

SHORT FAUNISTIC NOTES - NEW RECORDS

The end of the mystery *Tolyphus punctulatus* var. *flavipes* Fleischer, 1928 (Coleoptera: Phalacridae) or a beginning of a new puzzle?

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New faunistic record, new synonymy, Phalacridae, *Tolyphus*, *Olibrus*, Slovakia

Abstract. *Tolyphus punctulatus* Rosenhauer, 1856 is newly recorded for Slovakia. *Tolyphus punctulatus* var. *flavipes* Fleischer, 1928 is removed from synonymy with *Tolyphus punctulatus* Rosenhauer, 1856 and is proposed as a junior synonym of *Olibrus affinis* (Sturm, 1807).

Coleoptera: Phalacridae

***Tolyphus punctulatus* Rosenhauer, 1856.** Slovakia mer., (8178), Kamenica n. Hr., 3.5.1994, Jiří Háva lgt. // Phalacridae P. Průdek det. 2024, 1 spec., Z. Švec det., coll. J. Háva. The species is known to occur predominantly in the Mediterranean: Europe - Greece, Italy, Slovakia, Spain; Northern Africa - Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia; Asia - Lebanon, Saudi Arabia. New to Slovakia.

Remarks. Fleischer (1928) described a phalacrid beetle found in Slovakia, Vlára pass, as *Tolyphus punctostriatus* var. *flavipes*. Schatzmayr in 1950 proposed *Tolyphus punctostriatus* Kraatz, 1858 as a junior synonym of *Tolyphus punctulatus*. He also expressed his doubts about the occurrence of *Tolyphus* in Carpathians. As *Tolyphus punctulatus* had never been discovered outside the Mediterranean area previously, the locality declared by Fleischer (1928) did not seem credible. So Fleischer's *Tolyphus punctulatus* var. *flavipes* was a mystery for long years.

Subsequently the senior author (Švec 2007) synonymized *Tolyphus punctulatus* var. *flavipes* with *Tolyphus punctulatus* as a junior synonym. Nevertheless the mystery of the occurrence of the species outside the Mediterranean region still persisted.

However, during the current studies of the phalacrid material deposited in the National Museum in Prague, the senior author discovered a specimen labelled as *Tolyphus punctostriatus* var. *flavipes*. Judging from its labelling the specimen has been considered for the wanted type. The labelling is as follows: "Weise Carpaten / Vlára pass / Oberfstr. G.

Kardasch / Liborca / illegible / illegible / 15.9.27 // *Tolyphus / flavipes* m.” A new red label has been added to the specimen: “HOLOTYPE / *Tolyphus* (*Pharcisinus*) / *punctatostriatus* / var. *flavipes* Fleischer / labelled by NMP / v. 2024”.

The study of this specimen indicates that it cannot be attributed to the genus *Tolyphus* but belongs to the genus *Olibrus* Erichson, 1845. The type specimen is apparently a monstrous specimen with longitudinally sulcate elytra. This rare morphological defect also occurs in phalacrid beetles (e.g. *Stilbus atomarius* (Linnaeus, 1767), *Olibrus liquidus* Erichson, 1845). In his case it was determined by the senior author as *Olibrus affinis* (Sturm, 1807). Therefore *Tolyphus punctulatus* var. *flavipes* Fleischer, 1928 is removed from synonymy with *Tolyphus punctulatus* Rosenhauer, 1856 and is newly proposed as a junior synonym of *Olibrus affinis* (Sturm, 1807). *Olibrus affinis* (Sturm, 1807) = *Tolyphus punctulatus* var. *flavipes* Fleischer, 1928 **syn. nov.**

Still, the ambiguity of the occurrence of *Tolyphus punctulatus* Rosenhauer, 1856 outside the Mediterranean region remains despite the record from Southern Slovakia. Future findings will hopefully clarify if the species is domestic or a newly introduced taxon.

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