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The bees of the genus *Colletes* Latreille 1802 of the Ukraine, with a key to species (Hymenoptera: Apoidea: Colletidae)

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Abstract

Twenty two species of the bee genus *Colletes* are recorded for Ukraine and *C. brevigena* Noskiewicz 1936 is reported for the first time. A new synonymy is here established: *C. maidli* Noskiewicz 1936 = *C. lebedewi* Noskiewicz 1936, **syn. nov.** The patterns of the zonal distribution of *Colletes* in Ukraine are discussed. Original illustrated keys to males and females of all species known from Ukraine are provided.

Key words: taxonomy, fauna, Europe, Palaearctic region

Introduction

The bee genus *Colletes* Latreille 1802 currently includes 469 described species with an estimated total of about 700 species (Kuhlmann unpubl.) from all continents except Antarctica, Australia, Madagascar and Southeast Asia (Michener 2007). About 205 species are known from the Palaearctic region with their centre of diversity in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) (Kuhlmann 2005) and 60 species known from Europe. *Colletes* is characterized by the outwardly arcuate posterior part of the second recurrent vein, the bilobate glossa and by the base of the propodeum, that has a short subhorizontal to vertical basal zone, usually limited posteriorly by a carina or sharp change in slope or sculpture, and divided by longitudinal carina (Michener 1989).

Ukraine is a country in Eastern Europe that borders the Russian Federation to the east and northeast, Belarus to the northwest, Poland, Slovakia and Hungary to the west, Romania and Moldova to the southwest, and the Black Sea and Sea of Azov to the south and southeast, respectively. With an area of 603,628 km² Ukraine is the second largest country on the European continent, after the Russian Federation. Ukraine comprises 24 provinces and the Autonomous Republic Crimea (Fig. 1).

Colletes succinctus (Linnaeus) (as *C. balteata*), *C. cunicularius* (Linnaeus) (as *C. hirta*), and *C. fodiens* (Fourcroy) were the first species of the genus to be recorded from the Ukraine (Kharkiv Province) (Yaroshevskiy 1882) and a total of six species have since been described from the Ukraine, with five of them still valid: *C. anchusae* Noskiewicz, *C. inexpectatus* Noskiewicz, *C. maidli* Noskiewicz (as *C. lebedewi* Noskiewicz), *C. nasutus* Smith, and *C. tardus* Noskiewicz. Twenty one *Colletes* species have been recorded from Ukraine so far (Lebedew 1933; Noskiewicz 1922a, b; 1936; Kuntze & Noskiewicz 1938; Osytshnjuk 1970). Based on a comprehensive study of specimens in various collections we here list 22 species of the genus *Colletes*, with one species newly recorded from Ukraine. A new synonymy is here established for *C. maidli* Noskiewicz 1936 = *C. lebedewi* Noskiewicz 1936, **syn. nov.** Illustrated keys for species identification are presented to facilitate research on this bee genus.