

## Distribution of the Silphidae (Coleoptera) in the Baikal Region

### Rozšíření brouků čeledi Silphidae (Coleoptera) v okolí Bajkalu

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**Abstract.** A list of 25 species of Silphidae of the Baikal Region is given. Records of 23 of them are supported by voucher specimens. *Nicrophorus quadraticollis* Portevin, 1903 is a new species for the fauna of Cisbaikalia; *N. vestigator* Herschel, 1807 is new for the fauna of Transbaikalia. Additional material of *Necrodes littoralis* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Silpha carinata* Herbst, 1783, *S. perforata* Gebler, 1832, and *Thanatophilus sinuatus* Fabricius, 1775 represent the first records from West Siberia.

#### INTRODUCTION

The family Silphidae is represented by 125 species (one of which is a *nomen dubium*) and subspecies in two subfamilies and 15 genera in the Palaearctic region (Růžička & Schneider 2004). In Russia, the family is represented by 54 species and subspecies in two subfamilies and 11 genera, of which 33 species and subspecies in two subfamilies and nine genera are indicated for Eastern Siberia (Shavrin 2006). Thus, the fauna of these vast regions is relatively well known. This paper presents a short history of the study of the Silphidae in the Baikal Region (within the administrative borders of the Irkutsk and Chita Territories, Republic of Buryatia) and a list of species with new records. Additional records from the adjacent territories in Siberia and Mongolia are also given.

The first record of a carrion beetle from the region was by Gebler (1832) who described *Aclypea daurica* from Transbaikalia. Motschulsky (1860) described *Thanatophilus latericarinatus* (as *Oiceoptoma*) from “Amur”, *T. baicalicus* (in *Oiceoptoma*), *Nicrophorus orientalis* (type locality: “dans les parties orientales de la Daourie”), and *N. sibiricus* (type locality: “Sibérie orientale”); the last three names were later synonymized with *T. trituberculatus* (Kirby, 1837), *N. dauricus* Motschulsky, 1860, and *N. investigator* Zetterstedt, 1824, respectively. Reitter (1895) described *N. sylvaticus*, now a junior synonym of *N. vespilloides* Herbst, 1783. Almost all these previous records were combined with new data for a total of 10 species from Transbaikalia and Irkutsk Territory in the catalogue by Yakobson (1910). Portevin (1932) described the subspecies *Silpha perforata mandli* and recorded *Thanatophilus lapponicus* (Herbst, 1793) from Transbaikalia.

In the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Berlov (1977) treated the necrophilous beetles of the Irkutsk Territory and recorded 20 species, based on both old and new data. Emetz (1977) and Lafer (1989) clarified distributional data from the Far East of Russia including the Baikal Region. Schawaller recorded *Silpha obscura obscura* Linnaeus, 1758 (Schawaller 1980), five