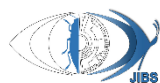


Original Article 

A new species of the genus *Byctiscus* Thomson, 1859 (Coleoptera: Attelabidae) from North Vietnam

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ABSTRACT. A new species, *Byctiscus kravtsovi* sp. nov., is described and illustrated from Cao Bằng Province, Vietnam. The new species is similar to *B. kresli* Legalov, 2003, but differs in the armament of the endophallus, body coloration (body green, pronotum purple, elytra blue with a green suture), finer elytral punctuation, and more delicately rugose-punctate metepisternum. It also differs from *B. populi* (Linnaeus, 1758) in the finer and sparser punctuation of the pronotum, finer elytral punctuation, and the armament of the endophallus. A key to the *Byctiscus populi* group is provided. Additionally, *Byctiscus fulminans* Voss, 1930 is recorded from Vietnam for the first time.

KEYWORDS: Curculionoidea, Byctiscini, Leaf-rolling weevil, Rhynchitinae**Citation:** Legalov, A.A. (2026) A new species of the genus *Byctiscus* Thomson, 1859 (Coleoptera: Attelabidae) from North Vietnam. *Journal of Insect Biodiversity and Systematics*, 12 (04), 869–877.

INTRODUCTION

The tribe Byctiscini comprises more than 100 described species in 12 genera from three subtribes, distributed mainly in Asia, with only two species occurring in the Western Palaearctic (Legalov 2007, 2008, 2009, 2018a, 2018b, 2021b; Alonso-Zarazaga et al. 2023). This tribe is a morphologically distinct group found only in the Oriental and Palaearctic regions (Legalov 2007); no fossil forms have been discovered to date (Legalov 2015). The subtribe Svetlanaebyctiscina includes six genera. *Probyctiscidius insularis* (Voss, 1923) is known from Malaysia and Vietnam (Voss 1923; Legalov 2007). The genus *Svetlanaebyctiscus* Legalov, 2001—distributed across the southern Russian Far East, China, and Nepal (Legalov 2001, 2008, 2018b)—may also be expected to occur in Vietnam. Representatives of the subtribe Listrobeyctiscina inhabit the Philippines and the Sunda Islands primarily, though one species, *Nelistrobyctiscus* (*Listrobeyctiscidius*) *vietnamensis* Legalov, 2003, has been described from Vietnam (Legalov 2003). The subtribe Byctiscina is represented by the highest number of species (14) in Vietnam. The genus *Aspidobeyctiscus* Schilsky, 1903 comprises nine species. Of the eight species in the subgenus *Taiwanobeyctiscus* Kôno, 1929, five—*Aspidobeyctiscus* (*Taiwanobeyctiscus*) *foveostriatus* (Voss, 1930), *A. (T.) kabakovi* Legalov, 2007, *A. (T.) paviei* (Aurivillius, 1891), *A. (T.) punctatostratus* Legalov, 2007, and *A. (T.) vietnamensis* Legalov, 2007—have also been found in Vietnam (Voss 1930, Legalov 2007). The genera *Byctisculus* Legalov, 2003 and *Neobeyctiscidius* Legalov, 2007 are represented by two species: *Byctisculus bactaiensis* Legalov, 2007 and *Neobeyctiscidius hanungensis* Legalov, 2007 (Legalov 2007). Three species (*B. ivanovi* Legalov, 2021, *B. fulminans* Voss, 1930, and *B. kravtsovi* sp. nov.) of the genus *Byctiscus* Thomson, 1859 have been found in Vietnam (Legalov 2021b; present data). Thus, the Byctiscini fauna of Vietnam comprises 16 species, though further discoveries may be expected.

In this paper, we describe a new species of *Byctiscus* from Cao Bằng Province and report *B. fulminans* Voss, 1930 from Yên Bái Province, Vietnam. These represent the second and third records of the genus *Byctiscus* from Vietnam.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The specimens are housed in the ISEA (Institute of Systematics and Ecology of Animals, Siberian Branch, Russian Academy of Sciences, Novosibirsk, Russia). The preparation of the aedeagus was carried out using standard techniques (Yunakov & Nadein 2004). Descriptions, body measurements, and photographs were made using a Zeiss Stemi 2000-C dissecting stereomicroscope. The terminology of weevil body structure follows Legalov (2007) and Lawrence et al. (2010).

RESULTS

Class Insecta Linnaeus, 1758

Order Coleoptera Linnaeus, 1758

Family Attelabidae Billberg, 1820

Subfamily Rhynchitinae Gistel, 1848

Tribe Byctiscini Voss, 1923

Genus *Byctiscus* C.G. Thomson, 1859

Type species: *Curculio populi* Linnaeus, 1758

***Byctiscus populi* species-group**

***Byctiscus kravtsovi* Legalov, sp. nov.**

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[Figs 1B, 2B, 3B, 3C, 3E]

Material examined. **Holotype** Male (ISEA), Vietnam, Cao Bằng Province, Bảo Lạc, IV.2026.

Etymology. Patronymic. Named in honour of Andrei E. Kravtsov (Almaty, Kazakhstan), for his assistance with this research.

Diagnosis. The new species is similar to *B. kresli* Legalov, 2003 but differs in the armament of the endophallus (Figs 2B, 2C), body coloration (body green, pronotum purple, elytra blue with a green suture) (Figs 1B, 1C), finer elytral punctation (Figs 1B, 1C), and more delicately rugose-punctate metepisternum. It further differs from *B. populi* (Linnaeus, 1758) in the finer and sparser punctation of the pronotum (Figs 1B, 1E), finer elytral punctation (Figs 1B, 1E), and the armament of the endophallus (Fig 2B, 2E).

Description. — **Male** (Holotype). Total body length (without rostrum) 5.3 mm. Rostrum length 1.4 mm. Body green, covered with very fine light hairs. Pronotum purple. Elytra blue with green suture. Scutellar shield and pygidium bronze. Antennomeres IX–XI covered with dense black setae. Rostrum quite long, about 2.6 times as long as wide at apex, about 3.2 times as long as wide in middle and at base, about 0.9 times as long as pronotum, distinctly curved, finely and densely punctate, impressed in place of antennal attachment, with weak carina in basal half. Antennal scrobes long, sulciform. Antennae inserted after middle of rostrum. Forehead quite narrow, about 0.8 times narrower than rostrum base width, impressed, finely punctate. Eyes almost not protruding from contour of head. Vertex sparsely punctate. Temples of same length as eyes, transverse-rugose. Antennae long, reaching base of pronotum. Antennomeres I and II suboval. Antennomere I about 1.6 times as long as wide in middle. Antennomere II equal to antennomere I. Antennomeres III, VII short-conical. Antennomeres III–V of same width. Antennomere III equal in length and width at apex, about 0.6 times as long as and 0.9 times narrower than antennomere II. Antennomeres IV–VI subconical. Antennomere IV 1.4 times as long as wide at apex, 1.4 times as long as antennomere III. Antennomere V equal to antennomere IV.

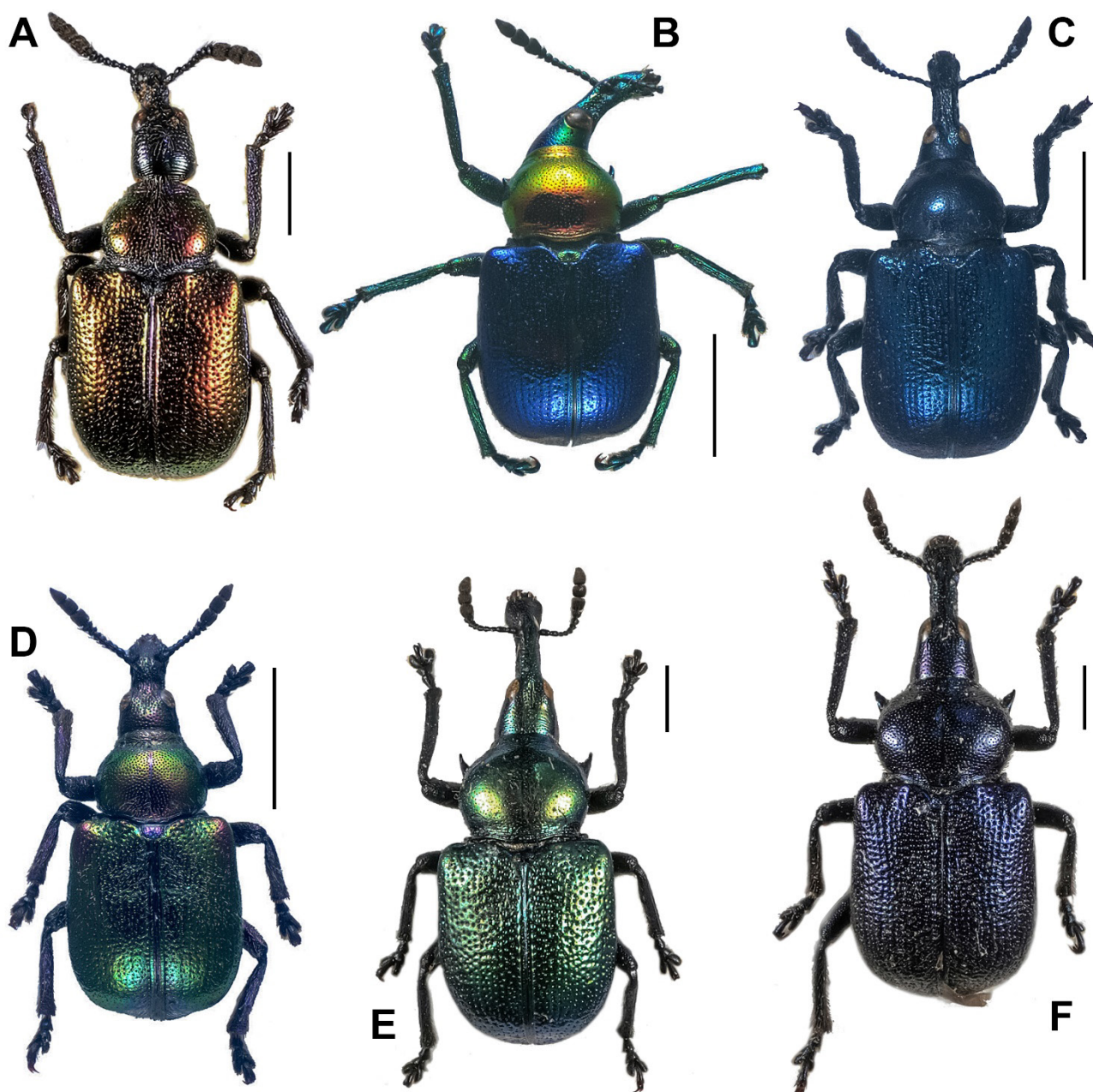


Figure 1. *Byctiscus* species, habitus, dorsal view. **A.** *B. fausti*, male, Japan; **B.** *B. kravtsovi* **sp. nov.**, holotype, male; **C.** *B. kresli*, paratype, female; **D.** *B. minimus*, male, China; **E.** *B. populi*, male, Russia; **F.** *B. regularis*, male, Russia; Scale bar = 2.0 mm for B–D, 1.0 mm for A, E–F.

Antennomere VI about 1.1 times as long as wide at apex, about 0.9 times as long as and about 1.2 times as wide as antennomere V. Antennomeres VII equal in length and width at apex, about 1.1 times as long as and about 1.2 times as wide as antennomere VI. Antennomere VIII transverse, about 1.2 times as long as wide at apex, about 1.2 times as long as and of same width as antennomere VII. Club wide and loose, about 0.9 times as long as antennomeres II–VIII combined. Antennomere IX equal in length and width at apex, 1.5 times as long as and about 1.9 times as wide as antennomere VIII. Antennomere X equal to antennomere IX. Antennomere XI 1.7 times as long as wide at base, about 1.4 times as long as and about 0.8 times narrower than antennomere X. Pronotum campaniform, about 1.6 times as long as wide at apex, about 0.9 times as long as wide in middle, slightly longer than wide at base, narrowed to apex, lustrous, finely punctate, with rounded sides. Greatest width in middle. Scutellar shield trapezoid, wide, about 0.5 times as long as wide, punctate. Elytra wide, about 1.2 times as long as wide

at base, about 1.1 times as long as wide in middle, 1.3 times as long as wide at apical fourth, about 1.8 times as long as pronotum, with distinct humeri. Interstriae narrow, weakly convex, lustrous, finely punctate. Scutellar striole present. Striae regular and narrow. Points in striae distinct and small. Epipleuron distinct. Prosternum rugose-punctate, with tooth. Pre- and postcoxal portions of prosternum short. Precoxal portion about 0.2 times as long as procoxal cavity length. Postcoxal portion 0.7 times as long as precoxal portion. Procoxal cavities contiguous. Mesocoxal cavities narrowly separated. Metepisternum wide, 2.5 times as long as wide in middle, quite delicately finely rugose-punctate. Metaventricle slightly longer than length of metacoxa, convex, rugose-punctate. Abdomen convex ventrally, densely rugose-punctate. Ventricle I 0.5 times as long as length of metacoxa. Ventricle II slightly longer than ventricle III. Ventricle III about 0.7 times as long as ventricle II. Ventricle IV slightly shorter than ventricle III. Ventricle V about 0.6 times as long as ventricle IV. Pygidium convex, finely punctate. Legs long. Procoxae subconical. Femora weakly widened. Tibiae weakly expanded to apex, with costate dorsal margin and apical spur. Protibiae almost straight. Meso- and metatibiae weakly biconcave. Tarsi quite long. Tarsomere I conical. Tarsomere II wide-conical, shorter and wider than tarsomere I. Tarsomere III bilobed, longer and wider than tarsomere II. Tarsomere V elongated. Claws with teeth. Basal sclerite of armament of endophallus with nearly parallel sides, slightly widened towards base. The rugose section projects beyond base of basal sclerite. Rugosities in apical part semi-oval (Fig. 2B).

Female. Unknown.

Distribution. Vietnam, Cao Bằng Province.

Byctiscus fulminans Voss, 1930

[Figs 3A, 3D]

Material examined. 1 Male (ISEA), Vietnam, Yên Bái Province, Yên Bái, IV.2024, local collector.

Remarks. This species was originally described from China (Voss 1930). The types, housed in the Senckenberg Naturhistorische Sammlungen Dresden (= Staatliches Museum für Tierkunde Dresden), were examined by Legalov (2007). The present record represents the first occurrence of *B. fulminans* in Vietnam.

Distribution. China (Fujian, Gansu, Zhejiang) (Legalov 2007), Vietnam (Yên Bái Province).

Key to species of the *Byctiscus populi* species-group

- 1 Rostrum angularly curved at place of antennal insertion. Pronotum in males rather narrow.2
- Rostrum smoothly curved at place of antennal insertion. Pronotum in males broad.3
- 2 Pronotal punctation sparser (Fig. 1A). Body vestiture sparser. Dorsum ranging from red to violet, sometimes purplish blue-green; venter blue-violet or violet. Basal sclerite of armament of endophallus widens towards apex and bottom. Rugose section not extend beyond base of basal sclerite. Rugosities in apical section sharply triangular (Fig. 2A). *B. fausti* Sharp, 1889
- Pronotal punctation denser (Fig. 1D). Body vestiture denser. Pronotum and elytra green, with golden lustre. Head and pygidium golden-bronze. Edges of elytra violet. Rostrum, scutellum, thorax, legs, abdomen blue-green. Pronotum, elytra or rostrum sometimes bronze. Basal sclerite of armament of endophallus widened dorsally and narrowed ventrally. Its apex extends toward base of endophallus. Rugose section protrudes slightly beyond base of basal sclerite. Rugosities in apical region subparallel (Fig. 2D). *B. minimus* Legalov & Liu, 2005
- 3 Pronotum more finely and sparsely punctate (Figs 1B, 1C).4
- Pronotum more coarsely and densely punctate (Figs 1E, 1F).5
- 4 Basal sclerite of armament of endophallus with sides slightly tapering downwards. Its apical margins tooth-like. Rugose section barely discernible (Fig. 2C). Body dark blue (Fig. 1C). Elytral punctation coarser. Metepisternum coarsely rugose-punctate. *B. kresli* Legalov, 2003
- Basal sclerite of armament of endophallus with nearly parallel sides, slightly widened towards base.

- Rugose section projects beyond base of basal sclerite. Rugosities in apical part semi-oval (Fig. 2B). Body green. Pronotum purple, elytra blue with green suture (Fig. 1B). Elytral punctation finer. Metepisternum more finely rugose-punctate. *B. kravtsovi* sp. nov.
- 5 Mentum in males without tooth. Elytral interstriae broader (Fig. 1E). Coloration blue, blue-green, copper, black, or green with copper pronotum and violet venter. Basal sclerite of armament of endophallus with sides expanded in semicircular fashion in basal part, subparallel in middle, and slightly expanded at apex. Rugose section extend beyond base of basal sclerite. Rugosities nearly transverse (Fig. 2E). *B. populi* (Linnaeus, 1758)
- Mentum in males with tooth. Elytral interstriae narrower (Fig. 1F). Coloration dark blue. Basal sclerite of armament of endophallus widened dorsally and narrowed ventrally. Apex slightly extended toward base of endophallus. Rugose section protrudes slightly beyond base of basal sclerite. Rugosities sharply triangular (Fig. 2F). *B. regularis* Voss, 1930

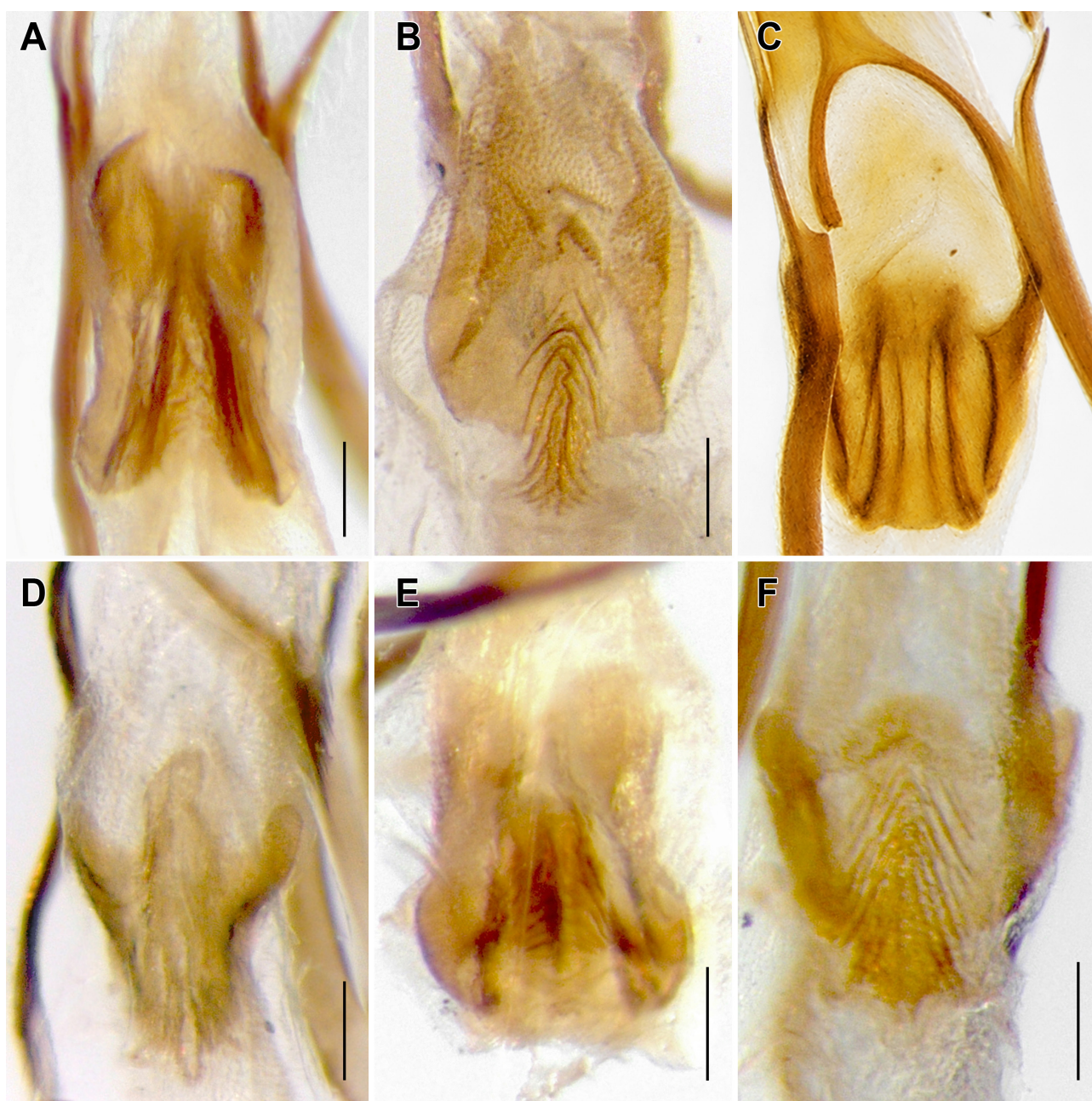


Figure 2. Armament of the endophallus of male *Byctiscus* species, dorsal view. **A.** *B. fausti*; **B.** *B. kravtsovi* sp. nov., holotype; **C.** *B. kresli*; **D.** *B. minimus*; **E.** *B. populi*; **F.** *B. regularis*. Scale bar = 0.1 mm

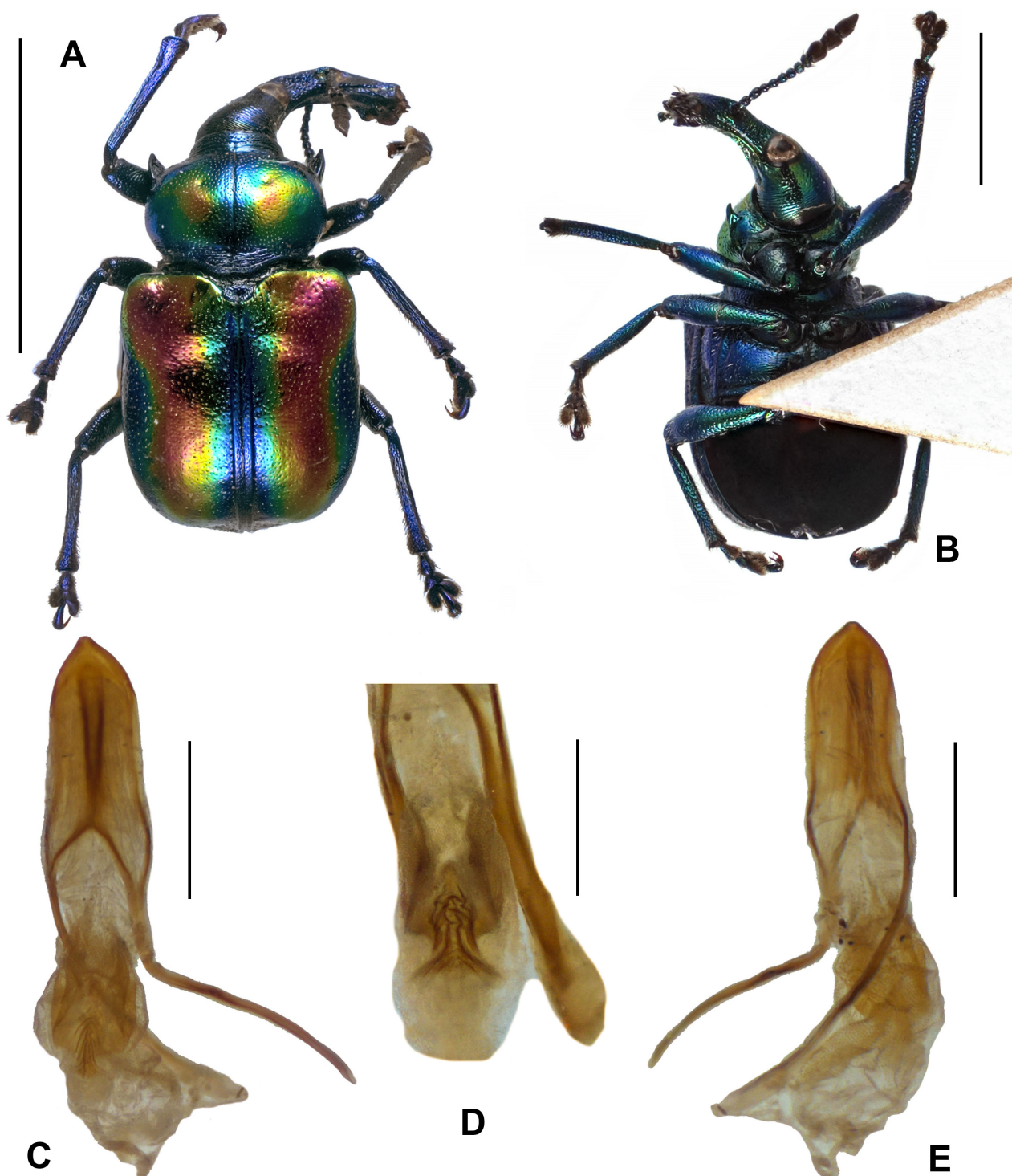


Figure 3. *Byctiscus* species. **A.** *B. fulminans*, male, habitus, dorsal view, Vietnam. **B.** *B. kravtsovi* sp. nov., holotype, male, habitus, dorsal view; **C.** *B. kravtsovi* sp. nov., holotype, male, aedeagus, ventral view; **D.** *B. fulminans*, armament of endophallus, dorsal view, Vietnam; **E.** *B. kravtsovi* sp. nov., holotype, male, aedeagus, ventral view. Scale bar = 5.0 mm for A, 2.0 mm for B, 0.5 mm for C–E.

DISCUSSION

The genus *Byctiscus* Thomson, 1859 differs from the similar genus *Aspidobyctiscus* Schilsky, 1903 in having the 9th elytral stria not shortened (Legalov 2007). It includes more than 30 species distributed across Eurasia, with a center of diversity in East Asia (Legalov 2007, 2009). The genus was first recorded from Vietnam by Legalov (2021b), who described *B. ivanovi* from northern Vietnam. The northernmost record for the genus is in Russia's Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, located beyond the Arctic Circle

(Opanassenko & Legalov 1996), and the southernmost is in Thailand (Legalov 2007). The center of diversity of *Byctiscus* is in China, where 24 species are known to occur. Southern records of the genus are rare. Given its occurrence in Vietnam and Thailand, it is likely that species also occur in Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar. The structure of the basal sclerite of the armament of the endophallus is the most reliable diagnostic character for distinguishing species (Legalov 2003, 2007). Other characters (form of the rostrum, form and punctuation of the pronotum, punctuation of the elytra and metepisternum, etc.) can also be used effectively.

Two groups of species (*Byctiscus populi* species-group and *B. betulae* species-group) belong to this genus. The new species belongs to the *Byctiscus populi* species-group characterized by regularly arranged elytral striae and smaller body sizes (3.5–5.6 mm). This group includes *B. fausti* Sharp, 1889, *B. kresli* Legalov, 2003, *B. minimus* Legalov & Liu, 2005, *B. populi* (Linnaeus, 1758), and *B. regularis* Voss, 1930. *Byctiscus fausti* is known from Japan (Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu) and Russia (Sakhalin), *B. kresli* from Sichuan, *B. minimus* from Hebei, Hubei, Shaanxi in China, *B. populi* across the Palaearctic Region, and *B. regularis* from Primorskii Krai in Russia, South Korea, and several provinces of China (Anhui, Hebei, Heilongjiang, Liaoning) (Voss 1930, 1931; Sawada 1993; Legalov 2003, 2006, 2007; Legalov & Liu 2005; Alonso-Zarazaga et al. 2023). Trophic links are known for *B. fausti* (*Quercus* (Fagaceae)), *B. populi* (*Populus*, *Betula*, *Salix*, *Quercus*, *Syringa* (Salicaceae, Betulaceae, Fagaceae, Oleaceae)), and *B. regularis* (*Ulmus*, *Euonymus* (Ulmaceae, Celastraceae)) (Voss 1930; Ter-Minasyan 1950; Lee & Morimoto 1988; Sawada 1993; Legalov 2003, 2006). It can be assumed that the new species is associated with a particular tree species.

The rhynchitid fauna of Vietnam is highly diverse, comprising over 150 described species (Legalov 2007, 2018c, 2021a, 2021b, 2022a, 2022b). In terms of species richness, it is comparable to that of Yunnan (China) (more than 140 species) and Indonesia (145 species).

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The author confirms his contribution to all processing steps in the research, preparation and examination of the specimens, illustrations, and preparation of the manuscript. He read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

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AVAILABILITY OF DATA AND MATERIAL

The type specimen listed in this study is deposited at the Institute of Systematics and Ecology of Animals, Novosibirsk, Russia (ISEA) and is available from the curator upon request.

ETHICS APPROVAL AND CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE

This study only included arthropod material, and all required ethical guidelines for the treatment and use of animals were strictly adhered to in accordance with international, national, and institutional regulations. No human participants were involved in any studies conducted by the authors for this article.

CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION

Not applicable.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

GENERATIVE AI STATEMENT

The author did not use generative AI tools in the preparation of this manuscript.

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گونه‌ای جدید از سردهٔ *Byctiscus* Thomson, 1859 (Coleoptera: Attelabidae) از ویتنام شمالی

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چکیده: گونه‌ای جدید با نام *Byctiscus kravtsovi* sp. nov. از استان کائو بانگ ویتنام توصیف و تصاویر آن ارائه شد. این گونه به *B. kresli* Legalov, 2003 شباهت دارد، اما از نظر ساختارهای استحکام‌دهندهٔ اندوفالوس، رنگ بدن (بدن سبز، پیش‌گرده بنفش و بال‌پوش‌ها آبی با درز سبز)، نقوش ظریف‌تر بال‌پوش‌ها و متاپیسترنوم با چین‌وچروک‌ها و نقوش ظریف‌تر از آن متمایز است. همچنین، این گونه از *B. populi* (Linnaeus, 1758) بر اساس نقوش ظریف‌تر و کم‌تراکم‌تر پیش‌گرده، نقوش ظریف‌تر بال‌پوش‌ها و ساختارهای استحکام‌دهندهٔ اندوفالوس تفاوت دارد. کلید شناسایی گونه‌ها در گروه *Byctiscus populi* ارائه شد. افزون بر این، حضور *Byctiscus fulminans* Voss, 1930 نیز برای نخستین بار از ویتنام گزارش شد.

واژگان کلیدی: Rhynchitinae، Byctiscini، Curculionoidea، سرخرطومی برگ‌پیچ.