Aphytobius sphaerion (Boheman, 1845), a new species to the fauna of Russia (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Ceutorhynchinae)

Aphytobius sphaerion (Boheman, 1845) – новый вид для фауны России (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Ceutorhynchinae)

Yu.G. Arzanov & B.A. Korotyaev*

Ю.Г. Арзанов, Б.А. Коротяев

Yu.G. Arzanov, Institute of Arid Zones SSC, Russian Academy of Sciences, 41 Chekhov Str., Rostov-on-Don 344006, Russia.

*B.A. Korotyaev, Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, 1 Universitetskaya Emb., St Petersburg 199034, Russia. E-mail: baris@zin.ru. *Corresponding author.*

Aphytobius sphaerion (Boheman, 1845), found on *Melandrium album* (Miller) Krause in the lower basin of the Don River, is recorded for the first time from Russia.

Aphytobius sphaerion (Boheman, 1845), собранный на *Melandrium album* (Miller) Krause в низовьях Дона, впервые приводится для фауны России.

Key words: weevils, faunistics, Russia, Coleoptera, Curculionidae, Ceutorhynchinae, *Aphytobius sphaerion*

Ключевые слова: жуки-долгоносики, фаунистика, Россия, Coleoptera, Curculionidae, Ceutorhynchinae, *Aphytobius sphaerion*

INTRODUCTION

Aphytobius Wagner, 1937 is a Mediterranean genus with 7 known species, none previously recorded from Russia. It is now the second genus of the tribe Hypurini known from Russia, preceded by the predominantly Saharo-Gobian *Anthypurinus* Colonnelli, 1979 recently recorded from Astrachan Province (Korotyaev, Khrisanova, 2009). *Aphytobius sphaerion* (Boheman, 1845) has largely Central European distribution and was known so far eastward to Ukraine (Colonnelli, 2004).

Order **COLEOPTERA**

Family **CURCULIONIDAE**

Subfamily **CEUTORHYNCHINAE**

Aphytobius sphaerion (Boheman, 1845) (Figure)

The first short series of *A. sphaerion* was collected by P.P. Ivliev in 2009 during the soil-zoological research in the vicinities of the Rogozhkino Village, Rostov Province. In 2010, Yu.G. Arzanov found this species in great numbers on *Melandrium album* (Miller) Krause (Caryophyllaceae) before flowering of the latter. Adults were sitting on both sides of the leaves, piercing the midrib from the leaf underside and laing eggs, the mean number of the weevils exceeding 20 per plant. The abundance of *A. sphaerion* was high on most plants in a site with a territory of ca. 600 m^2. The habitat is a sandy steppe rather heavily contaminated with weeds, isolated from the rest area by dense thickets of *Prunus spinosa* L. and small lakes with hygrophytes.

Melandrium album is a common ruderal plant in the steppes of the southern European Russia, including Rostov Province and Krasnodar Territory. Several species of the weevil genus *Sibinia* Germar, 1817 and *Lixus brevipes* Ch. Brisout, 1866 are common on this plant in these regions including the Taman' Peninsula (close to the mouth of the Don River). However, *A. sphaerion* has never been collected before during more than 30-year long surveys by the authors.

Figure. *Aphytobius sphaerion*, female, general view.

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