with propylene glycol used as a preservative. The traps were hung on the lower branches of trees at a height of approximately 2 m above ground level. The beetle species were collected and deposited in personal collections (coll.) by the following authors: AL – Andrzej Lasoń, JH – Jacek Hilszczański, JS – Janusz Sawoniewicz, RB – Robert Borek, RK – Roman Królik, RP – Radosław Plewa, YS – Yuriy Skrylnyk. Taxonomic nomenclature and distribution of Latridiidae are based on CPC by JOHNSON (2007) and further amendments by RÜCKER (2020). The list of beetle subfamilies and species is presented in alphabetical order.

RESULTS

As a result of the analysis of the collected material, seventeen species of Latridiidae were identified: eleven classified in the subfamily Corticariinae and six in the subfamily Latridiinae.



Fig. I - Moericke trap exposed in one of sites in Kazakhstan (Kaskeleng) in 2023.

Taxa overview

Subfamily: Corticariinae Curtis, 1829

Corticaria aequalis Reitter, 1898

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Uzbekistan, 41°34'N, 61°11'E, Qaraqalpaqstan, 15 km E of To'rtko'l, at light, 4 exx., 25 IV 2025, leg. AM (Fig. II, 1), coll. RP.

NOTES: This mycetophagous species occurs in Europe (Armenia) and Asia (Iran, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan). A new species for the fauna of Uzbekistan.

Corticaria fagi Wollaston, 1854

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Greece, 37°22'N, 22°01'E, Peloponnese, Arkadia, Isaris, Guesthouse Jean Xceron, 805 m a.s.l., at light, 60 exx., 26 VI 2024, leg. RK, coll. RK et RP.

NOTES: This species occurs in many countries in central and eastern Europe, Asia (eastern Siberia, around Lake Baikal), and the Afrotropical, Australian, and Oriental realms. A species newly recorded for the Greek fauna.

Corticaria fulva (Comolli, 1837)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Azerbaijan, 38°56'N, 48°26'E, Talysh Mts., Yardımlı rayonu, 23 km NE of Yardımlı,

450 m a.s.l., oak forest, at light, 1 ex., 29 V 2023, leg. AL, coll. RP.

NOTES: This cosmopolitan species is known from many countries in Europe, Asia, and North Africa. It was recently recorded in Iran (MíKA, 2025) and is a newly recorded species for the fauna of Azerbaijan.

Corticarina curta (Wollaston, 1854)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Albania, 41°17'N, 19°31'E, Durrës, Shkëmbi i Kavajës, S of Shkallnur, 45 m a.s.l., edge of forest, sifting hay, 1 ex., 7 V 2025, leg. AL, coll. RP.

NOTES: This species is known from many countries in Europe, Asia (Turkey, Uzbekistan, Cyprus) and North Africa (Algeria, the Canary Islands, Madeira, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia). This is the first record from Albania.

Melanophthalma distinguenda (Comolli, 1837)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Slovenia, 46°27'37"N, 15°49'52"E, Grajena ad Ptuj, meadow, entomological net, 1 ex., 7 VIII 2024, leg. et coll. RP.

NOTES: A xerothermophilous species, known from Europe, Asia (Iraq, Turkey), North Africa (Madeira), and the Nearctic realm. It was recently recorded in Iran (MíKA, 2025). This is the first record from Slovenia.

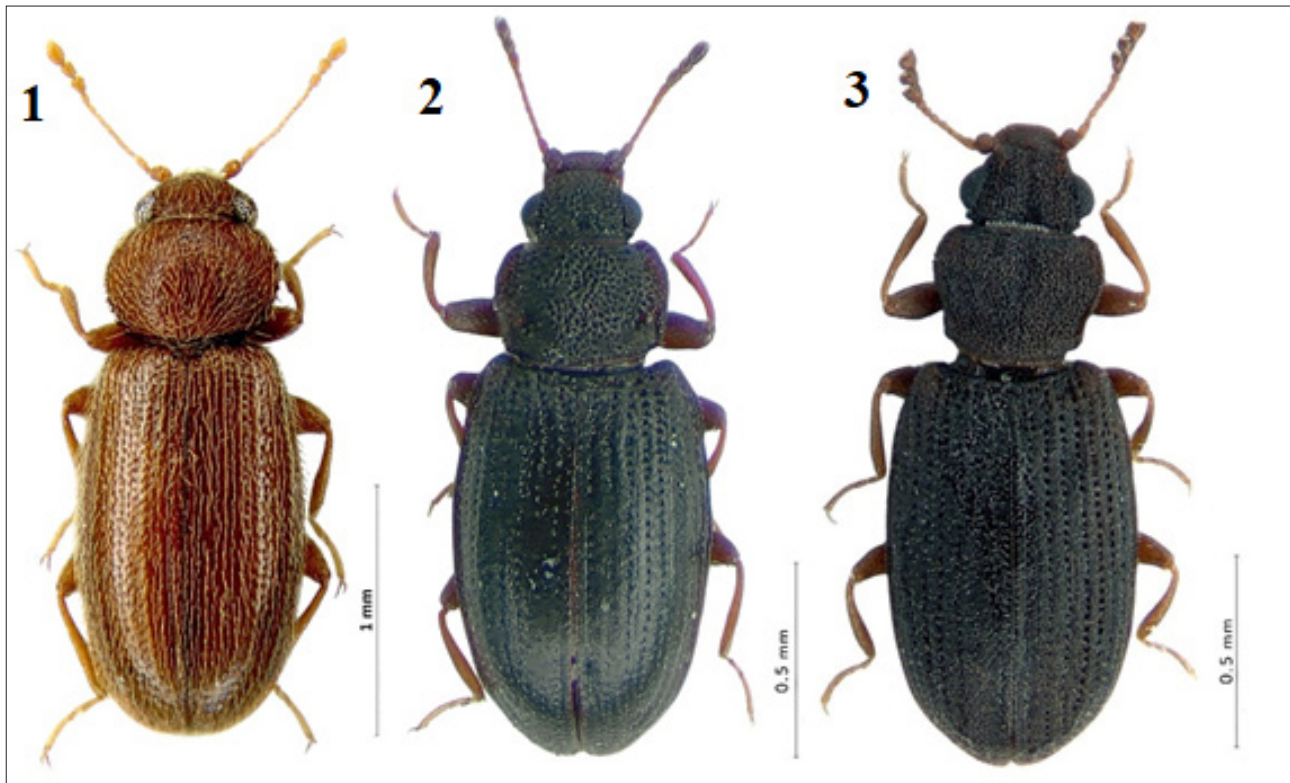


Fig. II, 1 - *Corticaria aequalis* Reitt.: Uzbekistan (Qaraqalpaqstan, 15 km E of To'rtko'l); 2 - *Enicmus barimani* Rücker: Azerbaijan (Talysh Mts., Hirkan National Park); 3 - *Enicmus brevicornis* (Mann.): Russia-Far East (Sikhote-Alin Reserve).

***Melanophthalma fuscipennis* (Mannerheim, 1844)**

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Albania, 41°17'N, 19°31'E, Durres, Shkëmbi i Kavajës, S of Shkallnur, 45 m a.s.l., edge of forest, sifting hay, 2 exx., 6 V 2025, leg. AL, coll. RP.

NOTES: A xerothermophilous species, it occurs in the central and southern European countries, Asia (Cyprus, Turkey), and North Africa (Egypt, Morocco, Madeira). Recently, several observations have also been reported in the Czech Republic (STEJSKAL, 2019). New species for the fauna of Albania.

***Melanophthalma maura* Motschulsky, 1866**

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Greece, 35°11'N, 25°30'E, Crete, Lasithiou, Mesa Lasithi env., 850 m a.s.l., rotten oak wood, sifting, 1 ex., 6-7 V 2006, leg. et coll. AL; Kazakhstan, 43°10'18"N, 76°41'17"E, Dolan, Moericke trap, 1 ex., 19 VI-2 VII 2023, leg. et coll. RP; Romania, 46°10'N, 20°60'E, Arad, 4 km W of Pecica, 110 m a.s.l., meadow, herbs and flowers, entomological net, 1 ex., 15 IV 2024, leg. AL, coll. RP.

NOTES: The species prefers sunny locations, such as forest edges and ruderal areas. It is widely distributed in many European and Asian countries, including Afghanistan, Russia, and Turkey. It was recently recorded in Kyrgyzstan (PLEWA and REIKE, 2024). Newly recorded species for the fauna of Greece, Kazakhstan and Romania.

***Melanophthalma pallens* (Mannerheim, 1844)**

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Tunisia, Nabeul, 1 ex., 17-28 XI 2007, leg. JS, coll. RP.

NOTES: A mycetophagous species, it feeds on fungi found in plant waste and detritus. In Europe it is known only from Armenia and Bulgaria; in Asia, from Afghanistan and Kazakhstan. Additionally, SAMIN *et al.* (2015) recorded this species from Iran. Newly recorded species for the Tunisian fauna.

***Melanophthalma rhenana* Rücker et Johnson, 2007**

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Albania, 41°17'N, 19°31'E, Durres, Shkëmbi i Kavajës, S of Shkallnur, 45 m a.s.l., edge of forest, sifting hay, 1 ex., 6 V 2025, leg. AL, coll. RP; Albania, 41°15'55"N, 19°33'14"E, Gjuza ad Durres, 45 m a.s.l., entomological net, 3 exx., 10 V 2025, leg. et coll. AL; Azerbaijan, 39°40'N, 49°11'E, Salyan rayonu, Shirvan National Park, at light, 2 exx., 23 VI 2024, leg. AL, coll. RP; Greece, 36°57'54"N, 22°22'56"E, Peloponnese, Manganari, purple multifunnel trap, 1 ex., IV-IX 2023, leg. RB, coll. RP; Greece, 36°44'54"N, 22°33'42"E, Peloponnese, Mavrovouni, purple multifunnel trap, 1 ex., IV-IX 2023, leg. RB, coll. RP; Ukraine, 49°37'16"N, 36°17'10"E, Kharkiv reg., Zmiev distr., near Gaydary vill., Homol'shansky National Park, 2 exx., 18 V 2023, leg. YS, coll. RP.

NOTES: RÜCKER (2020) recorded this species from Germany, Italy (Sardinia, Sicily), Iran, and Turkey. It was also reported from Iran by FARASHANI *et al.* (2022) and from Turkey by TÜVEN & VARLI (2024). Additionally, it has been reported in several European countries: Austria (SCHUH and STÜRZENBAUM, 2014), Slovakia (MAJZLAN, 2014), Bulgaria (GUÉORGUEV *et al.*, 2023), the Czech Republic (MÍKA, 2023) and Poland (PLEWA *et al.*, 2024).

Newly recorded species for Albania, Azerbaijan, Greece and Ukraine.

***Melanophthalma rispini* Rücker et Johnson, 2007**

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Azerbaijan, 39°36'N, 48°59'E, Salyan rayonu, Salyan, Kura river valley, -20 m b.s.l., 1 ex., 7 VI 2023, leg. AL, coll. RP; Greece, 36°44'54"N, 22°33'42"E, Peloponnese, Mavrovouni, purple multifunnel trap, 2 exx., IV-IX 2023, leg. RB, coll. RP.

NOTES: *M. rispini* is known from Europe (Austria, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine), Asia (Turkey), and North Africa (Jordan). Recent records from the Czech Republic were reported by STEJSKAL (2019), and from the Neotropical realm (Ecuador) by OTERO (2025). New species for Azerbaijan and Greece.

***Melanophthalma sericea* (Mannerheim, 1844)**

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Albania, 41°17'N, 19°31'E, Durrës, Shkëmbi i Kavajës, S of Shkallnur, 45 m a.s.l., edge of forest, sifting hay, 1 ex., 6 V 2025, leg. AL, coll. RP; Azerbaijan, 38°39'N, 48°48'E, Lənkəran rayonu, Hirkan National Park, sifting litter, 3 exx., 24 VI 2024, leg. AL, coll. RP; Azerbaijan, 38°46'N, 48°34'E, Talysh Mts., Lerik rayonu, 2 km NE of Peştətük, 372 m a.s.l., oak forest, on fungi, 1 ex., 29 VI 2024, leg. et coll. AL; Azerbaijan, 38°57'N, 48°26'E, Yardımlı rayonu, 17 km NE of Yardımlı, ultraviolet trap, 6 exx., 30 VI 2024, leg. et coll. AL; Azerbaijan, 39°40'N, 49°11'E, Salyan rayonu, Shırvan National Park, at light, 1 ex., 3 VII 2024, leg. AL, coll. RP.

NOTES: This species occurs in the countries of central and southern Europe, Asia (Afghanistan, Cyprus, Iran, Lebanon, Turkey), and North Africa (Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia). Newly recorded species for Albania and Azerbaijan.

Subfamily: Latridiinae Erichson, 1842

***Cartodere nodifer* (Westwood, 1839)**

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Azerbaijan, 38°46'N, 48°34'E, Talysh Mts., Lerik rayonu, 2 km SE of Peştətük, 372 m a.s.l., oak forest, in flight, 1 ex., 28 V 2013, leg. et coll. AL; Romania, 44°52'N, 22°25'E, Mehedinți Mts., ad Baile Herculane, 200 m a.s.l., beech forest, sifting rotten wood, 1 ex., 26 IV 2024, leg. AL, coll. RP.

NOTES. A Holarctic and cosmopolitan species, known from many European countries, Asia (Japan, Turkey), North Africa (the Canary Islands, Madeira, Morocco), the Nearctic realm (southern Greenland, North America), and South America. Recently recorded in Iran (MÍKA, 2025). Newly recorded for the fauna of Azerbaijan and Romania.

***Enicmus barimani* Rücker, 2017**

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Azerbaijan, 38°46'N, 48°34'E, Talysh Mts., Lerik rayonu, 2 km SE of Peştətük, 372 m

a.s.l., oak forest with *Fagus* L. sp. and *Pterocarya* Kunth sp., under bark of *Carpinus* L. sp., 1 ex., 5 VI 2023, leg. et coll. AL; Azerbaijan, 38°39'N, 48°48'E, Talysh Mts., Lənkəran rayonu, Hirkan National Park, ad Hirkan, 40 m a.s.l., oak woods, Myxomycetes, at night, 9 exx., 24 VI 2024, 2 exx., 26 VI 2024, leg. AL (Plate II, 2), coll. AL et RP.

NOTES: Until recently, the species was known only from Iran (RÜCKER, 2018; 2020; FARASHIANI *et al.*, 2022). The confirmation of the occurrence of *E. barimani* in Azerbaijan indicates that it is more widely distributed in the Caspian Sea region. Recently, a new, morphologically very similar species *E. gorganicus* Míka, 2025 from Iran was also described (MÍKA, 2025). *E. barimani* is a new species for Azerbaijan.

***Enicmus brevicornis* (Mannerheim, 1844)**

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Azerbaijan, 38°46'N, 48°34'E, Talysh Mts., Lerik rayonu, 2 km SE of Peştətük, 372 m a.s.l., oak forest with *Fagus* L. sp. and *Pterocarya* Kunth sp., under bark of *Carpinus* L. sp., 1 ex., 5 VI 2023, leg. AL, coll. RP; Russia: Far East, Primorsky Krai: 45°14'N, 136°31'E, Kordon Jasnyj env., from branches of deciduous trees, entomological umbrella, 1 ex., 10 VII 2018, leg. RK, coll. RP; 44°57'N, 136°33'E, Blagodatnoye Lake env., from branches of deciduous trees, entomological umbrella, 1 ex., 15 VII 2018, 1 ex., 19 VII 2018, leg. RK, coll. RP; 44°54'N, 136°20'E, Sikhote-Alin Reserve, Kordon Khanov, from branches of deciduous trees, entomological umbrella, 14 exx., 16 VII 2018, leg. RK (Plate II, 3), coll. RP.

NOTES: A rare forest species associated with various species of deciduous trees, such as beech (*Fagus* L. sp.), oak (*Quercus* L. sp.), and linden (*Tilia* L. sp.). It develops in slime moulds (Myxomycota). *Enicmus brevicornis* is known from many countries in Europe, the central and southern European parts of Russia, Asia (Iran, Turkey), and North Africa (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia). It was recently recorded in the Mordovia State Nature Reserve (European part of Russia) (EGOROV *et al.*, 2020) and Iran (FARASHIANI *et al.*, 2022). New species for Azerbaijan and the Russian Far East.

***Enicmus transversus* (Olivier, 1790)**

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Kazakhstan, 43°09'01"N, 76°36'29"E, Kaskeleng, Moericke trap, 1 ex., 19 VI-2 VII 2023, leg. et coll. RP; Kazakhstan, 42°29'42"N, 69°57'05"E, Mashat, herbaceous plants, entomological net, 1 ex., 26 IV 2024, leg. JH, coll. RP.

NOTES: A common species, recorded from almost all countries of Europe, Asia (Afghanistan, Israel, Jordan, Nepal, Russia: western Siberia, Syria, Turkey), and North Africa (Algeria, Egypt, Madeira, Morocco, Tunisia). It has also been reported in Iran (FARASHIANI *et al.*, 2022) and Kyrgyzstan (PLEWA and REIKE, 2024). New species for Kazakhstan.

Latridius minutus (Linnaeus, 1767)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Azerbaijan, 38°56'N, 48°26'E, Talysh Mts., Yardımlı rayonu, 23 km NE of Yardımlı, 450 m a.s.l., rotten oak wood, sifting, 1 ex., 30 V 2023, leg. AL, coll. RP.

NOTES: A common, often synanthropic species, recorded in many countries in Europe, Asia (Russia: eastern and western Siberia, Far East, Mongolia, Turkey), North Africa, North- and South America. Recently recorded in Iran (FARASHIANI *et al.*, 2022) and Kyrgyzstan (PLEWA and REIKE, 2024). New species for Azerbaijan.

Stephostethus pandellei (Brisout de Barneville, 1863)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Turkey, 40°38'N, 38°23'E, Giresun Daglan, 18 km S of Dereli, 790 m a.s.l., mountain meadow, entomological net, 1 ex., 9 VI 2009, leg. et coll. AL.

NOTES: Associated with fresh coniferous wood. This species occurs in many countries in Europe and Asia (Russia: eastern and western Siberia, the Far East, and around Lake Baikal). New species for Turkey.

The species presented in this study contribute to the knowledge of their distribution in eleven countries within the Palearctic realm. These include both common taxa, such as *C. nodifer*, *C. fagi*, and *C. fulva*, which are distributed across various zoogeographic realms, and rarer taxa, such as *M. pallens*, *M. rhenana*, and *M. rispini*, whose occurrence is limited especially to a few countries in Europe, North Africa, and Western Asia. The latter two species were recently separated from the "*M. taurica* species group" (RÜCKER and JOHNSON, 2007), so their distribution, especially in Europe, remains insufficiently known. The analysed material also included the very rare species *E. barimani* from the Talysh Mountains in southeastern Azerbaijan. Previously, it was known only from the Hyrcanian forests along the Caspian Sea coast in northern Iran (RÜCKER, 2018; FARASHIANI *et al.*, 2022). Therefore, the data presented provide new information on the broader, northern distribution of this species.

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