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Dedicated to the memory of
Prof. Victor P. Tyshchenko
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ABSTRACTS

The species groups of *Aelurillus* Simon, 1884 on the basis of the embolic division of males

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The genus *Aelurillus* Simon, 1884 currently numbers 60 species, of which 43 were possible to group together reasoning from the structure of the embolic division (ED). The ED consists of the embolus (E) and terminal apophysis (TA); both structure are often fused together by a transparent membrane forming the so-called compound embolus [*sensu* Logunov, 1996]. The female copulatory organs are shown to be less useful for intrageneric grouping. The presence/absence of the ventral knob on palpal tibia is a very good supportive taxonomic character as well. A total of seven species groups was diagnosed: (1) the *ater* species group (Middle Asia); diagnostic characters: TA simple, narrow and long; included *A. ater*, *A. brutus*, *A. dubatolovi* and *A. lutosus*; (2) the *blandus* species group (Spain, N. Africa, Levant, Middle Asia); diagnostic characters: TA complex, with apical teeth; included *A. aeruginosus*, *A. blandus*, *A. bokerinus*, *A. catherinae*, *A. cognatus*, *A. concolor*, *A. conveniens*, *A. hirtipes*, *A. lopadusae*, *A. mendicus*, *A. muganicus*, *A. nabataeus*, *A. plumipes*, *A. proszynskii* and *A. spinicrus*; (3) the *luctuosus* species group (N. Africa, Spain, Greece, Levant, India); diagnostic characters: TA very narrow, distally with a membrane; included *A. affinis*, *A. basseleti*, *A. cantarella*, *A. gesticulator*, *A. improvisus*, *A. luctuosus*, *A. minutus*, *A. monardi*, *A. nicoleti*, *A. numidicus*, *A. ogieri*, *A. pallidamaculatus* and *A. schembrii*; (4) the *marusiki* species group [compound group, sic.!] (Iran, India); diagnostic characters: the dorsal tibial apophysis poorly developed or absent; included *A. marusiki*, *A. minimontanus* and *A. unitibialis*; (5) the *m-nigrum* species group (the Canaries, Greece, Middle Asia, Siberia); diagnostic characters: TA simple, its apical end hook-shaped; included *A. andreevae*, *A. cretensis*, *A. leipoldae*, *A. lucasi*, *A. m-nigrum* and *A. nenilini*; (6) the *politiventris* species group (Levant); diagnostic characters: TA simple, spade-shaped, dorsum with scutum; included *A. gershomi* and *A. politiventris*; (7) the *v-insignitus* species group (the Palaearctics); diagnostic characters: TA simple, spade-shaped, carapace with a white colour marking; included *A. guecki*, *A. kopetdaghi*, *A. laniger*, *A. steinmetzi* and *A. v-insignitus*.

The three species described by Lucas (1846), viz. *A. affinis*, *A. gesticulator*, *A. nikoleti*, and one by Denis (1937; *A. pallidamaculatus*) are excluded from the above consideration. *Inserta sedis* are: *A. angularis*, *A. dorthesi*, *A. helvenacius*, *A. latebricola*, *A. reconditus* and *A. subaffinis* (known from single females only), and *A. approximans*, *A. candidus*, *A. catus*, *A. iciformis*, *A. kochi*, *A. quadrimaculatus*, *A. rugatus*, *A. simony* and *A. simplex* (no comparative/type material has been available).