

New species of the subgenus *Elgodexoris* (genus *Dexoris*) and a new genus of the tribe Dexorini (Leptolycinae) from East Africa, with notes on the status of Mimolibnetinae (Coleoptera: Lycidae)

Новые виды подрода *Elgodexoris* рода *Dexoris* и новый род трибы Dexorini (Leptolycinae) из Восточной Африки, с замечаниями о статусе Mimolibnetinae (Coleoptera: Lycidae)

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A new genus *Kurbatovia* **gen. nov.** is erected for *Dexoris chome* Bocák, Grebennikov et Masek, 2013. Four new species, *Dexoris (Elgodexoris) rwandensis* **sp. nov.**, *D. (E.) nyungwensis* **sp. nov.**, *D. (E.) svetlanae* **sp. nov.** and *D. (E.) maikoensis* **sp. nov.**, are described from Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. A key to species of the subgenus *Elgodexoris* Bocák et Bocáková, 1988 is provided. Mimolibnetinae is revalidated as a distinct subfamily.

Описан новый род *Kurbatovia* **gen. nov.** с типовым видом *Dexoris chome* Bocák, Grebennikov et Masek, 2013. Из Руанды и Демократической Республики Конго описаны четыре новых вида, *Dexoris (Elgodexoris) rwandensis* **sp. nov.**, *D. (E.) nyungwensis* **sp. nov.**, *D. (E.) svetlanae* **sp. nov.** и *D. (E.) maikoensis* **sp. nov.** Приводится определительная таблица видов подрода *Elgodexoris* Bocák et Bocáková, 1988. Восстанавливается Mimolibnetinae как самостоятельное подсемейство.

Key words: net-winged beetles, taxonomy, Afrotropical Region, Coleoptera, Lycidae, Leptolycinae, Mimolibnetinae, Dexorini, *Dexoris*, *Elgodexoris*, *Kurbatovia* **gen. nov.**, new genus, new species

Ключевые слова: краснокрылы, таксономия, Афротропическая область, Coleoptera, Lycidae, Leptolycinae, Mimolibnetinae, Dexorini, *Dexoris*, *Elgodexoris*, *Kurbatovia* **gen. nov.**, новый род, новые виды

INTRODUCTION

Representatives of the Afrotropical tribe Dexorini are perhaps the most elusive among the net-winged beetles. The tribe has so far included only a single genus *Dexoris* Waterhouse, 1878. No females have been discovered in this lineage whatsoever; very few male specimens of *Dexoris* s. str. are known, and even fewer, of the subgenus *Elgodexoris* Bocák et Bocáková, 1988, where actually all species have been described from a single specimen, with only one additional specimen found in one of the species over

years (Kleine, 1942; Bocák & Bocáková, 1988; Kazantsev, 2000; Bocák et al., 2013).

Quite unexpectedly, a whole small series of *Elgodexoris* was discovered in the material collected during Sergey and Svetlana Kurbatov 2014 expedition to Nyungwe Forest in southwestern Rwanda. Examination of this and some additional material allows to make a further contribution to the knowledge of this group. Four species are described below as new, a new genus is erected and certain taxonomic problems related to these Afrotropical lycids are addressed.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Most of the studied dextrine beetles were collected with flight intercept traps. The collecting sites were in Nyungwe National Park in southeastern Rwanda. The Nyungwe Forest is a well preserved patch of rainforest in the Albertine Rift Mountains ranging from 1900 to 3000 m above sea level. An additional specimen was collected in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, further mentioned as “Congo (DRC)”.

The studied specimens were glued on cardboard plates. For a detailed examination they were relaxed in water; then the detached ultimate abdominal segments were treated for several hours in 10% KOH at room temperature, then, with the extracted genitalia, placed in microvials with glycerin. MSP-1 zoom stereoscopic dissecting microscope with $\times 8$ – $\times 80$ magnification range was used. Photographs were taken with Canon EOS 6D camera and Canon MP-E 65 mm lens.

The body length was measured from antennal tubercles to elytral apices; and the pronotal width, at the widest pronotal part. The following acronym is used in the paper: CSK, collection of S.V. Kazantsev (Moscow).

TAXONOMY

Order **COLEOPTERA**

Family **LYCIDAE**

Subfamily **LEPTOLYCINAE**

Leng et Mutchler, 1922

Tribe **DEXORINI** Kleine, 1933

Genus ***Dexoris*** Waterhouse, 1878

Subgenus *Elgodexoris*

Bocák et Bocáková, 1988

Type species *Dexoris (Elgodexoris) nigricollis* Bocák et Bocáková, 1988

Comparison. The subgenus *Elgodexoris* is defined by three presumably autapomorphic characters distinguishing it from *Dexoris* s. str.: filiform and round in cross-

section antennae, noticeably incised or concave pronotal sides and triangular incision in the proximal ventral opening of the aedeagus (Bocák & Bocáková, 1988).

Distribution. The subgenus *Elgodexoris* is confined to mountainous areas of East Africa and has been known only from Kenya and easternmost Congo (DRC). In Kenya the records are from Mt Elgon and Mt Kenya, in Congo (DRC), from volcano Nyuamuragira and “Kiwu Ituri” (Kleine, 1942; Bocák & Bocáková, 1988; Kazantsev, 2000).

Remarks. The subgenus *Elgodexoris* has so far been known from only four specimens, described as *D. (E.) mirabilis* (Kleine, 1942) (two specimens, “Kiwu Ituri” and Nyuamuragira), *D. (E.) nigricollis* Bocák et Bocáková, 1988 (one specimen, Mt. Elgon) and *D. (E.) drozdovi* Kazantsev, 2000 (one specimen, Mt. Kenya). Now for the first time a whole small series of *Elgodexoris* has been collected in Nyungwe National Park in Rwanda. The series includes three species, all new to science. The fourth new species has been found in the material from Congo. As mentioned above, *Elgodexoris* was originally defined by three autapomorphies (Bocák & Bocáková, 1988). However, the absence of a triangular incision in the proximal ventral opening in the aedeagi of *D. (E.) drozdovi*, *D. (E.) maikoensis* sp. nov., *D. (E.) nyungwensis* sp. nov. and *D. (E.) svetlanae* sp. nov. (Figs 6, 9, 12, 15), which by the two other autapomorphies must be referred to *this subgenus*, distinguishes these species from other *Elgodexoris* (as in Fig. 3), and raises questions about the usage of the shape of the said incision as one of the autapomorphies of the taxon.

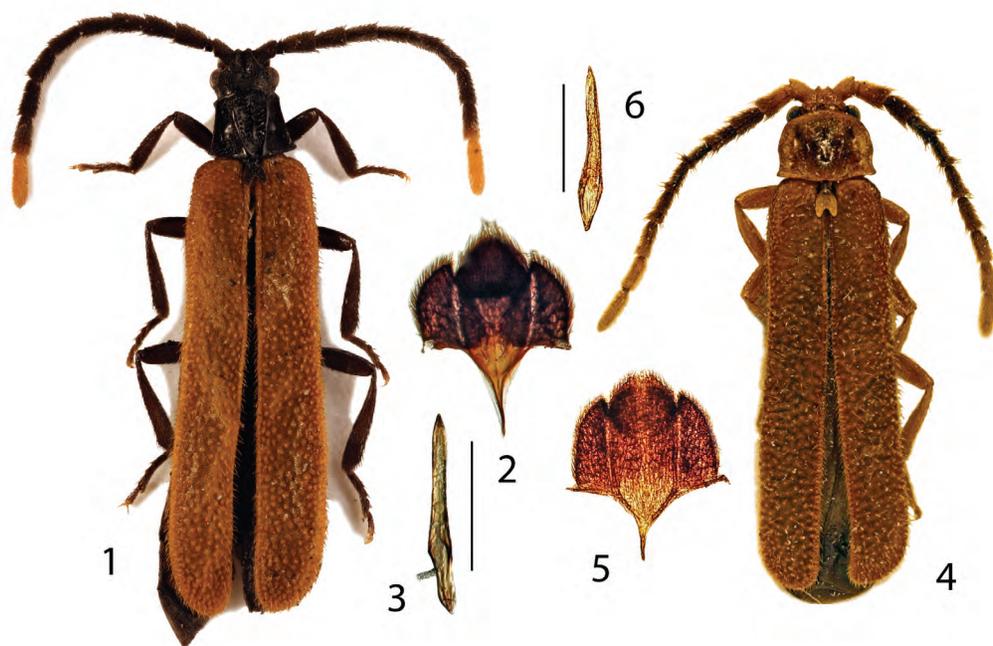
Dexoris (Elgodexoris) rwandensis

sp. nov.

(Figs 1–3)

Holotype. Male; **Rwanda**, Nyungwe National Park, Karamba Trail, 1900 m, FIT, 4–16. VII.2014, coll. S. Kurbatov (CSK).

Paratype. Male; **Rwanda**, Nyungwe National Park, Kamiranzovu Trail, 2000 m, FIT, 5–16. VII.2014, coll. S. Kurbatov (CSK).



Figs 1–6. *Dexoris* (subgenus *Elgodexoris*), holotype males: 1–3, *D. (E.) rwandensis* sp. nov.; 4–6, *D. (E.) maikoensis* sp. nov. 1, 4, general view; 2, 5, ultimate abdominal segment; 3, 6, aedeagus; 1, 2, 4–5, dorsal aspect; 3, 6, ventral aspect. Scale bar: 0.5 mm.

Description. Male. Black; ultimate antennomere and elytra reddish ochre.

Vertex flat, with scarce large punctures, antennal prominence divided by deep groove. Eyes small, interocular distance about two times eye diameter. Labrum small, transverse, well sclerotized, convex anteriorly. Ultimate maxillary palpomere relatively large, longer than all preceding palpomeres combined, glabrous and pointed distally. Mandibles relatively robust, evenly rounded. Antennae attaining to elytral two thirds, narrow, filiform, round in cross-section; antennomere 3 about five times as long as antennomere 2 and subequal in length to antennomere 4; pubescence dense and decumbent (Fig. 1).

Pronotum slightly transverse, glabrous, about 1.2 times as wide as long, trapezoidal, with scarce large punctures, with almost straight, only feebly concave sides, with acute, slightly produced laterally posterior and conspicuous anterior angles; anteriorly

slightly triangularly produced forward, posteriorly very slightly convex; with two longitudinal carinae diverging from middle of pronotal base, not reaching anterior margin and forming V-shaped structure; lateral transverse carinae almost indistinguishable. Scutellum oval, widening distally, broadly and deeply incised at apex (Fig. 1).

Elytra long, four times as long as wide at humeri, parallel-sided, slightly dehiscent posteriorly, beset with dense miniature tubercles and larger and scarcer tubercles bearing hairs; pubescence short and erect (Fig. 1).

Ultimate ventrite broad, elongate, abruptly constricted proximally; ultimate tergite separate from penultimate tergite, the latter divided by median suture (Fig. 2). Aedeagus straight, parallel-sided, pointed distally; basal portion relatively broad and long; proximal ventral opening with triangular incision (Fig. 3).

Female. Unknown, presumably larviform.

Body length 6.3–7.1 mm; width at humeri 1.4–1.5 mm.

Comparison. *Dexoris (Elgodexoris) rwandensis* sp. nov. is similar in general appearance to *D. (E.) nigricollis*, but is easily distinguished by the reddish yellow ultimate antennomere and mostly parallel-sided aedeagus (Figs 1–3). It is separated from the also similar *D. (E.) mirabilis* by the smaller eyes, slenderer scapus and conspicuous median pronotal rib.

Etymology. The new species is named after the country where the type series was collected.

***Dexoris (Elgodexoris) maikoensis* sp. nov.**
(Figs 4–6)

Holotype. Male; Congo (DRC), Parc National de la Maiko, 6.IX.2009, coll. Z. Ngalya (CSK).

Description. Male. Dark brown to black; antennae black with 2.5 proximal and 2.5 distal antennomeres ochre; palps and labrum ochre; pronotal margins, scutellum and legs light brown.

Vertex flat, with dense large scarce punctures, antennal prominence divided by deep groove. Eyes small, interocular distance about 2.4 times eye diameter. Labrum small, transverse, well sclerotised. Ultimate maxillary palpomeres relatively large, longer than all preceding palpomeres combined, glabrous and pointed distally. Mandibles relatively robust, evenly rounded. Antennae attaining to elytral three fifths, narrow, filiform, round in cross-section; antennomere 3 about 4.8 times as long as antennomere 2 and subequal in length to antennomere 4; pubescence dense and decumbent (Fig. 4).

Pronotum transverse, glabrous, about 1.5 times as wide as long, alveolate, with convex, but incised before hind angles sides, with small acute, slightly produced laterally posterior and broadly rounded anterior angles; anteriorly convex, posteriorly slightly convex and bisinuate; with two longitudinal carinae diverging from middle of pronotal base, not reaching anterior margin and forming U-shaped structure; lateral trans-

verse carinae almost indistinguishable. Scutellum oval, widening distally, broadly and deeply incised at apex (Fig. 4).

Elytra long, 3.6 times as long as wide at humeri, parallel-sided, beset with dense miniature tubercles and larger and scarcer tubercles bearing hairs; pubescence short and erect (Fig. 4).

Ultimate ventrite broad, elongate, abruptly constricted proximally (Fig. 5); ultimate tergite separate from penultimate tergite, the latter divided by median suture. Aedeagus straight, slightly curved, pointed distally; basal portion relatively broad and short; proximal ventral opening with semi-circular incision (Fig. 6).

Female. Unknown, presumably larviform.

Body length 5.5 mm; width at humeri 1.2 mm.

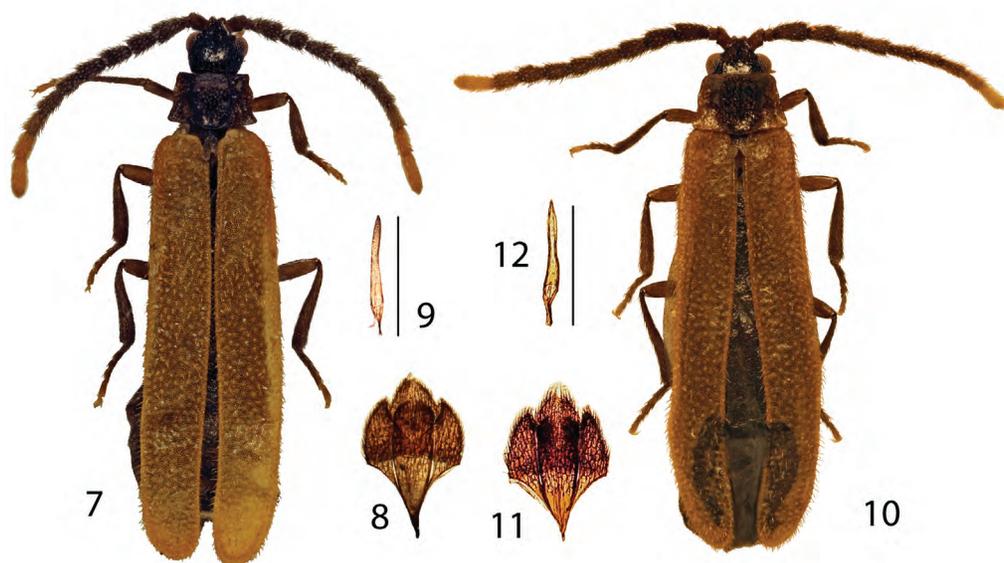
Comparison. *Dexoris (Elgodexoris) maikoensis* sp. nov. resembles in general appearance *D. (E.) drozdovi*, but is differentiated by the coloration, more transverse pronotum and less narrow and slightly curved aedeagus with semi-circular incision in proximal ventral opening (Figs 4–6). It is easily separated from *D. (E.) nyungwensis* sp. nov. and *D. (E.) svetlanae* sp. nov., also with semi-circular incision in proximal ventral opening of the aedeagus, by the ochre proximal antennomeres, broadly rounded anterior pronotal angles, abruptly narrowed proximally ultimate ventrite and relatively short and gradually narrowed basal part of the aedeagus.

Etymology. The new species is named after Maiko National Park in Congo (DRC) where the type specimen was collected.

***Dexoris (Elgodexoris) nyungwensis* sp. nov.**
(Figs 7–9)

Holotype. Male; Rwanda, Nyungwe National Park, Kamiranzovu Trail, 2000 m, FIT, 5–16.VII.2014, coll. S. Kurbatov (CSK).

Paratype. Male, Rwanda, Nyungwe National Park, 1900–2100 m, 3–16.VII.2014, coll. S. Kurbatov (CSK).



Figs 7–12. *Dexoris* (subgenus *Elgodexoris*), holotype males: 7–9, *D. (E.) nyungwensis* sp. nov.; 10–12, *D. (E.) svetlanae* sp. nov. 7, 10, general view; 8, 11, ultimate abdominal segment; 9, 12, aedeagus; 7–8, 10, 11, dorsal aspect; 9, 12, ventral aspect. Scale bar: 0.5 mm.

Description. Male. Black; two ultimate antennomeres and elytra ochre; ultimate tarsomere light brown.

Vertex flat, glabrous, with prominent scarce punctures, antennal prominence divided by deep groove. Eyes relatively large, interocular distance about 1.6 times eye diameter. Maxillary palps slender, ultimate palpomere about as long as all preceding palpomeres combined, glabrous and pointed distally. Mandibles slender, insignificantly curved, greatly narrowed distally. Antennae attaining to elytral half, narrow, filiform, round in cross-section; antennomere 3 about six times as long as antennomere 2 and 1.5 times as long as antennomere 4; antennomeres with dense, short and sub-erect pubescence and small oval scales (Fig. 7).

Pronotum transverse, glabrous, about 1.7 times as wide as long, trapezoidal, with scarce large punctures, with distinctly bisinuate sides, with acute, slightly produced laterally posterior and prominent anterior angles; anteriorly straight, posteriorly very

slightly convex; with two longitudinal carinae diverging from middle of pronotal base, reaching anterior margin and forming broad O-shaped structure; lateral transverse carinae almost indistinguishable. Scutellum oval, widening distally, broadly and deeply incised at apex (Fig. 7).

Elytra long, 3.7 times as long as wide at humeri, parallel-sided, slightly dehiscent posteriorly, beset with dense miniature tubercles and larger and scarcer tubercles bearing hairs; pubescence short and erect (Fig. 7).

Ultimate ventrite elongate, gradually narrowed proximally; ultimate tergite separate from penultimate tergite, the latter divided by median suture (Fig. 8). Aedeagus slightly bent, narrowed and pointed distally; basal portion relatively short, abruptly constricted and twisted; proximal ventral opening with semi-circular incision (Fig. 9).

Female. Unknown, presumably larviform.

Body length 5.0 mm; width at humeri 1.0 mm.

Comparison. *Dexoris (Elgodexoris) nyungwensis* sp. nov. is similar in general appearance to *D. (E.) rwandensis* sp. nov. from the same locality, but differentiated by the smaller size, two ochre ultimate antennomeres, more transverse pronotum with bisinuate sides, as well as by the gradually narrowed proximally ultimate ventrite and slightly bent, narrowed and pointed distally aedeagus, with short, abruptly constricted and conspicuously twisted basal portion; ventral aedeagal opening without triangular incision (Figs 7–9). The new species is easily separated from *D. (E.) svetlanae* sp. nov. and *D. (E.) maikoensis* sp. nov. by the coloration and structure of pronotum and aedeagus, with pronotal carinae reaching anterior margin.

Etymology. The new species is named after Nyungwe Forest in Rwanda where the type specimen was collected.

***Dexoris (Elgodexoris) svetlanae* sp. nov.**
(Figs 10–12)

Holotype. Male; **Rwanda**, Nyungwe National Park, 1900–2100 m, 3–16.VII.2014, coll. S. Kurbatov (CSK).

Description. Male. Dark brown to black; ultimate antennomere, pronotal sides, scutellum distally, elytra and ultimate tarsomere ochre.

Vertex flat, glabrous, with prominent round scarce punctures, antennal prominence divided by deep groove. Eyes relatively large, interocular distance about 1.5 times eye diameter. Maxillary palps slender, ultimate palpomere elongate, about as long as all preceding palpomeres combined, glabrous and pointed distally. Mandibles slender, insignificantly curved, greatly narrowed distally. Antennae narrow, filiform, round in cross-section, almost attaining to elytral half; antennomere 3 about 3.5 times as long as antennomere 2 and 1.1 times as long as antennomere 4; antennomeres with dense, short and sub-erect pubescence and small roundish scales (Fig. 10).

Pronotum transverse, glabrous, about 1.6 times as wide as long, trapezoidal, with

scarce large punctures, with slightly bisinuate sides, with acute, slightly rounded posterior and small rounded anterior angles; anteriorly almost straight, posteriorly very slightly convex; with two longitudinal carinae diverging from middle of pronotal base, not reaching anterior margin and forming broad U-shaped structure; lateral transverse carinae almost indistinguishable. Scutellum oval, widening distally, broadly and deeply incised at apex (Fig. 10).

Elytra long and narrow, 3.9 times as long as wide at humeri, parallel-sided, dehiscent posteriorly, beset with dense miniature tubercles and larger and scarcer tubercles bearing hairs; pubescence short and erect (Fig. 10).

Ultimate ventrite elongate, gradually narrowed proximally (Fig. 11); ultimate tergite separate from penultimate tergite, the latter divided by median suture. Aedeagus slightly bent and constricted in the middle, narrowed and pointed distally; basal portion relatively short, abruptly constricted and twisted; proximal ventral opening with semi-circular incision (Fig. 12).

Female. Unknown, presumably larviform.

Body length 4.4 mm; width at humeri 0.8 mm.

Comparison. *Dexoris (Elgodexoris) svetlanae* sp. nov. is similar in general appearance to *D. (E.) nyungwensis* sp. nov., but differentiated by the coloration, with only one ultimate antennomere ochre and lighter pronotal sides, by the pronotal structure, with pronotal carinae not reaching anterior margin and noticeably more rounded anterior pronotal angles (Fig. 10), as well as by the shape of the aedeagus, with longer proximal constriction (Fig. 12).

Etymology. The new species is named after Ms. Svetlana Kurbatova who personally collected a number of interesting Lycidae during her and Sergey Kurbatov's 2014 expedition to Rwanda.

A key to species of the subgenus *Elgodexoris*

1. Proximal ventral aedeagal opening with triangular incision (as in Fig. 3) 2



Figs 13–16. *Dexoris (Elgodexoris) drozdovi*, holotype male: **13**, general view; **14**, ultimate abdominal segment; **15**, **16**, aedeagus; **13**, **14**, dorsal aspect; **15**, ventral aspect; **16**, lateral aspect. Scale bar: 0.5 mm.

- Proximal ventral aedeagal opening with semi-circular incision (Figs 6, 9, 12, 15) 4
- 2. Antennae uniformly black *D. (E.) nigricollis*
 - Ultimate antennomeres ochre 3
- 3. Scapus robust; pronotum without median rib (volcano Nyuamuragira and “Kiwu Ituri”, DRC) *D. (E.) mirabilis*
 - Scapus not broader than antennomere 3; pronotum with noticeable median rib (Fig. 1). Aedeagus straight, parallel-sided (Fig. 3) (Nyungwe Forest, Rwanda) *D. (E.) rwandensis* sp. nov.
- 4. Antennae uniformly black; pronotum slightly wider than long; elytra with dense hair-bearing tubercles (Fig. 13). Aedeagus straight and evenly narrowing (Figs 15, 16) (Mt Kenya, Kenya) *D. (E.) drozdovi*
 - Ultimate antennomeres ochre; pronotum strongly transverse; elytra with scarce hair-bearing tubercles (Figs 4, 7, 10). Aedeagus not straight and not evenly narrowing (Figs 6, 9, 12) 5
- 5. Antennae bicolor, black with ochre 2.5 proximal and 2.5 distal antennomeres; anterior pronotal angles broadly rounded (Fig. 4). Ultimate ventrite abruptly narrowed proximally (Fig. 5) Basal part of aedeagus relatively short and gradually narrowed (Fig. 6) (Maiko National Parc, DRC) *D. (E.) maikoensis* sp. nov.
- Coloration of antennae different; anterior pronotal angles not broadly rounded (Figs 7, 10). Ultimate ventrite gradually narrowed proximally (Figs 8, 11). Basal part of aedeagus relatively long and abruptly constricted (Figs 9, 12) 6
- 6. Antennae black, with two ultimate antennomeres ochre; pronotum uniformly black, pronotal carinae reaching anterior margin, anterior pronotal angles sharply delineated (Fig. 7). Aedeagus with relatively short proximal constriction (Fig. 9) (Nyungwe Forest, Rwanda) *D. (E.) nyungwensis* sp. nov.
- Antennae black, with only ultimate antennomere ochre; pronotal sides light brown, pronotal carinae not reaching anterior margin, anterior pronotal angles blunt, somewhat rounded (Fig. 10). Aedeagus with relatively long proximal constriction (Fig. 12) (Nyungwe Forest, Rwanda) *D. (E.) svetlanae* sp. nov.

Genus *Kurbatovia* gen. nov.

Type species *Dexoris chome* Bocák, Grebennikov et Masek, 2013.

Diagnosis (after Bocák et al., 2013, with some structures reinterpreted). Body small; head partly covered by pronotum; mandibles slender and short, evenly curved; la-

bium with 1-segmented palps and divided prementum; pronotum widening anteriorly, with longitudinal carinae forming well-marked areole and vestiges of lateral carinae; elytra without longitudinal or transverse costae, with small papillae each bearing single seta, shortened, leaving more than half of abdomen uncovered; wings vestigial; ultimate sternite elongate parallel-sided, shallowly emarginate at apex; aedeagus with asymmetric elongate, gradually tapering median lobe and strongly asymmetric, elongate separate phallobase, noticeably tapering and pointed proximally.

Comparison. *Kurbatovia* **gen. nov.** is similar to *Dexoris*, but can be easily separated, in addition to the shortened elytra and vestigial hind wings, by the divided prementum and prominent separate and sclerotized phallobase (Bocák et al., 2013, Figs 3, 10–12).

Etymology. The genus is named after Dr. S.A. Kurbatov (Moscow) who collected interesting material on Lycidae during his entomological expedition to Rwanda. Gender feminine.

Distribution. *Kurbatovia* **gen. nov.** is only known from eastern Tanzania (Bocák et al., 2013).

Remarks. *Kurbatovia* **gen. nov.** is tentatively placed in Dexorini, pending a re-analysis of this group of lycids based on recently acquired data.

Although the original description of *Dexoris chome* lacks certain important characters used in higher classification of the family (e.g., structure of mesoventrite and mesonotum, location of abdominal spiracles, absence or presence of tibial spurs, etc.), some of the described and illustrated characters, such as the divided prementum (versus undivided prementum in *Dexoris*: Kazantsev, 2004) and the well sclerotized and separate phallobase (versus absence of phallobase in *Dexoris* species: Kazantsev, 2004), which apparently are not related to the brachelytry, prove that the species does not belong in *Dexoris*. The quality of photographs and drawings of the

above-mentioned characters do not leave doubts about their interpretation (Bocák et al., 2013: Figs 3, 10–12). A combination of these characters constitutes its evident autapomorphy. This suggests that a new taxon of a genus level should be erected to accommodate it.

Bocák and co-authors (Bocák et al., 2013) consider the labial structure in *Dexoris chome* to be a pair of 2-segmented palps, with no prementum. However, it appears more plausible to interpret the proximal paired sclerite as a divided prementum, especially so when in the presumably related *Dexoris* the prementum is represented by a single sclerite and the palps are one-segmented (Kazantsev, 2004).

Subfamily **Mimolibnetinae** Kazantsev, 2013, **stat. rev.**

Type genus *Mimolibnetis* Pic, 1936

Notes. The subfamily Mimolibnetinae was erected for the genus *Mimolibnetis* Pic, 1936 based on a phylogenetic analysis and is characterized by the 10-segmented antennae, fused with gula prementum, reduced mandibles, semi-fused mesoventrite, well developed elytral reticulation, obliquely connected trochanters, presence of tibial spurs, location of abdominal spiracles at the edge of tergites and presence of latero-proximal apodemes of the phallobase (Kazantsev, 2013), with the tergal location of abdominal spiracles, fused with gula prementum, semi-fused mesoventrite, and obliquely connected to femora trochanters hypothesized to be autapomorphous for the lineage. Mimolibnetinae can easily be differentiated from Leptolycinae (where Dexorini belong according to the phylogenetic analysis data) by at least several of the above-mentioned hypothetical autapomorphies. Furthermore, Mimolibnetinae are very different from Dexorini that have 11-segment antennae, free prementum (not fused to gula), non-reduced mandibles, non-fused mesoventrite, absent elytral reticulation, absent tibial spurs, location of

abdominal spiracles at the edge of sternites and absence of latero-proximal apodemes of the phallobase. The only character the two taxa share is the obliquely connected trochanters (Kazantsev, 2013). Nevertheless, in a recent paper (Bocáková, 2014) *Mimolibnetis* was transferred to Dexorini, as “sharing reduced mouthparts, trochanters obliquely attached to femora and the shape of pronotum with longitudinal folds in basal half broadly divergent anteriorly”, and, consequently, Mimolibnetinae considered a junior synonym of Dexorini. However, the former of the mentioned characters, the reduced mouthparts (i.e., the greatly reduced mandibles in *Mimolibnetis*) are shared by a wide range of lycid neotenic of different origin throughout the Palaetropics, but not by the Dexorini, while the latter character, the shape of pronotum “with longitudinal folds in basal half broadly divergent anteriorly”, typical of *Dexoris*, is actually not characteristic of *Mimolibnetis* (the author does not mention her examining *Mimolibnetis* specimens and apparently had not have a chance to see any due to their extreme rarity), the pair of transverse posterior pronotal folds noticeable in the illustrated *Mimolibnetis* species (Kazantsev, 2013) being typical of all Lycidae. Thus, in fact the transfer is supported only by the similarity of the trochanters attachment, which, as suggested by the phylogenetic analysis, seems to be a homoplasy (Kazantsev, 2013). The aforementioned presumed autapomorphies of Mimolibnetinae were not discussed in the paper by Bocáková (2014).

In these circumstances it seems appropriate to reject the proposed synonymy and revalidate Mimolibnetinae as a distinct subfamily.

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