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NEW FOR THE FAUNA OF BELARUS GENUS *TROGLOPS* ERICHSON, 1840 (COLEOPTERA: MALACHIIDAE) //

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Summary. The genus *Troglops* Erichson and species *T. albicans* (L.) are recorded from Belarus for the first time. The "Pripyatsky" National Park represents the northern boundary of the species distribution. The Malachiidae fauna of Belarus now comprises 15 species from 11 genera.

Key words: soft-winged flower beetles, distribution, new record, Europe.

О. В. Прищепчик, О. Р. Александрович, О. В. Синчук. Новый для фауны Беларуси род *Troglops* Erichson, 1840 (Coleoptera: Malachiidae) // Дальневосточный энтомолог. 2026. N 539. С. 25-28.

Резюме. Род *Troglops* Erichson и вид *T. albicans* (L.) впервые зарегистрированы в Беларуси. Северная граница ареала вида находится в национальном парке «Припятский». Фауна Malachiidae Беларуси в настоящее время включает 15 видов из 11 родов.

INTRODUCTION

Coleoptera, one of the most species-rich insect orders, comprise more than 387,000 described species globally (Stork, 2018). In Belarus, beetles are also one of the most thoroughly studied insect groups (Maksimrnkov *et al.*, 2019). The most recently published catalogue lists 4,112 species, which is estimated to represent approximately 80–85% of the country's actual beetle fauna (Aleksandrowicz *et al.*, 2023). The family Malachiidae (soft-winged flower beetles) has a global diversity of approximately 4,000 described species (Kolibáč *et al*., 2005). Of these, more than 1,440 species are recorded from the Palaearctic region (Mayor, 2007). In Belarus, family Malachiidae is represented by 14 species from 10 genera (Aleksandrowicz *et al.*, 2023).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Our research was conducted within the "Pripyatsky" National Park in 2025. Beetles were collected using three primary methods: hand-collecting, sweep-netting with an entomological net, and the use of an aspirator (Golub *et al.*, 2012). The studied specimen was collected by

A.V. Prischepchik and identified by O.R. Aleksandrowicz using taxonomic keys (Guryeva, 1965; von Lompe, 2010; Ponel & Constantin, 2014). The voucher specimen is deposited in the collection of the Scientific and Practical Center of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus for Biological Resources. Image stacks for focus stacking were acquired with a Canon 1100D camera setup comprising a macro lens, a Raynox DCR-250 converter, and a ring flash. Composite images were generated using HeliconFocus (v. 7.7.0).

NEW RECORD

Family Malachiidae

Genus *Troglops* Erichson, 1840

REMARK. This genus is monotypic and recorded from Belarus for the first time.

***Troglops albicans* (Linnaeus, 1767)**
Fig. 1

MATERIAL EXAMINED. **Republic of Belarus**: "Pripyatsky" National Park, 52°04'12.5"N, 28°09'23.1"E, 27.V 2025, 1 ♂, leg. A. Prischepchik.

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS. The male beetle has a body length of 3 millimeters. The general coloration is bluish-black, with the edges of the pronotum, the basal segments of the antennae, and the fore and middle legs being somewhat reddish-yellow. The head has a yellow forehead and a black other part. The head, with its somewhat protruding compound eyes, is wider than the thorax. The antennae, which have eleven segments, are attached somewhat in front of the compound eyes. The upper surface has short, indistinct, and quite sparse, fine, recumbent hairs (requiring magnification to see). The pronotum is narrower at the rear edge than in the middle and is wider than it is long. The narrowing towards the rear follows a curved line, not a straight one. The elytra end at the side edge and lack an inwardly bent continuation tucked slightly under the abdomen. The legs are quite slender, and the tarsi (feet) have four segments.

Fig. 1. Male of *Troglops albicans* (photo A.V. Sinchuk).

DISTRIBUTION. *Troglops albicans* is distributed across central, southern, and eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and the Middle East (Mayor, 2007; Plata-Negrache, 2012). A recent range expansion from Europe into the broader Palaearctic region has been suggested (Mirutenko, 2013). In light of data from GBIF (2025) and Biomap (2015), the discovery site in Belarus may represent the current northern boundary of the species distribution. It is the first documented record of *T. albicans* for the fauna of Belarus.

HABITAT. Specimen was found under the bark of a dry, fallen *Quercus robur* tree located in a floodplain meadow (Fig. 2).

Fig. 2. Collection site of *Troglops albicans* in the "Pripyatsky" National Park (photo A.V. Prischepchik).

CONCLUSION

A new species for the Belarusian fauna, *Troglops albicans* (Malachiidae), has been recorded. This finding also represents the northernmost known limit of the species distribution. With this addition, the documented Malachiidae fauna of Belarus now comprises 15 species from 11 genera. The discovery highlights the importance of ongoing biodiversity research for detecting range shifts and updating national species inventories.

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