

***Atheta (Bessobia) bashkirica* sp. n. from South Ural (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae: Aleocharinae)**

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Abstract. *Atheta (Bessobia) bashkirica* sp. n. from South Ural is described and illustrated, its affinity with related species is discussed.

Key words: Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae, *Atheta*, *Bessobia*, new species, South Ural.

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The subgenus *Bessobia* THOMSON, 1858 is one of the smallest subgenera in the genus *Atheta* THOMSON, 1858. The subgenus is Holarctic in distribution with a few species from other regions (Indie, Africa). Nineteen species of *Bessobia* have previously been recorded from Palearctic region (EPPELSHEIM 1878, 1890, SCHEERPELTZ 1957, 1960, SAWADA 1970, LOHSE 1974, BENICK 1978, PACE 1998). The majority of them are known from single localities, only six species are widely distributed, mostly in European part of the Palearctic Region. Nearly all subgenera of *Atheta* including *Bessobia* are poorly known taxonomically and should be comprehensively revised.

The following paper presents the description of one new species collected by Prof. Vladimir KNISS (Ufa, Russia) during his field work in Ural's caves.

The type material is deposited in the Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals PAS, Kraków, Poland.

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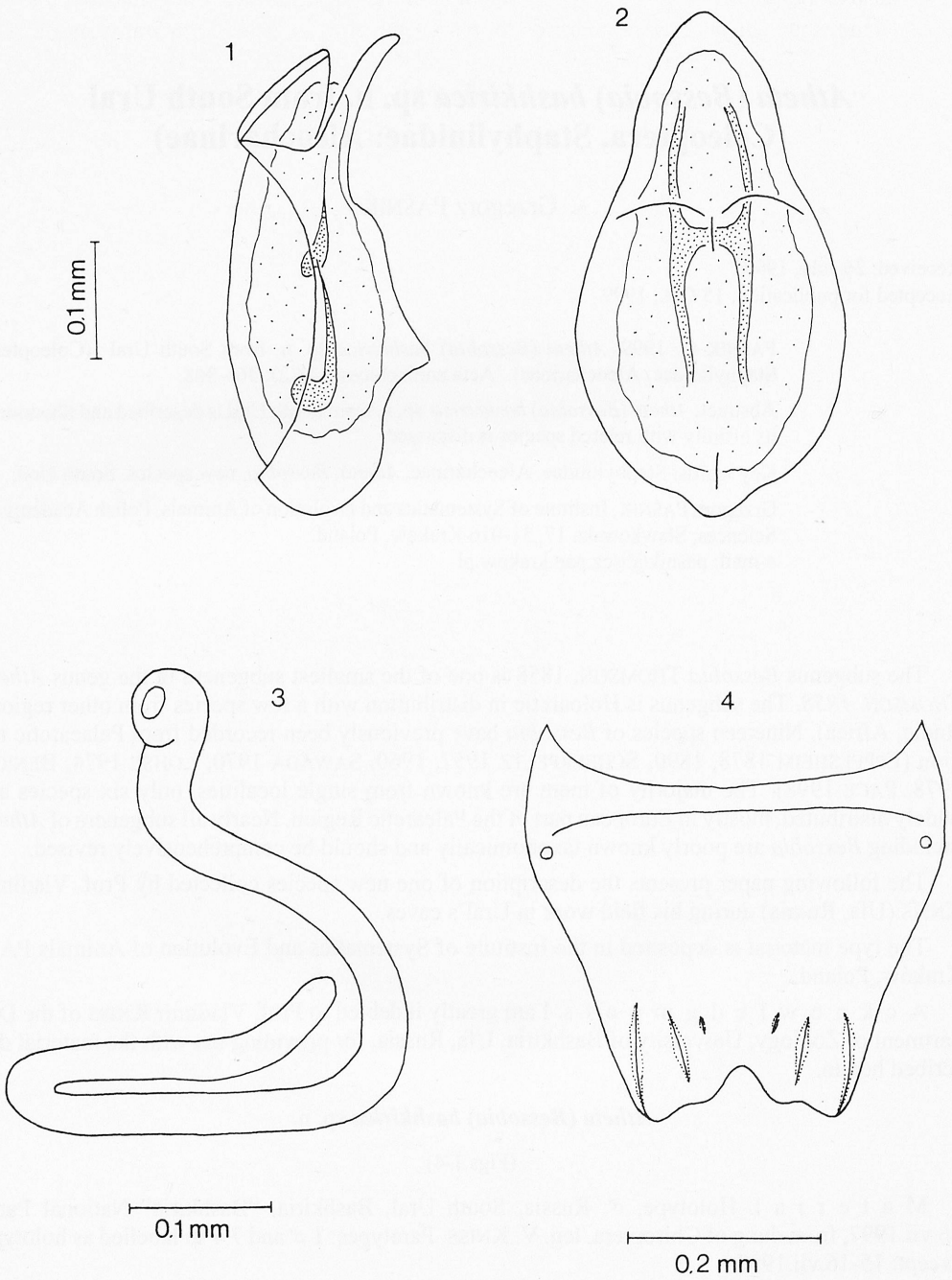
***Atheta (Bessobia) bashkirica* sp. n.**

(Figs 1-4)

M a t e r i a l. Holotype, ♂: Russia, South Ural, Bashkiria, "Bashkiria" National Park, 16.vii.1997, from dung of Chiroptera, leg. V. KNISS. Paratypes: 1 ♂ and 7 ♀♀: labelled as holotype except: 15-16.vii.1997.

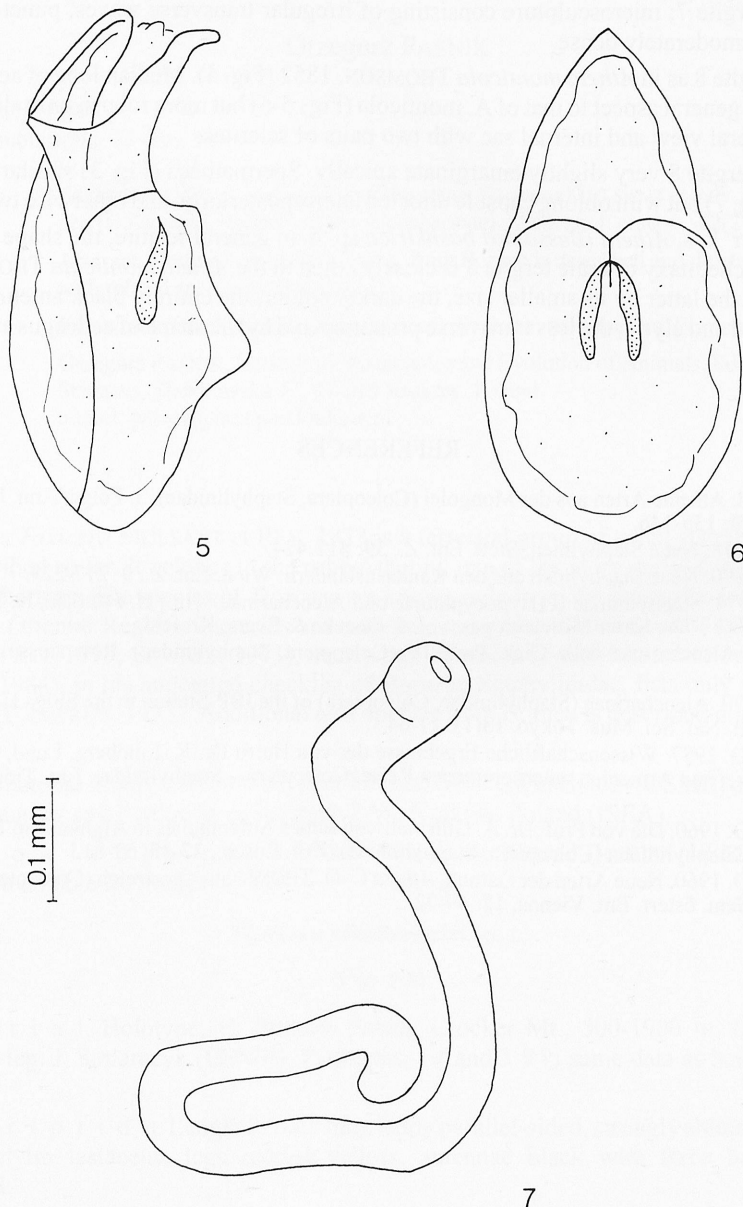
D e s c r i p t i o n. Length 2.6-2.9 mm. Body convex, parallel-sided, shining; ground colour black; elytra pitchy brown, legs brownish-red, antennae black.

Head transverse, with distinct impression, slightly narrower than pronotum, broadest at middle of postocular region; eyes large, protruding from lateral contours of head, length of each seen from



Figs 1-4. *Atheta (Bessobia) bashkirica* sp. n.: 1 – aedeagus in lateral view, 2 – aedeagus in ventral view, 3 – spermatheca, 4 – male tergite 8.

above subequal to that of postocular region; surface of head with distinct round-meshed microsculpture, punctation fine and moderately dense; pubescence directed inwardly. Antennae increase in width to apex, equal in length to head and pronotum combined, antennomeres 2 and 3 subequal in length, antennomere 4 subquadrate, antennomeres 5-10 increasingly transverse, antennomere 10th 1.5 times broader than long, joint 11 nearly coniform.



Figs 5-7. *Atheta (Bessobia) monticola* THOMS.: 1 – aedeagus in lateral view, 2 – aedeagus in ventral view, 3 – spermatheca.

Pronotum transverse, 1.3 times wider than long, widest in front of middle, broadly impressed at midline, sides weakly arcuately narrowed to rounded hind angles; microsculpture similar to that on head, punctation fine and moderately dense, finely asperate; pubescence at midline in apical 1/3 directed anteriorly, in basal 2/3 directed posteriorly.

Elytra transverse, 1.3 times broader than their length at sides, slightly broader than pronotum, at suture as long as pronotum at midline, microsculpture similar to that on pronotum but punctation finer, denser and more strongly asperate; pubescence directed obliquely posteriorly.

Abdomen parallel-sided, bases of tergites 3-6 each with deep transverse impression, tergite 8 longer than tergite 7; microsculpture consisting of irregular transverse waves, punctation moderately fine and moderately dense.

Male. Tergite 8 as in *Atheta monticola* THOMSON, 1852 (Fig. 4). Median lobe of aedeagus (Figs 1-2) similar in general aspect to that of *A. monticola* (Figs 5-6) but more robust, only slightly curved apically in lateral view and internal sac with two pairs of sclerites.

Female. Tergite 8 very slightly emarginate apically. Spermatheca (Fig. 3) similar to that of *A. monticola* (Fig. 7) but with oblong capsule directed latero-posteriorly, and otherwise twisted duct.

R e m a r k s. *Atheta (Bessobia) bashkirica* sp. n. in general feature, the shape of aedeagus, the shape and chetotaxy of male tergite 8 is closely allied to the *Atheta monticola* THOMSON, 1852. It differs from the latter by its smaller size, the darker colour, the entirely black antennae, the more transverse head and elytra, the less transverse pronotum and by the shape of aedeagus and spermatheca (Figs 5-7).

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