

CYBISTER LATERALIMARGINALIS IN RATHER NORTHERN RUSSIA**by Pyotr Petrov & Dina Fedorova**

In Western Europe, the range of *Cybister lateralimarginalis* (De Geer) reaches southern Sweden in the north (Nilsson & Holmen 1995), but in European Russia, where winters at the same latitudes are colder, this species was believed to be confined to more or less southern parts. Jacobson (1908) reported Voronezh Province as the northernmost Russian locality; Kirejtshuk (2001) described the northeastern part of the range as "southern Eastern Europe"; Nilsson & Hájek (2013) listed both southern and central European Russia, but, to the best of our knowledge, the northernmost points where this beetle had been found until last summer were Zolotilovo Village, Sergiyev Posad District, Moscow Oblast, where one female was light-trapped by A.V. Boldyrev (Litovkin 2012) between 5 and 9 August 2010, at 56°16' N, and Lake Izyar, Cheboksary District, Chuvash Republic, where one specimen was collected by Ye. L. Naseykina on 25 June 2003, at



56°17' N (Egorov 2004). Litovkin (2012) also gave new records from Chelyabinsk Oblast (53°54' N, one male), Tatarstan (56°10' N, over 100 specimens) and Tambov Oblast (53°02' N, one female).

Therefore, we were quite surprised when, on 20 June 2012, we collected a single female of this species in Lake Grilloye (depicted left), surrounded by a peat bog, in the environs of Yeremkovo Village, Udomlya District, Tver Oblast, at 57°52' N. The beetle was in one of 20 funnel traps made of 1.5 litre plastic bottles baited with canned stewed beef and exposed for 24 hours. We trapped dytiscids with the same 20 bottles in the same area of the lake for three more days, but collected no other specimens of this species, only numerous *Dytiscus lapponicus* Gyllenhal, *Graphoderus cinereus* (L.), *G. zonatus verrucifer* Sahlberg and a few other dytiscids that could well be expected at this latitude. The Moscow, Tatarsan and Chuvash records are also surprisingly northerly. Moreover, V.B. Semenov (pers. comm.) reports *C. lateralimarginalis* from the city of Smolensk (Lake Krivoye, Krasny Bor), at 54°47' N, where specimens of this species, including a male and a female from 5 June 2010, have been regularly collected over the last decade by university students during their field practice.

In Tatarstan populations of *C. lateralimarginalis* doubtless exist at a slightly lower latitude than at Moscow, Chuvash and Smolensk. We cannot be sure that populations of this species are likewise living in Chuvash Republic and Moscow and Tver Oblasts, but it seems more likely than the possibility that the specimens recorded are stray migrants. The Dytiscidae of European Russia have been studied rather intensely since the 19th Century, and such a large and conspicuous species could hardly have been overlooked in the more northern regions. Its range has probably expanded northwards over the last few decades, presumably because of warming climate. We will keep looking for more specimens in Tver Oblast to test our guess that there is a population there.

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