

First record of the weevil genus *Macrotarrhus* from Daghestan, NE Caucasus (Coleoptera: Curculionidae)

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Macrotarrhus bartelsi Boh. is recorded from N Daghestan; the genus *Macrotarrhus* was previously known from Middle Asia, Tuva, Mongolia and N China.

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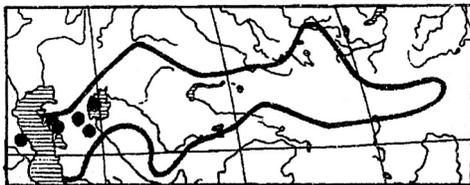
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In 1997, a male of *Macrotarrhus bartelsi* Boh. was found near Makhachkala in N Daghestan. The genus *Macrotarrhus* Bed. was previously known from Middle Asia, Tuva, Mongolia and N China; so, the record of this large wingless weevil from the NE Caucasus is of a particular interest. *M. bartelsi* is distributed east of Caspian Sea in SW Kazakhstan and NW Uzbekistan; its host plant is unknown, but most likely it is some species of the genus *Atraphaxis* L. (Polygonaceae), because all species of *Macrotarrhus* (except the subgenus *Proteromera* Zaslavsky, 1958, associated probably with *Calligonum* L.) whose host plants are known, feed on *Atraphaxis*. At least one species of *Atraphaxis* is common close to the locality where *M. bartelsi* was found.

Macrotarrhus bartelsi Boheman, 1840

Alexiola (Zaisania) hirtipes Zaslavsky, 1958.

Lectotype of *M. bartelsi* (designated here): male in the C. Schoenherr collection in Stockholm, labelled "♂", "Typus", "Litus orientale mare Caspici. Bartels".



Distribution of the genus *Macrotarrhus* Bed. Dots – records of *M. bartelsi* Boh.

Material. Russia: 1 ♂, Daghestan, 20 km W of Makhachkala, right bank of the Shura-Ozen' River near Sarykum sand dune, foothills of the Karatebe Mountain Range, 200 m, under stone, 16.VII.1997 (V.Yu. Savitsky). Kazakhstan: Mangyshlak Peninsula: ♂ holotype, ♀ paratype of *A. hirtipes*, 9 km N of Beke, 17.IX.1955 (K. Ya. Grunin); 1 ♀, 15 km ESE of Sary Uzen, 20.VI.1973 (M.G. Volkovitch); 1 ♂, Ustyurt Plateau, Kosbulak, 1972 (O. Nietullaev). Uzbekistan: 1 ♂, Kara-Kalpak Rep.; Aral Sea, Barsakelmes I., 1 ♀, 22.IV.1979 (A.I. Konev); 2 ♂, 2 ♀, same locality, 6, 8.VIII.1974, 24.VII.1975, 17.VIII.1976 (N.B. Zorina).

The specimen from Daghestan does not differ noticeably from other specimens; the apical part of the aedeagus of this specimen and the male from Ustyurt is slightly broader and shorter than in the holotype of *M. hirtipes* and the male from Barsakelmes.

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We acknowledge kind hospitality and help of M.Sh. Ismailova (Makhachkala) during V.Yu. Savitsky's trip in Daghestan and the late Dr. P. Lindskog's (Stockholm) assistance in examination of the C. Schoenherr collection. The investigation was supported by the grant of the Russian Foundation for Basic Research No. 98-04-49763. The work was fulfilled using scientific collections of the Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, which obtain financial support from the Science and Technology Ministry of the Russian Federation (Reg. No. 98-03-16).

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