ABSTRACT

ON THE LEAF–BEETLES ENDEMIC TO THE URALS, OR WHAT IS CHRYSOLINA PORETZKYI JACOBSON (COLEOPTERA, CHRYSOMELIDAE)

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No one of 5 species of leaf–beetles endemic and subendemic to the Urals has been studied so far, while *Chrysolina poretzkyi* and *C. kuznetzowi* are of still unclear taxonomic rank. This problem prevents us from exact treatment of the findings of representatives of two closely related subgenera: *Arctolina* Men. and *Pleurosticha* Motsch., that are known throughout entire length of the Urals mountain range.

The position of *C. poretzkyi* in the system of the genus *Chrysolina* has been unclear for a long time. The recent proposal to treat it as a subspecies of *C. subcostata* Gebl. from the subgenus *Pleurosticha* we cannot accept. Since all the attempts to find the type of this species both ours and by the other specialists failed, we made the morphometric analysis (90 specimens of the *Arctolina* forms, 59 specimens of the *Pleurosticha* forms) and compared the obtained data with the original description. The detailed comparison shows, that structure of pronotal lateral impressions, elytral puncturation, convexity of elytral intervals and body size put *C. poretzkyi* close to *Arctolina* and not *Pleurosticha*. This is clearly proved also by the scatterplots of morphometric characters of South Urals' forms of two subgenera.

Representatives of *Pleurosticha* occur in the North and South Urals only in the mountain tundras on the altitude around 1300 m a.s.l. and feed there on the alpine endemic plant *Anemonastrum biarmiensis*. Meanwhile the type locality of *C. poretzkyi* and the known localities of *Arctolina* in the South Urals are situated on the low altitudes — 300—500 m a.s.l. Hence, ecologically *C. poretzkyi* cannot be *Pleurosticha* as well.

The systematic position of *C. poretzkyi* in the subgenus *Arctolina* is discussed. The aedeagus shape readily distinguishes it from both the Arctic *C. septentrionalis* and *C. tundralis* from the North Urals and puts it close only to *C. oirota* Lop. from West Altai and *C. borochorensis* Lop. from East Tien–Shan. Another subendemic leaf–beetle from the South Urals — *C. (Crositops) roddi* — also has related species only in West and South Altai. Therefore such a connection with West Altai is not coincidence but demonstrates one of the ways of faunogenesis of South Urals.

All known localities of *Ch. poretzkyi* are given, for the purpose of exact determination the neotype is designated (preserved in the Zoological museum of the Institute of Plant and Animal Ecology UB RAS, Yekaterinburg).

The conclusion is made on the relict and endemic character of *Chrysolina poretzkyi* and necessity of its further studies and protection.

Key words: Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, *Chrysolina*, *Arctolina,* endemics, relicts, South Urals
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