

Cephaloncus kubani sp. n. from Soviet Central Asia (Coleoptera, Melyridae)

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Cephaloncus kubani sp. n.

Male. Head yellow, behind the interocular depression black, antennae yellow, joints 6—9 very slightly infuscate, palpi yellow. Pronotum yellow with transverse, not sharply limited, central brown spot, which can be divided into two small spots or sometimes completely absent. Legs entirely yellow, elytra black with humera narrowly brown and with two transverse stripes on basal half of elytra, beginning at lateral margin of elytron, but not reaching the suture. Remaining half of elytra completely black. Scutellum black, ventral part of thorax yellow, abdomen black.

Head with eyes wider than pronotum, very finely corrugated (X40), almost lustrous. Depression on frons as figured (Fig. 2). Antenna reaching almost to the elytral apex, the first joint slightly longer than the second, following ones gradually prolonged, serrate, last joint only slightly longer than joint 10. Pronotum transverse, by one-sixth wider than long, very finely and sparsely punctate, lustrous. Elytra twice as long as wide in humeral part, dilated backwards, finely corrugated, almost without pubescence, matt.

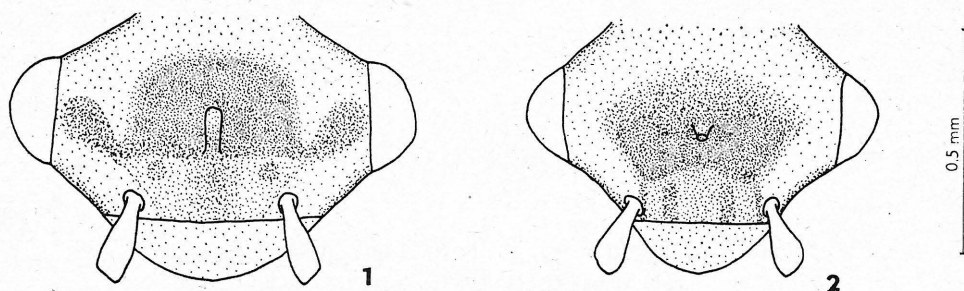
Female winged; eyes smaller than in male, head with eyes as wide as pronotum, antennae shorter, reaching only to the base of elytra, only joints 3—8 serrate, joints 7—11 infuscate. Head brown without sharply limited darker spot on vertex, very finely and sparsely punctate, lustrous, depression on frons reduced to three small, shallow pits, one of them between eyes, remaining two situated somewhat in front of the eyes. Elytra minimally dilated backwards, almost parallel-sided.

Length ♂♀: 2.2—2.4 mm.

Biology: females were reared from *Populus diversifolia*, larvae are probably predators of *Anthaxia nanissima* Alex. (Coleoptera, Buprestidae).

Holotype, ♂, USSR, Turkmen SSR, Kopet-dagh Mts., Firjuza, 15.—16. iv. 1980, V. Kubáň lgt.; paratypes, ♀♀, USSR, Uzbek SSR, Schavat near Chiva, Kara-kum desert, ex larva 1980, V. Kubáň lgt., 4 ex. Holotype and paratypes deposited in author's collection.

Closely related to *C. khznoriani* Wittm. Male can be distinguished from following key. Female of this species differs from *C. khznoriani* Wittm. by having the triangular form of antennal joints 3—8.



Figs. 1—2: Frontal depression of the head: 1 — *Cephaloncus khznoriani* Wittm.; 2 — *Cephaloncus kubani* sp. n.

This species is named after my friend V. Kubáň, to whom I obliged for the interesting material of Malachiinae from Soviet Central Asia.

Key of males of *Cephaloncus* - species from Soviet Central Asia

- 1 Elytra dark except for narrowly brown humera.
- Elytra black with yellow spots or stripes.
- 2 Transverse edge is on the central part of frontal depression. Kazakh SSR. *C. reitteri reitteri* (Fleisch.)
- Frontal depression without transverse edge. Afghanistan, Turkmen SSR, Tadjik SSR. *C. gracilispinus* Wittm.
- 3 Frontal depression of head reaching by its lateral projections to the inner margins of eyes (Fig. 1). Tadjik SSR, Uzbek SSR, Turkmen SSR. *C. khznoriani* Wittm.
- Frontal depression without lateral projections (Fig. 2). Uzbek SSR, Turkmen SSR. *C. kubani* sp. n.

Abstract. *Cephaloncus kubani* sp. n. is described and illustrated from Uzbek SSR and Turkmen SSR. Key to *Cephaloncus*-species occurring in Soviet Central Asia is given.

References

- Wittmer, W., 1970: 47. Beitrag zur Kenntnis der palaearktischen Cantharidae und Malachiidae. *Mitt. Schw. Ent. Ges.*, 43: 73—98.

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