

**Taxonomic notes on the *Bryaxis splendidus* species group
(Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Pselaphinae),
with the description of a new species from the Ukraine**

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Abstract. Species of the *Bryaxis splendidus* group are studied. One new species, *Bryaxis cepliki* sp. nov. is described from the Transcarpathian Ukraine. *Bryaxis goliath* Jeannel, 1922 is elevated to the species rank. Aedeagi of all species of the group are illustrated. Known records are listed and a key to species is provided.

Key words. Staphylinidae, Pselaphinae, Goniaceritae, *Bryaxis*, new species, Carpathian mountains

Introduction

The Carpathians host many endemic species of beetles inhabiting the soil or leaf-litter, including the staphylinids of the subfamily Pselaphinae. The most speciose genus of the Pselaphinae in the Carpathians is *Bryaxis* Kugelann, 1794, with 21 species and four subspecies known so far from the region. From this number, 16 are strictly endemic to the Carpathians (see below). Particular among these endemics are three previously described and one new species, all of very large body and with strongly reduced, or without eyes. These species are grouped here into the newly established *Bryaxis splendidus* species group. This paper provides a key for the group, lists known records of the four species belonging to the group and gives the description of a new species from the Transcarpathian Ukraine.

Material and methods

Specimens prepared for morphological study were examined with a Leica S8APO stereomicroscope with diffuse lighting at magnifications up to 128×. Male genitalia and other dissected parts were studied using a Zeiss transmitted-light microscope at magnifications up to 500×. Genital segments were dissected and treated with KOH when necessary. All drawings were made using a drawing tube. The dissected and mounted parts were mounted in Euparal and pinned with the specimen.