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New data on the fauna ant-like beetles of the genus *Notoxus* Geoffroy, 1762 (Coleoptera: Anthicidae) of Belarus

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A new species of beetles for the fauna of Belarus – *Notoxus trifasciatus* Rossi, 1792 is indicated. A brief diagnosis imago, illustrations, and information on geographic distribution are given.

Keywords: new record, beetles, fauna, Anthicidae, Belarus

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INTRODUCTION

There are more than 3,500 species of the family Anthicidae in the world fauna (Telnov, 2008). There are 13 species of ant-like beetles recorded in the territory of Belarus. "The genus *Notoxus* is represented by a single background species – *Notoxus monoceros* (Linnaeus, 1760). *Notoxus brachycerus* (Faldermann, 1837) listed for Belarus in the Catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera (Chandler et al, 2008) according to the data of unknown origin (Aleksandrowicz et al., 2023).

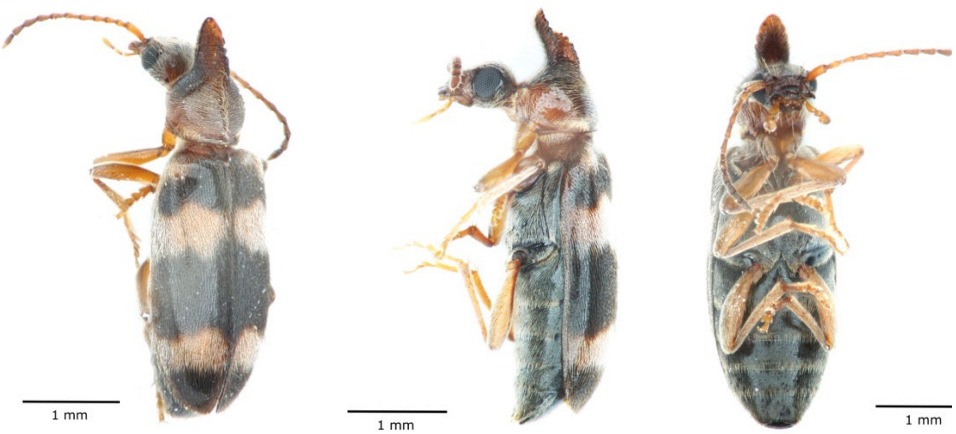
MATERIAL AND METHODS

The material for the research was collected from insect collections from the territory of Belarus. The collection of Coleoptera insects was carried out manually, sweep-net method, and using an aspirator (entomology). The collection material was sorted according to classical approaches (Голуб и др., 2012). Meanwhile, the collected material was stored in polypropylene tubes of various sizes, preserved in 70% ethanol, and mounted on entomological pins. Species identification was performed using specialized identification keys (Opredelitel' nasekomyh …, 1965; Kubisz, Szwałko, 1998). The photographs were taken by an Optec SZ780 stereo microscope with a Canon EOS 1100d digital camera. The layers were combined into a single image using Helicon Focus 7.7.0 (18-21 images). GBIF data (2025) were utilized in the preparation of the article.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the results of the research, a new representative of the family Anthicidae for the fauna of Belarus is introduced among the Coleoptera:
Notoxus trifasciatus Rossi, 1792 Fig. 1.

Material examined. Republic of Belarus: Mogilev region, Krychaw district, Krychaw town, Pugacheva St., 37, 53°41'47.7"N 31°42'20.8"E, 28.07.2022, 1♀, leg. / det. A.V. Sinchuk. The length of the discovered specimen is 4.2 mm. The examined specimen is housed in collection Scientific and Practical Center the NAS of Belarus for Biological Resources. An observation (#3902367591) recorded in GBIF (2025) on 11.07.2022, in Zhodino town (Smolevichi district, Minsk region) has been identified as *N. trifasciatus*.



A B C

Fig. Imago *Notoxus trifasciatus*, female, dorsal (A), ventral (B), and lateral (C) view (photo A.V. Sinchuk)

Diagnosis imago. Elongate, cylindrical species. Upper surface covered with a mix of erect and prostrate hair. The base of the elytra is broader than the pronotum. Pronotum projecting forwards over the head in the form of a horn. Elytra are black with two brownish-yellow bands; the black base is divided into three spots. The underside of the body is black, while the head and legs are dark brown. Suture of the elytra finely bordered towards the rear; elytra with the ends simply rounded or each ending in a small point. Legs slender; claws untoothed. Length 3.5-5.2 mm.

Discussion. *N. trifasciatus* is predominantly distributed in Southern Europe, locally found in xerothermic areas of the southern part of Central Europe, and is also noted in Algeria and the Caucasus. In Poland, the beetle is known from several locations in five regions, with most of the distribution data based on findings from the past century. In lowland areas, it primarily inhabits the banks of larger rivers, while in mountainous areas, it occupies xerothermic slopes. It is caught from June to August on flowers of perennial and herbaceous plants and on willow branches (Burakowski et al., 1987; Biomap, 2025). Until recently, the species was considered a significant faunistic rarity in Poland. In recent years, it has been regularly caught in various parts of Poland, probably due to its expansion. Noteworthy

locations include railway stations (Poznań, Piła, Krzyż); it is possible that railway lines serve as one of the migration routes for this species. It is new for the Małopolska Upland and Roztocze. The site in Koło deserves special attention due to multiple mass appearances of this species observed from late April 2002 to early October 2004, with a peak from mid-July to late August (Barłożek et al., 2011).

Based on the above, *N. trifasciatus* is most likely an alien species that entered Belarus either through natural expansion or via railway transport. It is presumed that due to relatively warm (mild) winter periods, the species has been able to adapt to the new habitat. Preferred biotopes have not yet been identified. All recorded specimens are characteristic of urban environments with railway connections. According to the current geographic distribution data of the species (Krychaw, Zhodino), it is possible that the northern boundary of the *N. trifasciatus* range is currently passing through Belarus.

Conclusions. *Notoxus trifasciatus* is reported for the first time in the territory of Belarus as the 14th species of the family Anthicidae. The species is considered alien to the fauna.

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