

Soldier beetles (Coleoptera: Cantharidae) of the Ritsa Relic National Park in Abkhazia

Жуки-мягкотелки (Coleoptera: Cantharidae) Рицинского реликтового национального парка Абхазии

S.V. Kazantsev
С.В. Казанцев

Insect Centre, Donetskaya Str. 13–326, Moscow 109651 Russia; A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Russian Academy of Sciences, Leninskii Prospekt 33, Moscow 119071 Russia. E-mail: kazantss@mail.ru.

Инсект-центр, ул. Донецкая 13–326, Москва 109651 Россия; Институт проблем экологии и эволюции им. А.Н. Северцова РАН, Ленинский проспект 33, Москва 119071 Россия.

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Ключевые слова: Coleoptera, Cantharidae, список видов, Палеарктика.

Abstract. The article presents an annotated checklist of soldier beetles of the Ritsa Relic National Park in Abkhazia. The checklist is based on the material collected in the park in July 2021 and includes 29 species from nine genera belonging in two subfamilies. One genus and ten species are registered in Abkhazia for the first time. All species are illustrated by photographs.

Резюме. В статье приводится аннотированный список жуков-мягкотелок Рицинского реликтового национального парка в Абхазии. Список составлен на основании сборов в парке в июле 2021 года и включает 29 видов из девяти родов, принадлежащих двум подсемействам. Один род и десять видов впервые приводятся для территории Абхазии. Все приведённые виды проиллюстрированы фотографиями.

Introduction

The Ritsa Relic National Park, organised in 1996 on the basis of the Ritsa-Awadhara Reserve, is located in Abkhazia on the southern macroslope of the Greater Caucasus range. The Park's altitude ranges from 100 to 3,256 metres above sea level, creating a rich spectrum of ecological conditions for many different plants and animals. Although the soldier beetles of Abkhazia have been studied relatively well, with 8 genera and 19 species registered on its territory [Wittmer, 1992; Kazantsev, 2011], not a single taxon of this family has been recorded from the National Park.

An opportunity to collect this group of beetles in the Ritsa Relic National Park in July 2021 granted by the Park Administration allows compiling a checklist of the family of the Park and complementing the number of cantharid taxa known from Abkhazia by one genus and ten species. A checklist of all Cantharidae species registered in the National Park is provided, all species illustrated by colour photographs.

An annotated checklist

Cantharidae — Soldier beetles

Cantharinae Imhoff, 1856 (1815)

Cantharini Imhoff, 1856 (1815)

Ancistronycha Markel, 1852

Ancistronycha erichsonii kurbatovi Kazantsev, 1989

Fig. 1.

Remarks. Registered at 1500 m a.s.l. at Awadhara Station. Rare. Also known from North Ossetia. The nominative subspecies in Central and Southeast Europe [Kazantsev, Brancucci, 2007]. Imago in June–July. First record of the genus and species in Abkhazia.

Boveycantharis Wittmer, 1969

Boveycantharis rufimana (Menetries, 1832)

Fig. 2.

Remarks. Registered at 1500 m a.s.l. at Awadhara Station. Also known from the Northern Caucasus (Krasnodarskii Krai, Karachaevo-Cherkessia), Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia [Kazantsev, 2011]. Imago in May–July.

Cantharis Linnaeus, 1758

Cantharis figurata Mannerheim, 1843

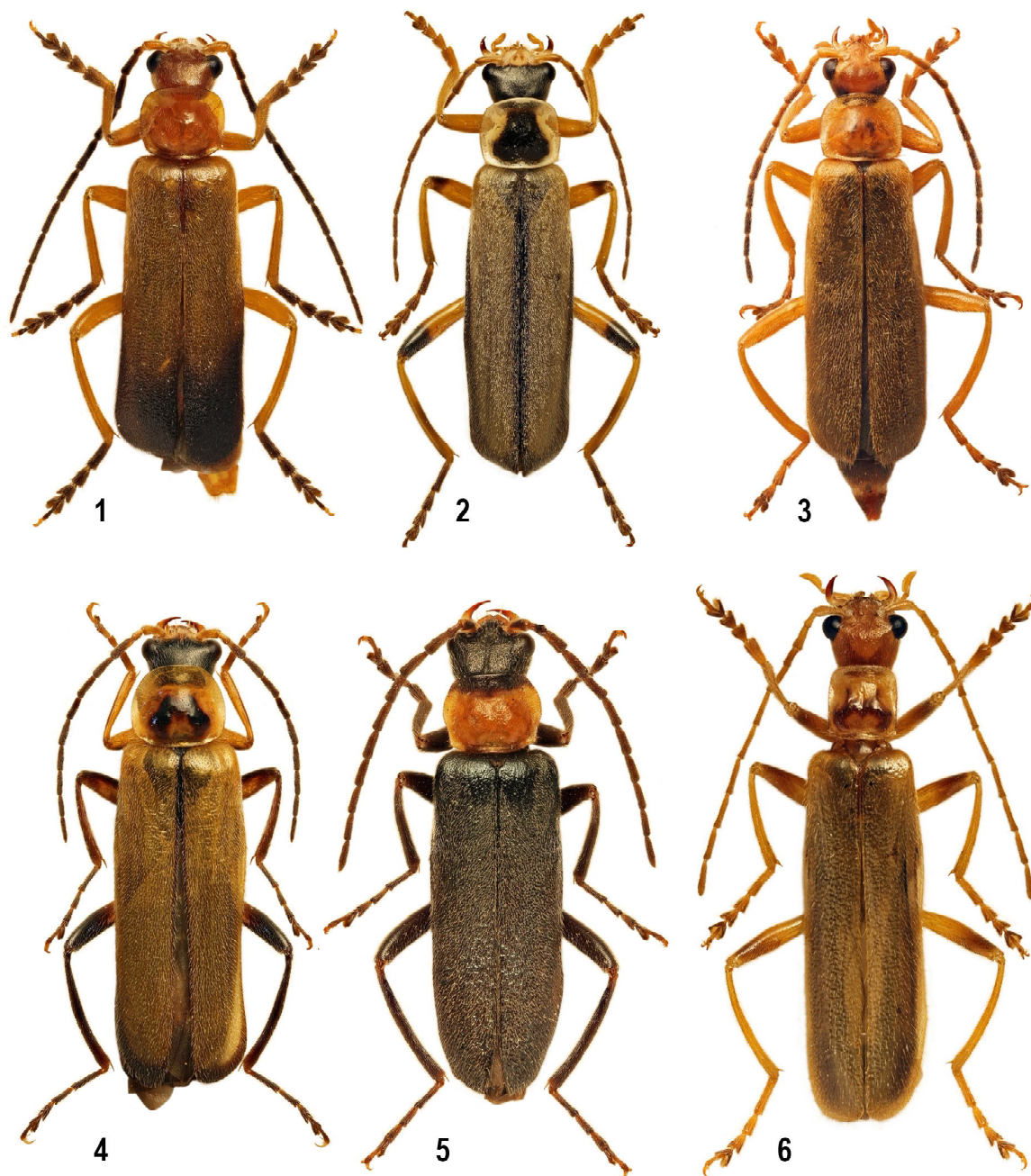
Fig. 3.

Remarks. Registered at 2000–2100 m a.s.l. to the North-West of Awadhara Station. The species is ubiquitous in the European part of Russia; also distributed in Eastern Siberia, Russian Far East, Transcaucasia, Central Asia, Western and Central Europe [Kazantsev, Brancucci, 2007]. Imago in June–July.

Cantharis terminata Faldermann, 1835

Fig. 4.

Remarks. Registered at 1500 m a.s.l. at Awadhara Station. Known from the forest and steppe-forest zones of Central and Southern regions of European Russia, as well as in the Northern Caucasus. Also distributed in Western and Central Europe, Transcaucasia, Turkey, Iran and the Middle East [Kazantsev, Brancucci, 2007]. Imago in May–July.



Figs 1–6. Ritsa Relic National Park Cantharidae beetles external appearance. 1 — *Ancistronycha erichsonii kurbatovi*; 2 — *Boveycantharis rufimana*; 3 — *Cantharis figurata*; 4 — *C. terminata*; 5 — *Cordicantharis cordicollis*; 6 — *Podistra caucasica*.

Рис. 1–6. Внешний вид жуков Cantharidae Рицинского реликтового национального парка Абхазии. 1 — *Ancistronycha erichsonii kurbatovi*; 2 — *Boveycantharis rufimana*; 3 — *Cantharis figurata*; 4 — *C. terminata*; 5 — *Cordicantharis cordicollis*; 6 — *Podistra caucasica*.

***Cordicantharis* Svihla, 1999**
***Cordicantharis cordicollis* (Kuster, 1854)**

Fig. 5.

Remarks. Registered at 1500 m a.s.l. at Awadhara Station. Known from the Northwestern Caucasus, as well as in Transcaucasia and Turkey [Kazantsev, Brancucci, 2007]. Imago in May–July.

***Podistra* Motschulsky, 1839**
***Podistra caucasica* Ganglbauer, 1922**

Fig. 6.

Remarks. Registered at 1500 m a.s.l. at Awadhara Station. Also distributed in the Northwestern Caucasus and Georgia [Kazantsev, 2011]. Imago in May–July.

***Podistra unicolor* (Faldermann, 1835)**

Fig. 7.

Remarks. Registered at 1500 m a.s.l. at Awadhara Station. Also distributed in the Northwestern Caucasus and Georgia [Kazantsev, 2011]. Imago in May–August.

***Rhagonycha* Eschscholtz, 1830**
***Rhagonycha atriceps* Pic, 1922**

Fig. 8.

Remarks. Registered at 1500–1800 m a.s.l. near Awadhara Station. Also distributed in the Northern Caucasus (Krasnodarskii Krai, North Ossetia) [Kazantsev, 2011]. Imago in June–July.

Rhagonycha caspica Wittmer, 1972

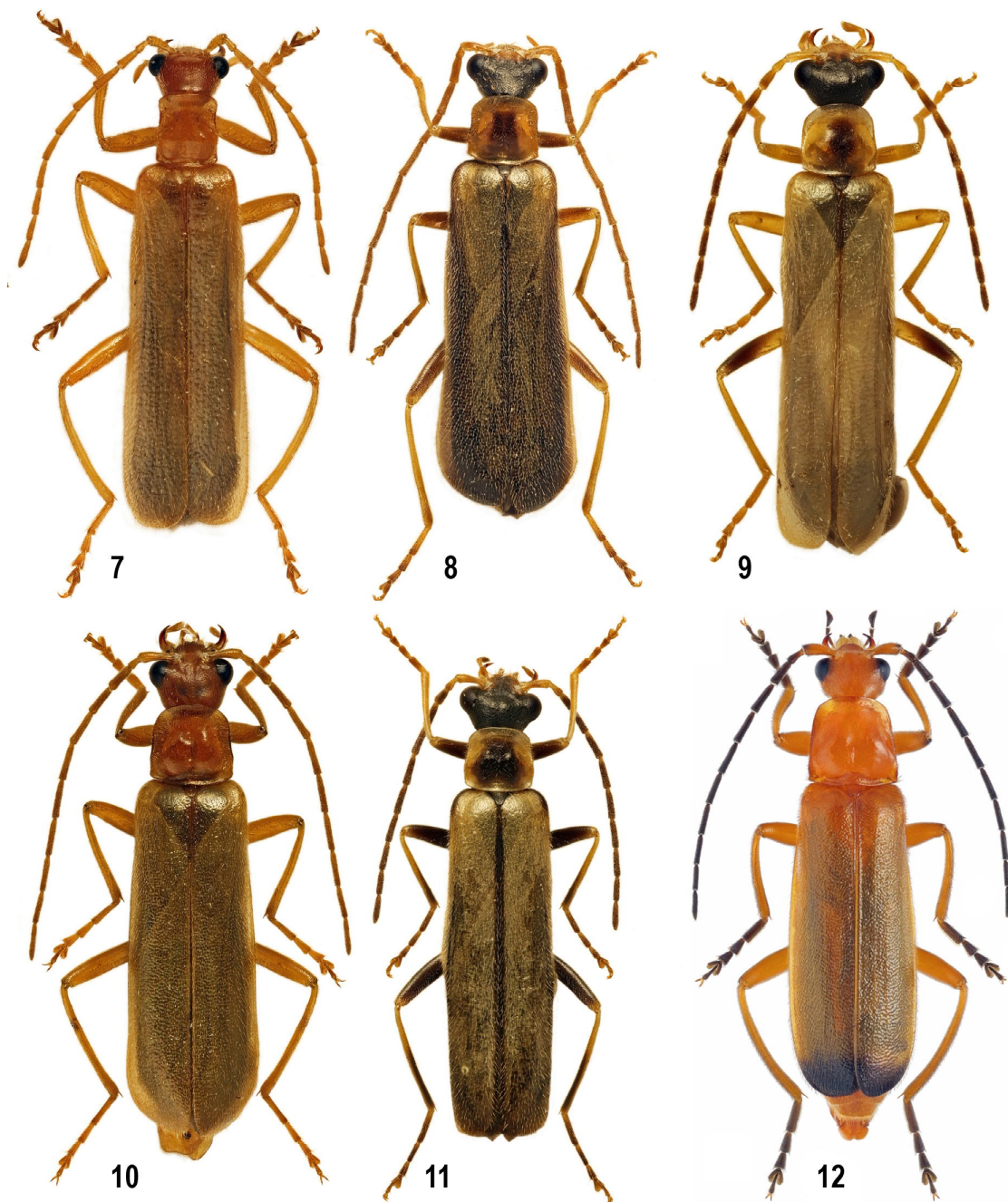
Fig. 9.

Remarks. Registered at 1500–2000 m a.s.l. near Awadhara Station. Also distributed in the Northern Caucasus (Krasnodarskii Krai, North Ossetia), as well as in Georgia, Turkey and Iran [Kazantsev, Brancucci, 2007]. Imago in May–July. First record of the species in Abkhazia.

Rhagonycha caucasica Wittmer, 1972

Fig. 10.

Remarks. Registered at 1500 m a.s.l. at Awadhara Station. Also distributed in the Northern Caucasus (Krasnodarskii Krai and Stavropolskii Krai, North Ossetia, Dagestan) and in Transcaucasia (Georgia, Armenia) [Kazantsev, 2011]. Imago in June–July.



Figs 7–12. Ritsa Relic National Park Cantharidae beetles external appearance. 7 — *Podistra unicolor*; 8 — *Rhagonycha atriceps*; 9 — *Rh. caspica*; 10 — *Rh. caucasica*; 11 — *Rh. circassicola*; 12 — *Rh. fulva*. (Fig. 12 — courtesy of K.V. Makarov).

Рис. 7–12. Внешний вид жуков Cantharidae Рицинского реликтового национального парка Абхазии. 7 — *Podistra unicolor*; 8 — *Rhagonycha atriceps*; 9 — *Rh. caspica*; 10 — *Rh. caucasica*; 11 — *Rh. circassicola*; 12 — *Rh. fulva* (автор рис. 12 — К.В. Макаров).

Rhagonycha circassicola Reitter, 1888

Fig. 11.

Remarks. Registered at 1500–2000 m a.s.l. near Awadhara Station. Also distributed in the Northwestern Caucasus (Krasnodarskii Krai) [Kazantsev, 2011]. Imago in June–July.

Rhagonycha fulva (Scopoli, 1763)

Fig. 12.

Remarks. Registered at 700–800 m a.s.l. in Kudzhba-Yashta. Common in the European part of Russia, as well as in Western and Central Europe, North Africa, Middle East, Transcaucasia, Turkey, Iran and Turkmenistan [Kazantsev, Brancucci, 2007]. Imago in June–August. First record of the species in Abkhazia.

Rhagonycha reitteri Dahlgren, 1975

Fig. 13.

Remarks. Registered at 1800–2000 m a.s.l. over Awadhara Station. Also distributed in the Northwestern Caucasus (Krasnodarskii Krai and Stavropolskii Krai, Kabardino-Balkaria) and Georgia [Kazantsev, 2011]. Imago in June–July. First record of the species in Abkhazia.

Rhagonycha ritsaensis Kazantsev, 2021

Fig. 14.

Remarks. Registered at 2000–2100 m a.s.l. over Awadhara Station. The species is known only from Abkhazia [Kazantsev, 2021]. Imago in July.

Rhagonycha rossica Wittmer, 1972

Fig. 15.

Remarks. Registered at 1700–1800 m a.s.l. over Awadhara Station. Also distributed in the Northwestern Caucasus (Krasnodarskii Krai) [Kazantsev, 2011]. Imago in June–July.

Rhagonycha roubali Svihla, 1977

Fig. 16.

Remarks. Registered at 1500–2000 m a.s.l. near Awadhara Station. Also distributed in the Northwestern Caucasus (Krasnodarskii Krai) [Kazantsev, 2011]. Imago in June–July. First record of the species in Abkhazia.

Malthininae Kiesenwetter, 1852

Malthinini Brancucci, 1980

Macrocerus Motschulsky, 1845*Macrocerus oculatus* Motschulsky, 1845

Fig. 17.

Remarks. Registered at 700–950 m a.s.l. near Lake Ritsa and at the Ghegha Waterfalls. Also widely distributed in the Northern Caucasus (Krasnodarskii Krai, North Ossetia), Transcaucasia and Turkey [Kazantsev, Brancucci, 2007]. Imago in June–July.

Malthinini Kiesenwetter, 1852

Malthinus Latreille, 1806*Malthinus caucasicus* Wittmer, 1974

Fig. 18.

Remarks. Registered at 950 m a.s.l. near Lake Ritsa. Also distributed in the Northern Caucasus (Krasnodarskii Krai, Dagestan), Armenia, Georgia and Turkey [Kazantsev, Brancucci, 2007]. Imago in April – July. Typical of broad-leaved forests. First record of the species in Abkhazia.

Malthinus facialis Thomson, 1864

Fig. 19.

Remarks. Registered at 950 m a.s.l. near Lake Ritsa. Widely distributed in European Russia and in the Northern Caucasus (Krasnodarskii Krai, North Ossetia, Dagestan), as well as in Western and Central Europe, Transcaucasia and Turkey [Kazantsev, Brancucci, 2007]. Imago in June – July. First record of the species in Abkhazia.

Malthinus flaveoloides Svihla, 1997

Fig. 20.

Remarks. Ubiquitous in the Park at 700 to 1800 m a.s.l. Also distributed in the Northern Caucasus (Krasnodarskii Krai, Dagestan), Georgia and Turkey [Kazantsev, 2011]. Imago in June – July.

Malthinus turcicus Pic, 1899

Fig. 21.

Remarks. Registered at 600–950 m a.s.l. near Lake Ritsa, at the Ghegha Waterfalls and in Kudzhba-Yashta. Also distributed in the Northern Caucasus (Krasnodarskii Krai, North Ossetia), Georgia, Turkey and Central Europe [Kazantsev, Brancucci, 2007]. Imago in May – July. Typical of broad-leaved forests.

Malthodini Boving et Craighead, 1930

Malthodes Kiesenwetter, 1852*Malthodes caucasicus* Wittmer, 1958

Fig. 22.

Remarks. Registered at 1500–1800 m a.s.l. near Awadhara Station. Also known from Georgia [Wittmer, 1992]. Imago in July. First record of the species in Abkhazia.

Malthodes crassicornis (Maklin, 1846)

Fig. 23.

Remarks. Ubiquitous in the Park at 700 to 2000 m a.s.l. Widely distributed in European Russia and in the Northwestern Caucasus (Krasnodarskii Krai), as well as in Western and Central Europe, Turkey and Iran [Kazantsev, Brancucci, 2007]. Imago in May–July.

Malthodes kasantsevi Wittmer, 1992

Fig. 24.

Remarks. Registered at 1880–2000 m a.s.l. over Awadhara Station. Known only from the alpine and subalpine zones of the Northwestern Caucasus (Krasnodarskii Krai and Abkhazia) [Wittmer, 1992]. Imago in July.

Malthodes kubiensis Wittmer, 1970

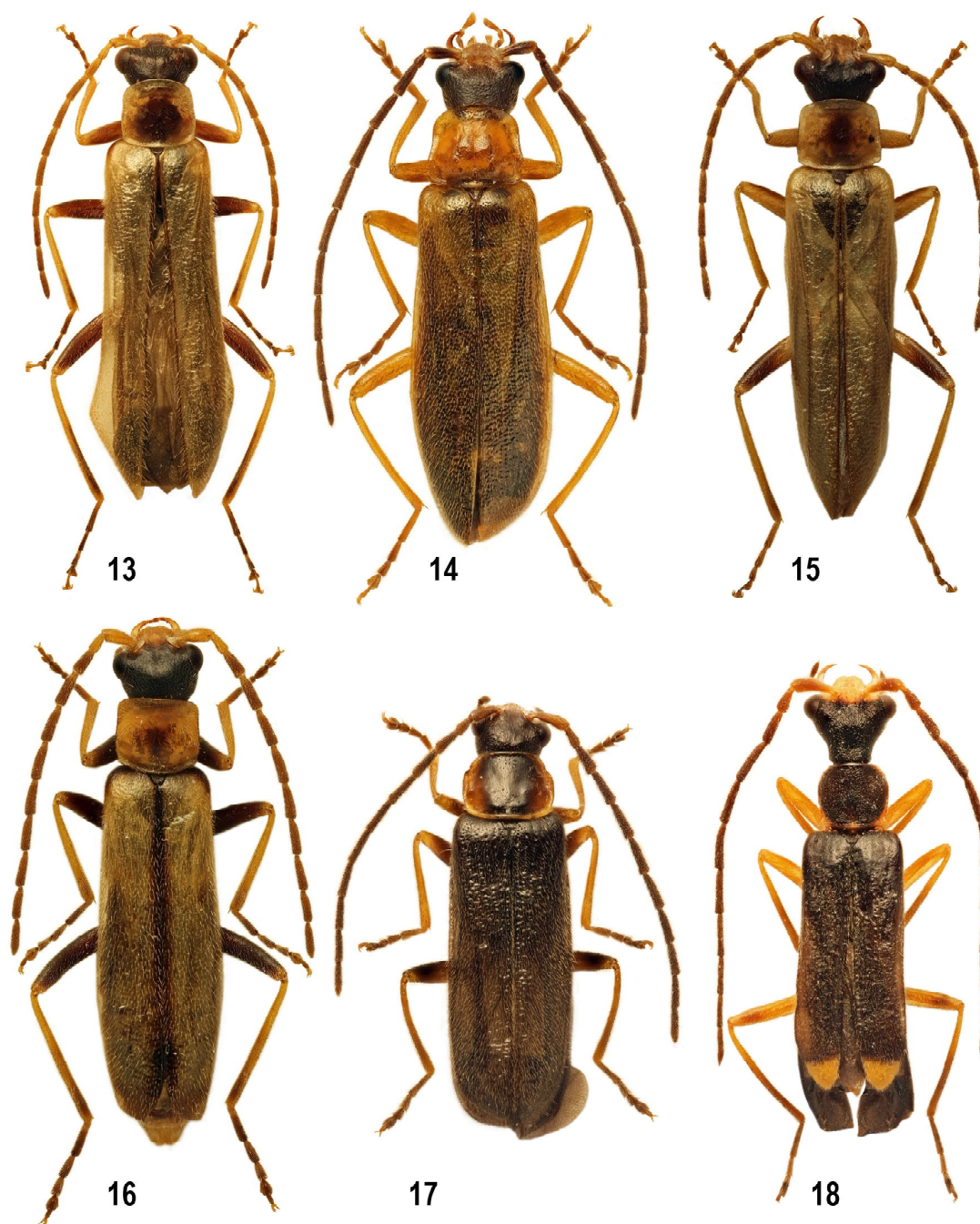
Fig. 25.

Remarks. Registered at 700–950 m a.s.l. near Lake Ritsa and at the Ghegha Waterfalls. Widely distributed in the Northern Caucasus (Krasnodarskii Krai, North Caucasus, Chechnya), and Georgia [Kazantsev, 2011]. Imago in June – August.

Malthodes lyriformis Wittmer, 1992

Fig. 26.

Remarks. Registered at 1500–2000 m a.s.l. near Awadhara Station. Also known from the Northwestern Caucasus (Krasnodarskii Krai) [Kazantsev, 2011]. Imago in July. First record of the species in Abkhazia.



Figs 13–18. Ritsa Relic National Park Cantharidae beetles external appearance. 13 — *Rbagonycha reitteri*; 14 — *Rb. ritsaensis*; 15 — *Rb. rossica*; 16 — *Rb. roubali*; 17 — *Macrocerus oculatus*; 18 — *Malthinus caucasicus*.

Рис. 13–18. Внешний вид жуков Cantharidae Ричинского реликтового национального парка Абхазии. 13 — *Rbagonycha reitteri*; 14 — *Rb. ritsaensis*; 15 — *Rb. rossica*; 16 — *Rb. roubali*; 17 — *Macrocerus oculatus*; 18 — *Malthinus caucasicus*.

Malthodes pseudobesucheti Wittmer, 1970

Fig. 27.

Remarks. Registered at 1700–1800 m a.s.l. over Awadhara Station. Also known from the Northwestern Caucasus (Krasnodarskii Krai) [Kazantsev, 2011]. Imago in June–July.

Malthodes sotschienesis Wittmer, 1970

Fig. 28.

Remarks. Registered at 700–800 m a.s.l. near the Ghegha Waterfalls. Also known from the Northwestern Caucasus (Krasnodarskii Krai) [Kazantsev, 2011]. Imago in June – July. First record of the species in Abkhazia.

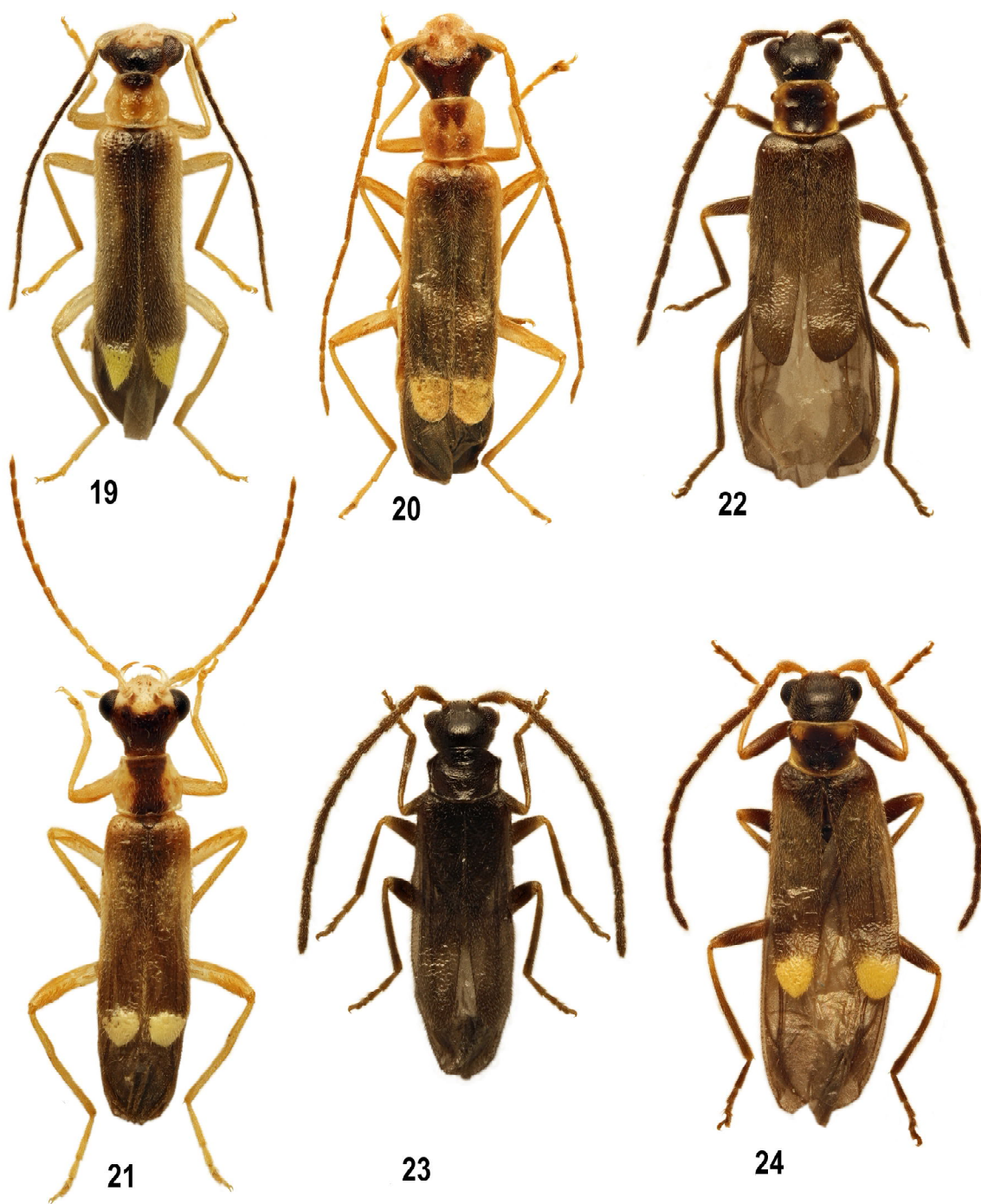
Malthodes strejceki Svihla, 1990

Fig. 29.

Remarks. Registered at 1500–1800 m a.s.l. at Awadhara Station. Also known from the Northwestern Caucasus (Krasnodarskii Krai) [Kazantsev, 2011]. Imago in June–July.

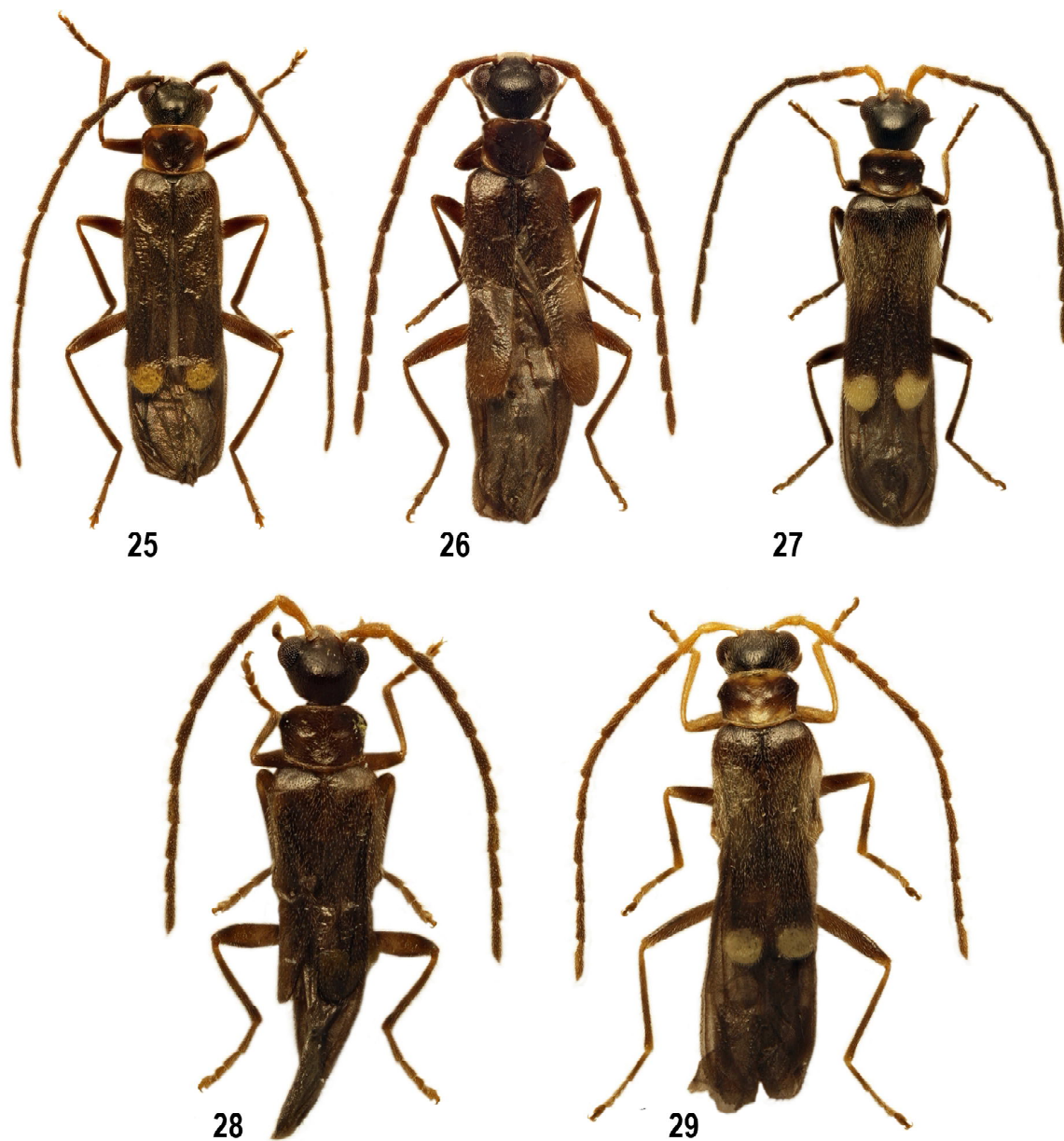
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Figs 19–24. Ritsa Relic National Park Cantharidae beetles external appearance. 19 — *Malthinus facialis*; 20 — *M. flaveoloides*; 21 — *M. turcicus*; 22 — *Malthodes caucasicus*; 23 — *M. crassicornis*; 24 — *M. kasantsevi*.

Рис. 19–24. Внешний вид жуков Cantharidae Ритинского реликтового национального парка Абхазии. 19 — *Malthinus facialis*; 20 — *M. flaveoloides*; 21 — *M. turcicus*; 22 — *Malthodes caucasicus*; 23 — *M. crassicornis*; 24 — *M. kasantsevi*.



Figs 25–29. Ritsa Relic National Park Cantharidae beetles external appearance. 25 — *Malthodes kubiensis*; 26 — *M. lyriformis*; 27 — *M. pseudobesucheti*; 28 — *M. sotschiensis*; 29 — *M. strejceki*.

Рис. 25–29. Внешний вид жуков Cantharidae Рицинского реликтового национального парка Абхазии. 25 — *Malthodes kubiensis*; 26 — *M. lyriformis*; 27 — *M. pseudobesucheti*; 28 — *M. sotschiensis*; 29 — *M. strejceki*.

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