

First records of *Protapalochrus flavolimbatus* (Coleoptera: Melyridae: Malachiinae) in Ukraine

Vladyslav Mirutenko, Oleksandr Kravchenko

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Protapalochrus flavolimbatus (Mulsant & Rey, 1853), a malachiid beetle, was collected in the Odesa Region and recorded for the first time in the fauna of Ukraine. The general distribution of the species and distribution within Ukraine are considered in the paper.

Keywords: Malachiinae, malachiid-beetles, fauna, new records, Ukraine, Odesa region.

*Vladyslav Mirutenko, Uzhhorod National University, Department of Entomology and Biodiversity Conservation, Voloshyna st., 32, Uzhhorod, Ukraine; e-mail: vladyslav.mirutenko@uzhnu.edu.ua
ORCID: 0000-0003-3845-5003*

*Oleksandr Kravchenko, Secondary School, Pishcha village, Shatsk district, Volyn region, Ukraine; e-mail: pisha_kravchenko@yahoo.com
ORCID: 0009-0002-1615-8462*

INTRODUCTION

The genus of soft-winged flower beetles *Protapalochrus* Evers, 1987 is very similar to the genus *Apalochrus* Erichson, 1840 in habitus. The distinguishing feature of *Protapalochrus* is the comb-shaped second segment of the fore tarsus in males, which extends beyond the third segment.

The world fauna of the genus *Protapalochrus* comprises 15 species, with 7 occurring in the Palearctic region and only 2 in Europe. Among them, *P. festivus*

(Zoubkoff, 1833) has the Caucasus as the eastern boundary of its range (Tshernyshev 2016).

Protapalochrus flavolimbatus (Mulsant & Rey, 1853) (Fig. 1.) was originally described from France within the genus *Apalochrus* (Mulsant & Rey 1853). E. Abeille de Perrin placed this species in the genus *Paratinus* (Abeille de Perrin 1891), while A. Evers separated *Protapalochrus* into a distinct genus and designated *Apalochrus flavolimbatus* as its type species (Evers 1987).

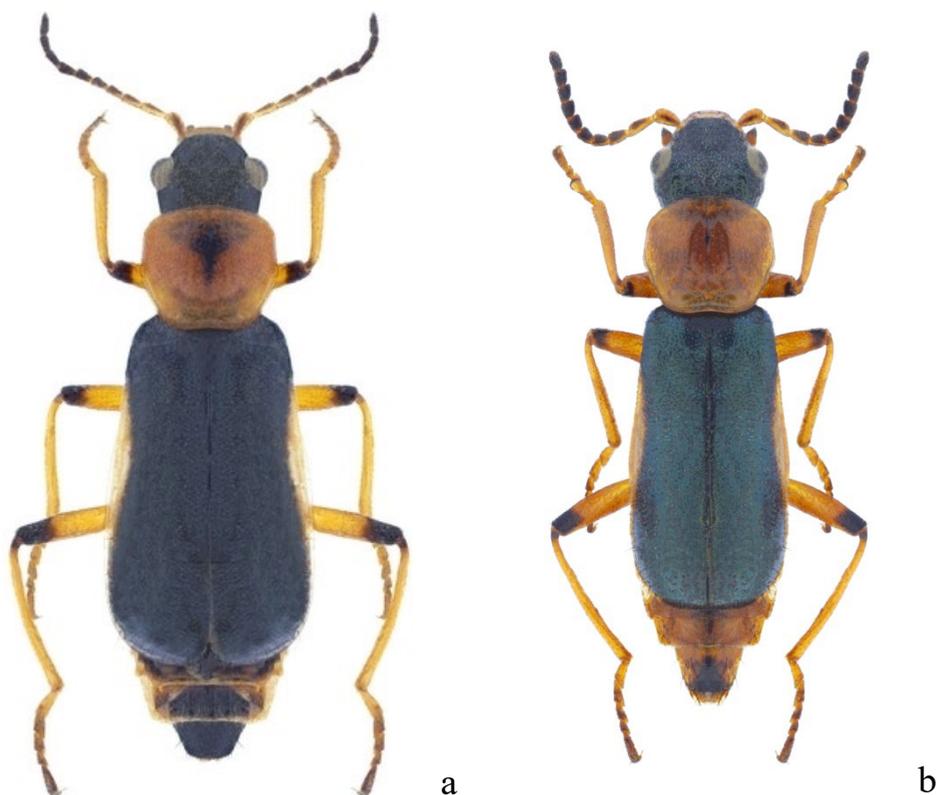


Fig. 1. *Protapalochrus flavolimbatus* (Mulsant & Rey, 1853) habitus: female (a), male (b).

RESULTS

Although the first specimens of *P. flavolimbatus* from the territory of Ukraine date back to 1965, they remained in a private collection for a long time. As a result, the species was not identified and was not included in list of the fauna of Ukraine.

The collected specimens are housed in the collection of the Department of Entomology and Biodiversity Conservation of the Uzhhorod National University (DEBC), as well as in the private collection of Oleksandr Kravchenko.

Distribution: Algeria, Greece, Spain, Italy, Cyprus, Morocco, Tunisia, Hungary, Russia

(North Caucasus), France, (Mayor 2007), Lebanon (Pic 1935), Egypt (El-Torkey et al. 2012), Iran, Romania, Turkey (Tshernyshev 2016), Portugal (Valkenburg & Grosso-Silva 2022), Austria, Bulgaria, Israel (Plonski et al. 2024).

The species is distributed disjunctively within its range. The thermophilic species inhabiting lowland areas. Typical habitats are wetlands, herbaceous and shrubby vegetation close to water.

Material examined (Fig. 2): Ukraine: Odesa Region: 26.07.1965, Vilkovo village, on *Phragmites australis*, 1♂ leg. Kravchenko; 10.08.1965, ibidem, 1♂; 05.07.2004, Prymorske village, in

sediments, 45°30'32.0" N 29°37'45.5" E, 1♂ leg. Gontarenko (det. Kravchenko); 08.07.2010, Nadlymanske village, wet meadows, 46°22'29.5" N 30°19'31.7" E, 1♂, 1♀ leg. Kravchenko; 09.07.2010, Krasnosilka village, in a lowland with water, on *Phragmites australis*, 46°36'55.8" N 30°45'48.7" E, 3♂, 2♀ leg. Kravchenko; 11.06.2016, 5-6 km SW Zatoka village, spit between the sea and the estuary, on the dunes, 46°00'46.9" N, 30°23'21.9" E, 2♀ leg. Mirutenko (DEBC); 11.06.2016,

environs Zatoka village, along the road next to the estuary, 46°01'40.3" N, 30°24'24" E, 2♂ leg. Mirutenko (DEBC); 12.06.2016, 1-1.5 km NW Zatoka village, along the road to Bilhorod-Dnistrovsky, the bank of estuary, 46°03'58.5" N, 30°26'17.3" E, 4♀ leg. Mirutenko (DEBC); 10.06.2018, 1.5-2 km NW Zatoka village, along the road to Bilhorod-Dnistrovsky, the bank of estuary, 46°03'58.5" N, 30°26'17.3" E, 5♀, 2♂ leg. Mirutenko (DEBC).



Fig. 2. Sites of *Protopalochrus flavolimbatus* findings in Ukraine.

Thus, the species is currently known to be locally distributed in Ukraine, restricted to the southwestern part of the Black Sea coast. Here, *P. flavolimbatus* inhabits the coastal habitats on sandy substrates, including coastal fixed dune grasslands, coastal duneshrubs, moist and wet dune slacks.

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