

The type specimen of *Aphodius corallifer* W. Koshantschikov (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae)

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Aphodius (Aphodius) corallifer W. Koshantschikov is known from a single type deposited at Zoological Institute, St.Petersburg. The specimen shares characters of *A. calichromus* and *A. elegans* and is possibly a hybrid.

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Aphodius (Aphodius) corallifer was described by Koshantschikov (1913) from a single male from Ningpo in Eastern China [Ningbo: 29°52'30" N 121°32'31" E, Zhejiang Province]. No other specimens of this species are known, although 10 specimens in the Natural History Museum, London, may belong to this species (Jason Mate, pers. comm.). The species was omitted from the key in recent review of Chinese *Aphodius* of the subgenus *Aphodius* (Kral, 1997), probably because of the brief original description and poor illustrations. The type of *A. corallifer* is deposited at Zoological Institute, St.Petersburg. Although the labels (Fig. 5) do not include the word "type", there is little doubt that the specimen is the holotype, because its characters and the locality data coincide well with the description. This species is similar to *A. calichromus* Balthasar in the colour of the body, shape of the clypeus (Fig. 2) and parameres (Fig. 3), but differs in having 3 longer clypeal tubercles (Fig. 1), distinctly sinuate posterior angles of pronotum, deep fossa on anterior part of pronotum, obtuse spur of anterior tibia (Fig. 4), and larger size (10 mm, whereas specimens of *A. calichromus* are 6.5-8.5 mm long). The anterior protoracic fossa is characteristic of *A. elegans* Allibert, which is also larger (9-14 mm). Since some characters of the type specimen of *A. corallifer* are shared with *A. elegans* and *A. calichromus* and some other appear to be intermediate between the two species, it is possible that the specimen is a hybrid. Extensive sampling or laboratory experiments are needed to clarify the status of this form.

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Figs 1-5. *Aphodius corallifer* W. Koshantschikov, holotype (not to scale). 1, head and pronotum in lateral view; 2, head and pronotum in dorsal view; 3, parameres in dorsal and lateral view; 4, anterior tibia and tarsus; 5, specimen labels.

References

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