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### ***Chilocoris nitidus* Mayr, 1865, the first Oriental burrower bug recorded in Tajikistan, with remarks on the zoogeography of the *nitidus*-group of *Chilocoris* Mayr, and an annotated checklist of Tajik Cydnidae (Hemiptera: Heteroptera)**

GRZEGORZ KŁYS & JERZY A. LIS<sup>1</sup>

Department of Biosystematics, Opole University, Oleska 22, 45-052 Opole, Poland

<sup>1</sup>Corresponding author. E-mail: [cydnus@uni.opole.pl](mailto:cydnus@uni.opole.pl); <http://www.cydnidae.uni.opole.pl>

The genus *Chilocoris* Mayr, 1865 (Cydnidae: Cydninae: Cydnini) comprises 85 species distributed in the Palearctic, Afrotropical, Oriental, and Australian Regions, with a single species reported from North America (Lis 1994, 1999, 2001, 2006a, 2006b; Imura 2011).

In the Palearctic Region, only nine species of this genus have been recorded to date (Lis 1999, 2006b; Imura 2011), but almost all are restricted to a very limited area (i.e., *Ch. alienus* Horváth: Far East of Russia; *Ch. confusus* Horváth: Japan, Korea; *Ch. longicephalus* J.A. Lis: Southwestern Territory of China; *Ch. minor* Hsiao: Southwestern Territory of China, northeast India; *Ch. nigricans* Josifov et Kerzhner: Japan, Korea, Far East of Russia; *Ch. pussillus* Horváth: Taiwan, Vietnam; *Ch. somalicus* Mancini: Yemen, Ethiopia, Somalia).

Only two species, i.e., *Ch. nitidus* Mayr and *Ch. piceus* Signoret, have been recorded from broader areas (Central, Northern, and Southwestern Territory of China; North India, and Nepal—for the former; Southeastern and Southwestern Territory of China, India, Malaya, and Sri Lanka—for the latter).

Because of the species number and their morphological diversity, the genus was divided into three subgenera (Lis 1994), i.e., *Chilocoris* s. str.; *Amnestoides* Signoret, 1881; and *Statanus* Distant, 1908. Recently, Imura (2011) established the *nitidus*-group within the nominative subgenus, to include five East-Asian species well recognizable by their morphological characters and validated from a zoogeographical point of view (i.e., *Ch. nitidus*, *Ch. alienus* Horváth, *Ch. birmanus* J.A. Lis, *Ch. nitidulus* J.A. Lis, and *Ch. monticola* Imura). As suggested by Imura (op. cit.), this group contains at least ten East-Asian and one North American species, exhibiting a relictual, trans-Beringian disjunction, which suggests their association with the Tertiary circum-boreal flora.

*Ch. nitidus*, originally described from “Kashmir” (Mayr 1864), has subsequently been recorded from northern parts of India, Nepal, and China (Gansu, Hunan, Jiangxi, Sichuan, Yunnan) (see: Lis 1994, 2006b); all information on its occurrence in Japan has been based on misidentifications, and was recently proved by Imura (2011) to represent a new species, *Ch. monticola*. The record from Trichinopoly (Madras State, India), far from the species main distribution range, and based on a single very old specimen (Hufnagel and Rédei 2005) is regarded herein as a case of mislabeling or misidentification, and, as was suggested by Imura (2011), may actually pertain to *C. nitidulus*.

**Material.** Pending studies on the fauna of Tajikistan by the first author between 2005 and 2012 (Kłys 2012), many interesting findings of different vertebrate and invertebrate species previously not recorded from this country were encountered. Moreover, what is most important and relates to the true bugs, during the studies carried out in 2007 in the Karatagin range (east of Dushanbe – Figs 1-2), two specimens of the burrower bug genus *Chilocoris* have been collected. Both specimens represent *Ch. nitidus*, a species previously not recorded from Tajikistan (**first country record**); moreover, this locality is the westernmost record of this species (Fig. 3).

These specimens have been collected by sweeping low vegetation of an apple orchard in a small settlement named Kishlak, being a part of the village named Fayzabad (=Faizobod, 38°52.829 N, 69°32.510 E). The settlement is surrounded from the south by the slopes of the Karatagin range (Figs 1-2), with characteristic East-Asian floral composition including, e.g., *Glaucium fimbriigerum* Boissier, *Juniperus turkestanica* Komarov, *J. semiglobosa* Regel, *J. serawschanica* Komarov, *Ajania tibetica* Tzvelev, *Sorbus tianschanica* Ruprecht, *Desmatodon altipes* Broth., *Ostrowskia magnijica* Regel., *Desideria pamirica* Suslova, *Oxytropis hedinii* Ulbr., *Pulsatilla kostyczewii* (Korsch.) Juz., and *Acantholimon varivtzevae* Czerniak.