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To the knowledge of Palaearctic Cantharidae (Coleoptera) On the genera *Bactrocantharis* Barovsky, *Ancistronycha* Märkel and *Islamocantharis* Wittmer & Magis of the USSR

by S. Kazantsev

Abstract: Two new species: *Bactrocantharis bogatchevi* and *Islamocantharis auroraensis* – and one new subspecies: *Ancistronycha erichsoni kurbatovi* – are described from the USSR.

Key words: Coleoptera Cantharidae USSR – *Bactrocantharis*, *Ancistronycha*, *Islamocantharis* – taxonomy – new species.

Of the genus *Bactrocantharis* Barovsky only two species from Tjanshan have so far been known: *B. ciliatocollis* (Pic) and *B. kaznakovi* Bar.

The genus *Islamocantharis* Wittmer & Magis comprised two species from the territories South to the Caucasus.

In the present paper one new species from each of *Bactrocantharis* and of *Islamocantharis* is described. Though the two are represented only by females their distinction is so evident that their separation seems quite justified. A subspecies of *Ancistronycha erichsoni* Bach is described from the Caucasus.

I am obliged to express my gratitude to Dr. O. Kryzhanovsky and Dr. G. Medvedev (Zoological Institute, Leningrad), Dr. N. Nikitsky and Dr. V. Belov (Moscow State University) to whom I am indebted for an opportunity to work with typical material and collections. My special thanks are due to Dr. W. Wittmer (Natural History Museum, Basel) and Dr. L. Medvedev (Institute of Evolutionary Morphology and Ecology of Animals, Moscow) for practical advice on the subject.

The genus *Bactrocantharis* described by V. Barovsky in 1926 (BAROVSKY, 1926) differs from other Palaearctic genera of sub-family Cantharinae in presence of a tooth on the inner side of mandibles.

Key to the species of *Bactrocantharis* Barovsky

1. Elytra black, in double pale pubescence 2
Elytra rufous, in ordinary reddish pubescence
B. bogatchevi n. sp.

2. Legs and clypeus fulvous. Aedeagus (fig. 6).

B. ciliatocollis (Pic)

Legs and clypeus black. Aedeagus (fig. 1).

B. kaznakovi Bar.

Bactrocantcharis bogatchevi n. sp.

Figs 8–11.

Female. Elongate, parallelsided. Body mostly dark brown, the base of antennae, cheeks, mouth, elytra with the exception of the base, tibiae except for the apical part of hind ones, the base of trochanters, the base of tarsal segments and margins of apical segments rufous. Pronotum rufous with two round black spots on disk.

Head transverse with longitudinal ridge on frons, in reddish pubescence. Vertex densely and finely punctulate. Eyes rather small, not wider than head. Cheeks slightly longer than half of eye's length. The terminal joint of maxillary and labial palpi broadly triangular, fulvous at the base. Clypeus much wider than long (fig. 8). Mandibles with a tooth near the apex (fig. 9). Antennae filiform, reaching half of elytra; first, second and the basal part of third joints rufous. First joint the longest and equals to second and third taken together, third, fourth and fifth subequal, sixth, seventh and eighth subequal too but slightly shorter than the three preceding, ninth as long as eleventh and tenth the shortest. Vestiture short and inclined.

Pronotum transverse, with red pubescence, widest at base, with lateral sides dilated near hind angles. Anterior angles evident, anterior edge almost straight. The black spots round, separated with less than their diameter.

Scutellum small, triangular, black, in pale pubescence.

Elytra parallel, slightly wider than pronotum and four times as long, three and a half times as long as wide at the base, in dense short suberect pubescence.

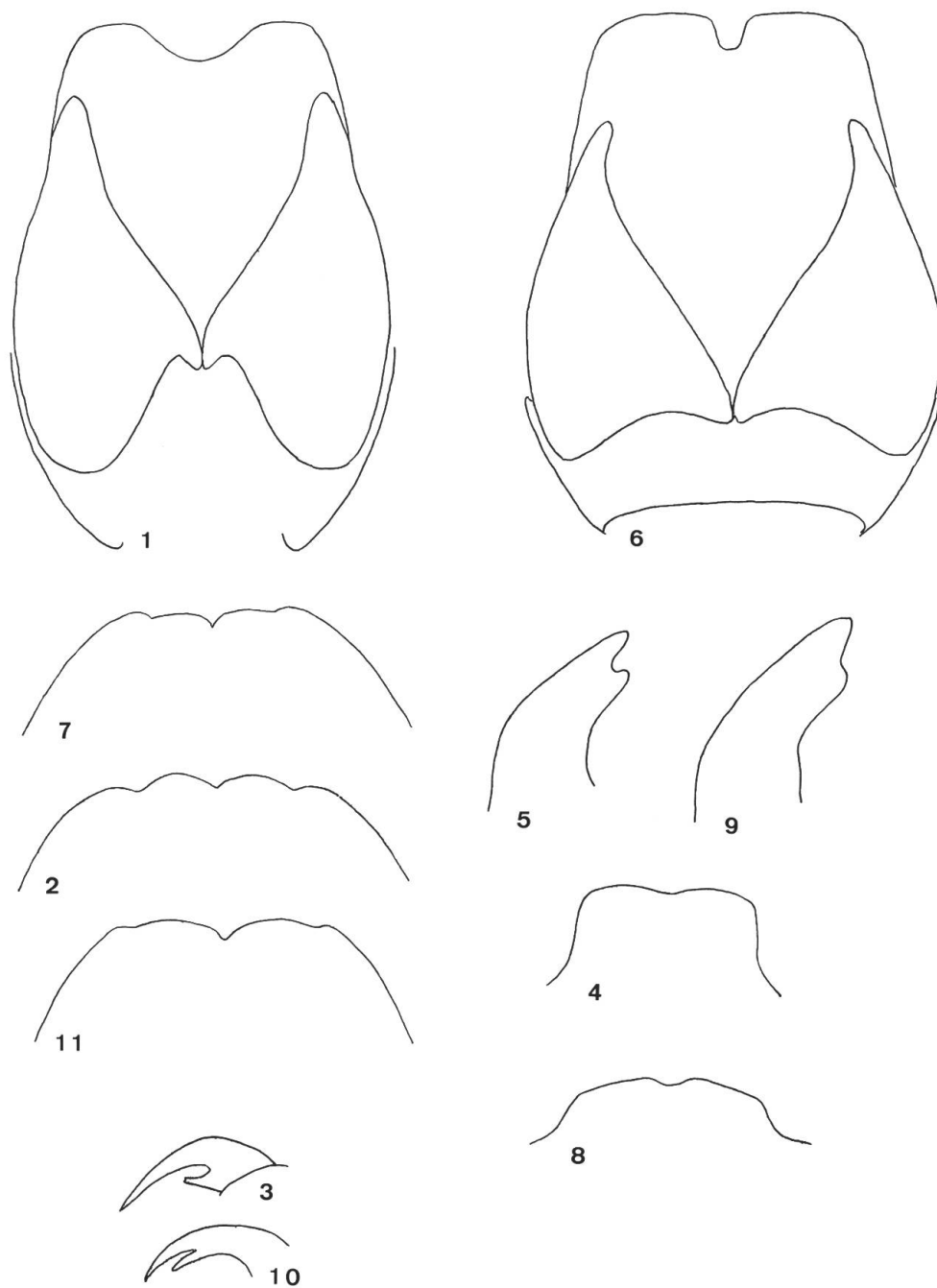
All femora considerably (3 times minimum) wider and stouter than tibiae and slightly longer. Front and middle tarsi slightly shorter than tibiae, hind tarsi almost twice as short as hind tibiae. Fourth tarsal segment strongly, third slightly dilated. Claws with a small blunt tooth (fig. 10) inconsiderably diminishing from front tarsi to hind.

Abdomen in very fine and dense punctuation, with short subinclined vestiture and longer erected hairs. Apical sternite – fig. 11.

Length: 10.5 mm.

Male: unknown.

Holotype ♀ Zoological Museum of Moscow University), Aman-



Figs 1–11: 1–5. *Bactrocantharis kaznakovi* Bar.: 1, paratype ♂, aedeagus. 2, paratype ♀, last sternite. 3, paratype ♀, claw of a front tarsus. 4, paratype ♀, clypeus. 5, paratype ♀, mandible. 6–7. *Bactrocantharis ciliatocollis* Pic: 6, aedeagus ♂. 7, last sternite. 8–11. *Bactrocantharis bogatchevi* ♀ n.sp.: 8, clypeus. 9, mandible. 10, claw of a front tarsus. 11, last sternite.

Kutan, merid. versus ab Samarkand, 1600 m, 10.VI.71, Bogatchev leg; 1 ♀, paratype (Natural History Museum, Basel), Samarkand.

B. bogatchevi can easily be distinguished by the pubescence of the elytra, form of clypeus, apical abdominal sternite and tooth at the base of claws, coloration and other characters.

***Ancistronycha erichsoni kurbatovi* n. ssp.**

Figs 14–16.

Male. Elongate, parallelsided. Rufous, antennae, tarsi and apical part of elytra darkened.

Head with eyes not wider than pronotum, in dense punctuation and yellowish pubescence inclined forward. Frons with evident longitudinal ridge. Eyes small, slightly wider than head. Terminal joint of labial palpi forms a right-angled triangle with vertex at the base of joint. Cheeks as long as one fourth of eye's length. Antennae filiform, long and slender, third three times as long as second and subequal to fourth, first and second together equal to third. First and underside of second, third and fourth joints rufous, the rest dark brown, in short reddish inclined pubescence.

Pronotum slightly transverse, with rounded lateral sides slightly dilated before hind angles. Anterior angles rounded, anterior edge slightly convex.

Elytra long, parallel, slightly wider than pronotum and four times as long. Ratio of length to width at base 3:1. Apical part black, the black area most advanced towards the base at the outer margins – as long as one fourth of elytra's length. Finely and densely punctulate with suberected reddish pubescence.

Legs slender, front and middle femora subequal to tibiae, hind femora slightly shorter than hind tibiae. Tarsi darkened. Aedeagus with short laterophyses which lack evident angle at the inner side (Fig. 17).

Length: 10.0 mm.

Female. Similar to male.

All claws with a slender tooth at the base (fig. 14) diminishing gradually from front tarsi to hind.

Apical abdominal sternite – fig. 15.

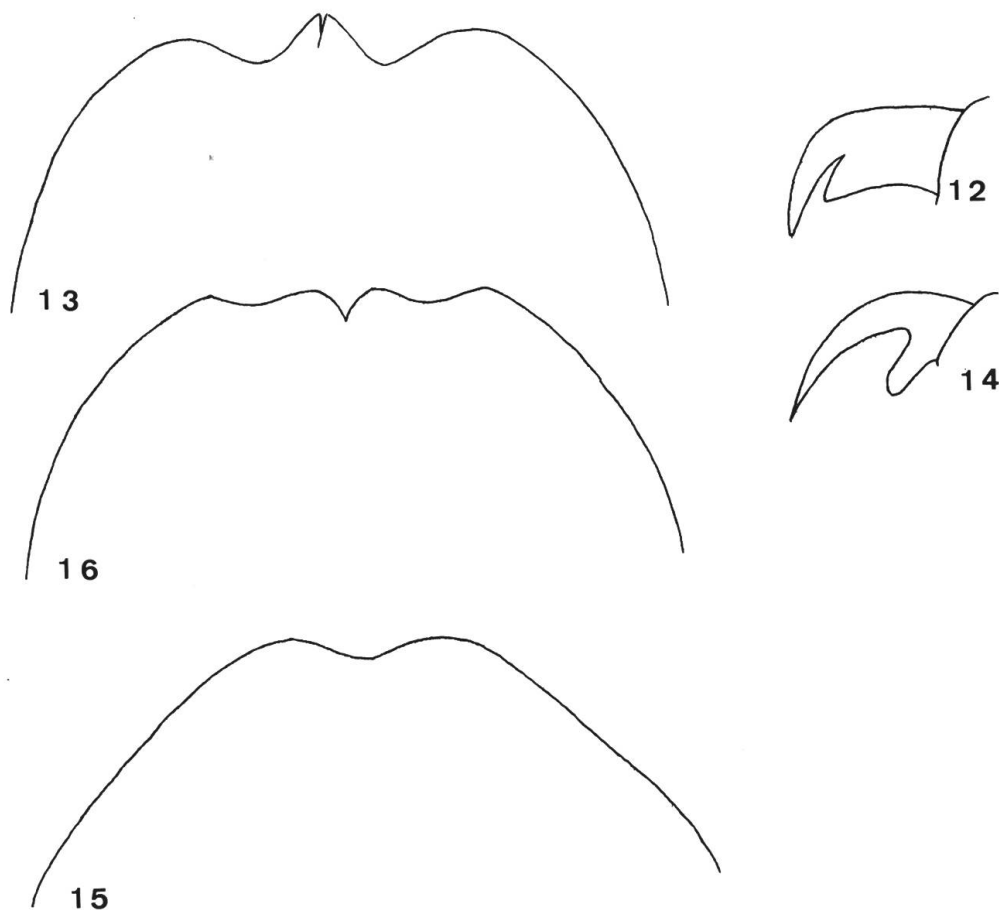
Length: 10.5–11.5 mm.

Holotype ♂ (Zoological Institute, Leningrad), Borzhomi, Ligani Park, 12.VII.01, R. Schmidt leg.; Allotype ♀ (Zoological Museum, Moscow), North Ossetia, 1300 m, Buron, S Alagir, 16.VIII.79, S. Kurbatov leg.; Paratypes (Natural History Museum, Basel and Zoological Institute, Leningrad) 2 ♀, Lagodekhi, 2.VII.07, Mlokocevitch leg.;

♀, Sochi Tchernom., Krasnaya Poljana (Romanovsk), 2340', VI.1909, N.Brjansky leg. ♀, Salgi-Egothkal, Ingush. Tersk. gub., 7.VIII.27, Kiritchenko leg.; ♀, Bakuriani, 16.VII.28; ♀, Passencur, Voen. Gruz. Dor., 23.VIII.28, V. et A.Reinhardt; ♀, USSR, NW Caucasus, Lagonakhi, 1800 m, 4.VII.89, W.Wittmer leg.

The new subspecies is distinguished from the nominative one distributed in Central Europe and not going to the East farther than the Carpathians by its third antennal joint subequal to fourth while in *A. e. erichsoni* Bach it is considerably shorter than fourth, and by the form of the laterophysys (Figs 17–18).

The genus *Islamocantharis* was described by Wittmer and Magis (WITTMER, MAGIS, 1978) for species very similar to typical *Cantharis* in appearance (i.e. with rounded lateral sides of pronotum, longitudinal



Figs 12–16: 12–13. *Islamocantharis orientalis* Wittmer & Magis ♀: 12, claw of a front tarsus. 13, last sternite. 14–15. *Ancistronycha erichsoni kurbatovi* ssp. n., ♀: 14, claw of a front tarsus. 15, last sternite. 16. *Islamocantharis auroraensis* n.sp., ♀, last sternite.

ridge on frons, etc.) and in male genitalia but having all claws cleft as in *Rhagonycha* Esch.

Studies on Cantharidae material from Caucasus have enabled me to report *I. orientalis* Wittmer & Magis from the Soviet Union (so far it has been known from Turkey and Iran) and to describe a new species from Talysh.

***Islamocantharis orientalis* Wittmer & Magis**

Figs 12–13.

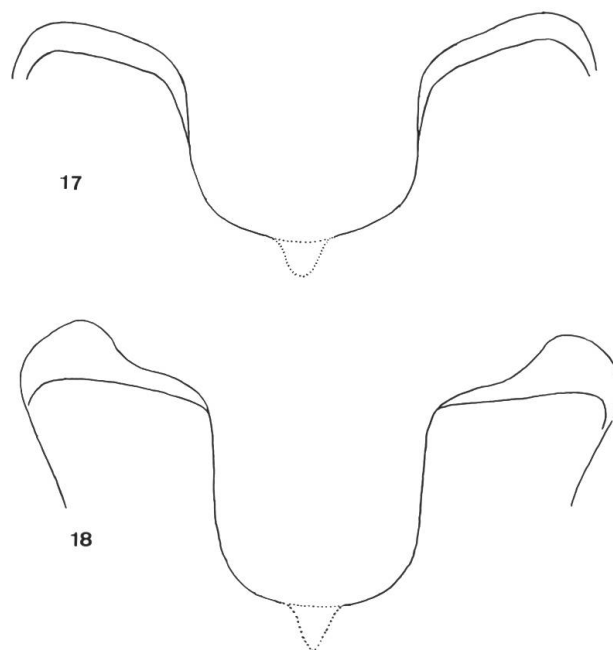
Material: ♀, Kura, between Avrimuzha and Horteiz, 13.VI.1904, Brezhenov; ♂, Erivan, Darachichan, Maljushenko (Zoological Institute, Leningrad).

First record from the USSR.

***Islamocantharis auroraensis* n. sp.**

Fig. 16.

Female. The species is closely related to *I. orientalis* from which it differs in the form of the last abdominal segment (fig. 16) and coloration: elytra black (with the exception of a little rufous spot under the shoulder) while the underside, head and scutellum unicolourously rufous whereas in described variations of *I. orientalis* (WITTMER & MAGIS, 1978) extending of the black area from the apical part of elytra towards



Figs 17–18: 17, *Ancistronycha erichsoni kurbatovi* n.ssp., ♂, laterophyses dorsally. 18, *A. erichsoni erichsoni* Bach, ♂, laterophyses dorsally.

the base is accompanied by blackening of other parts of the body, i.e. head and scutellum. Otherwise (including the building of the claws) similar to *I. orientalis*.

Length: 10.5 mm.

Male: unknown.

Holotype ♀ (Zoological Museum of Moscow University), Talysh, Aurora, 30.VI.1980, M. Danilevsky leg.

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