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BEETLES OF THE SUBFAMILY SAPRININAE (HISTERIDAE, COLEOPTERA) INHABITING BIRD NESTS IN BELARUS

Tis article contains information about species structure of beetles of the subfamily Saprininae (Histeridae, Coleoptera) which are founded in bird nests in Belarus. Since 1984 to 2010 nests of 120 species of birds were investigated, in the nests of 32 species 421 specimens belonging to 7 species of beetles of the subfamily Saprininae were identified. Beetles of the subfamily Saprininae in bird nests act as the main regulators of the number of bird parasites. *G. buyssoni* pupates in the nests. The greatest presence (31,5 %) and the number of species (6) of beetles of the subfamily Saprininae was indicated in the nests situated above the ground in cavities (hollows, etc.). The biggest occurrence (35,9 %) among the beetles of the subfamily was indicated for *G. buyssoni* in the nests situated above the ground in cavities, this indicates a high attachment of this species to the above mentioned nests.

Keywords: nests, birds, beetles, Saprininae, Histeridae, Belarus.

Introduction. Nineteen species of Histeridae of the subfamily Saprininae Blanchard, 1845 are currently recorded on the territory of Belarus, 31,1 % of the Histeridae species are known to occur locally [1–4]. The representatives of this family in Belarus belong to the following genera: *Saprinus* Erichson, 1834, *Chalcionellus* Reichardt, 1932, *Hypocacculus* Bickhardt, 1914, *Hypocaccus* Thomson, 1867, *Gnathoncus* Jacquelin du Val, 1858 and *Myrmetes* Marseul, 1862. The majority of saprininae species (representatives of *Hypocacculus*, *Hypocaccus* and *Gnathoncus*) inhabit animal carcasses, birds and mammals nests, while species of *Chalcionellus* are dung dwellers and those of *Myrmetes* are myrmecophiles. Saprininae beetles are active predators, being important players in regulation of populations of other insects, nest parasites (flies, fleas, mites etc.) in particular [5–10].

One of the first fundamental works, dedicated to bird nests insects (including Saprininae), are publications of E. Hicks [11–13]. Saprininae beetles were reported in several European large-scale inventories of vertebrate nest, burrow and den inhabitants. In Slovakia, Austria and Italy Saprininae were recorded in the nests of Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia* Linnaeus) [14], Penduline Tit (*Remiz pendulinus* Linnaeus) [15; 16], Tree (*Passer montanus* Linnaeus) and House Sparrows (*P. domesticus* Linnaeus) [17], Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster* Linnaeus) [18], Tengmalm's Owl (*Aegolius funereus* (Linnaeus) [8] and Lesser Spotted Eagle (*Aquila pomarina* C.L. Brehm) [9], in Hungary – in the nests of Saker Falcon (*Falco cherrug* Gray) [19]. O. Kryzhanovski also reports some Saprininae species from bird nests for the fauna of the former USSR [7]. V. Borisova recorded one species, *Saprinus rugifer* (Paykull), in Sand Martin nests in Tatarstan, Russia [5]. Some faunistic and ecological information on Saprininaes has been also reported in a number of other European articles [20–22].

At present, only a few articles dedicated to species composition and ecology of vertebrate burrow- and nest-dwelling Histeridae, including Saprininae, in Belarus have been published. A. Gembitski mentions four species of Histeridae from nests of synanthropic bird species, half of them belong to Saprininae [6; 23]. G. Jafremova records one species of Saprininae from Sand Martin nests [24]. Several general articles dealing with Histeridae include information on bird nest inhabitants [1; 25–27], some data on these species are scattered within other faunistic articles [4; 28; 29].

The present article presents the most comprehensive data on taxonomic structure and ecological features of Saprininae occurring in bird nests in Belarus.

Material and methods. The material for this study was collected in Belarus during 1984–2010.

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The collection of beetles was carried out using several standard methods (sifting of nest material with the soil sieve, direct hand collecting in nests and extraction of beetles from nest material with Berlese funnels), in some cases, beetles were extracted using flotation of nest material.

We calculated the following indices relevant to beetles dwell in the studied nests: presence – percentage ratio of the number of the nests in which the species (the subfamily) were recorded to the total number of the studied nests (including uninhabited); occurrence – percentage ratio of the number of nests in which the species were recorded to the total number of inhabited (active) nests; occurrence extensity – ratio of the number of collected beetle specimens to the total number of the studied nests (including uninhabited nests); occurrence intensity – percentage ratio of the recorded beetle specimens to the total number of studied inhabited (active) nests.

Distributional data were extracted from Mazur's articles [30; 31], and the following abbreviations were used: **E** – Europe: AL – Albania, AR – Armenia, AU – Austria, BE – Belgium, BH – Bosnia Herzegovina, BU – Bulgaria, BY – Belarus, CR – Croatia, CT – Russia: Central European Territory, CZ – Czech Republic, DE – Denmark, EN – Estonia, FI – Finland, FR – France (incl. Corsica, Monaco), GB – Great Britain (incl. Channel Islands), GE – Germany, GG – Georgia, GR – Greece (incl. Crete), HU – Hungary, IR – Ireland, IT – Italy (incl. Sardinia, Sicily, San Marino), KZ – Kazakhstan, LA – Latvia, LS – Liechtenstein, LT – Lithuania, MA – Malta, MC – Macedonia, NL – The Netherlands, NR – Norway, NT – Russia: North European Territory, PL – Poland, PT – Portugal, SK – Slovakia, SP – Spain (incl. Gibraltar), ST – Russia: South European Territory, SV – Sweden, SZ – Switzerland, UK – Ukraine. **N** – North Africa: AG – Algeria, CI – Canary Islands, EG – Egypt, MO – Morocco (incl. Western Sahara), MR – Madeira Archipelago, TU – Tunisia. **A** – Asia: AF – Afghanistan, ES – Russia: East Siberia, FE – Russia: Far East, GAN – Gansu (China), GUA – Guangdong (China), HEI – Heilongjiang (China), IN – Iran, IS – Israel, JA – Japan, KZ – Kazakhstan, MG – Mongolia, TAI – Taiwan, TM – Turkmenistan, UZ – Uzbekistan, WS – Russia: West Siberia. **AFR** – Afro-tropical Region, **AUR** – Australian Region, **NAR** – Nearctic Region, **NTR** – Neo-tropical Region, **ORR** – Oriental Region.

The following abbreviations of the Belarusian regions were used in the annotated list: BR – Brest, GM – Gomel, MN – Minsk, MG – Mogilev, VT – Vitebsk) and districts (Bn – Baranovichi, Bt – Brest, Gn – Ganzevichi, Dz – Dzerzinsk, Dr – Drogichen, Iv – Ivatsevichi, Km – Kamenets, Lp – Lepelsk, Lu – Luninets, Lch – Lyahovichi, Mi – Minsk, Mya – Myadel, Os – Osipovichy, Pn – Pinsk, Pr – Pruzhani, Pt – Petrikovichi, Rg – Rogachev, Sl – Slutsk, St – Stolin, Ud – Uzdensk), BBR – Berezinski Biosphere Reserve, BP – Bielovezhskaya Pushcha. For some species, sexes are reported, with the following abbreviations used for males (m), females (f), 'im' was used for teneral adult individuals. The list was compiled according to the nomenclature used in the Catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera [31]. The specimens have been collected by one of the authors, unless specifically stated.

Results and discussion. Nests of 120 species of birds were studied. Saprininaes were found only in nests of 32 species belonging to eight orders. In total, 421 specimens were collected and identified. We recognized six general nest types among the bird nests studied in relation to their position. In nests of two types (nests situated on water surface or floating vegetation and nests situated on the ground) saprininaes were not recorded. The highest saprininae presence was recorded in nests situated above the ground in shelters (cavities, nest-boxes, etc.). Beetles were recorded in 68 bird nests of this type, 33,5 % of the total number of the studied nests of this type. Nests situated on the ground in shelters (burrows, hollow spaces in stone piles, etc.) were less inhabited (presence 15,4 %). In the nests of the open type situated above the ground or above water and in the nests situated in buildings the presence was low and made up 5,5 % and 5,1 %, respectively.

We found seven species of Saprininae (Table 1) in bird nests in Belarus. The highest number of beetle species (6) was recorded in the nests situated above the ground in shelters, nests of open type situated above the ground and above water and nests situated in buildings yielded slightly less species (5). Three species of Saprininae were identified in bird nests situated on the ground in shelters, one of which (*Saprinus semistriatus* Scriba) is known from the literature only, but was not represented in our collections.

Table 1 – The occurrence, occurrence extensity and occurrence intensity of the species of Saprininae in different types of bird nests in Belarus

Beetles species	Nest type											
	I			II			III			IV		
	Ng (%)	M	Ma	Ng (%)	M	Ma	Ng (%)	M	Ma	Ng (%)	M	Ma
Saprinus rugifer (Paykull, 1809)	26,7	0,7	1,3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Saprinus semistriatus (Scriba, 1790)	[24]	[24]	[24]	–	–	–	0,8	0,02	0,03	4,5	0,03	0,09
Gnathoncus rotundatus (Kugelann, 1792)	–	–	–	3,1	0,04	0,07	1,5	0,02	0,03	2,3	0,04	0,1
Gnathoncus nannetensis (Marseul, 1862)	–	–	–	0,6	0,004	0,009	0,8	0,01	0,01	2,3	0,007	0,02
Gnathoncus communis (Marseul, 1862)	3,3	0,02	0,03	0,9	0,007	0,01	7,6	0,12	0,18	–	–	–
Gnathoncus buyssoni Auzat, 1917	–	–	–	8,4	0,13	0,3	35,9	0,69	1,05	2,3	0,007	0,02
Gnathoncus nidorum Stockmann, 1957	–	–	–	0,9	0,005	0,01	9,2	0,17	0,25	2,3	0,01	0,04

I – nests situated on the ground in shelters;
II – open nests situated above the ground or above water;
III – nests situated above the ground in shelters;
IV – nests situated in buildings;
Ng – occurrence;
M – occurrence extensity;
Ma – occurrence intensity.

Following are the accounts for every species recorded in bird nests in Belarus.

Genus *Saprinus* Erichson, 1834

***Saprinus (Saprinus) rugifer* (Paykull, 1809)**

Distribution: **E**: AU, BY, CT, CZ, DE, FI, GE, KZ, LA, NL, NR, NT, PL, SK, SV, SZ. **A**: WS.

The species was found in nests located on the ground in shelters, Sand Martin (*R. riparia*) nests in particular. The index of occurrence is 26,7 %. *Saprinus rugifer* is the most widespread species of genus *Saprinus* found in bird nests. According to O. Kryzhanovski, bird nests located on the ground in shelters are the main habitat of the species [7]. Being predators, *S. rugifer,* along with the staphylinid *Haploglossa nidicola* (Fairmaire, 1852), act as regulators of the number of the bird parasites according to literature data [5].

Material:

Br, Km, Kamenets, abandoned sandpit, in *R. riparia* nests, 30.08.2003, 35 specimens.

Gm, Rg, Kisteni village, Dnieper River bank, in *R. riparia* nest, 08.08.2010, 3 specimens.

***Saprinus (Saprinus) semistriatus* (Scriba, 1790)**

Distribution: **E**: AL, AU, BH, BU, BY, CR, CT, CZ, DE, EN, FI, FR, GB, GE, GG, GR, HU, IR, IT, LA, LS, LT, NL, NR, NT, PL, PT, RO, SK, SP, ST, SV, SZ, UK, YU. **N**: CI, EG, MO, MR. **A**: AF, ES, FE, HEI, IN, IS.

In was found in the nests of Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris* Linnaeus) and Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus* Linnaeus). The nests of these birds belong to two types: nests located above the ground in shelters and nests located in buildings. According to the literature, *S. semistriatus* has been also recorded in Sand Martin nests (nests located on the ground in shelters) [24], but we think its occurrence in the nests of this type needs confirmation, since it is known as a common carrion-dwelling in open habitats and a misidentification seems to be possible [7; 24]. A low index of occurrence of *S. semistriatus* in bird nests located above the ground in shelters (0,8 %) and in nests located in men's buildings (4,5 %) indicates weak connection of this species with bird nests. A low index of occurrence intensity also proves this fact.

Material:

Br, Bn, Baranovichi, in *S. vulgaris* nest in nest box on apple tree (*Malus domestica* Borkh.),

5 m above the ground, 05.06.2009, 4 specimens (2 m, 2 f); same locality, in *F. tinnunculus* nest in niche of service floor in a multi-story building, 25.06.2009, 3 specimens (2 m,1 f); same locality, in *F. tinnunculus* nest, 25.06.2009, 1 specimen (1 m).

Genus *Gnathoncus* Jacquelin du Val, 1858

***Gnathoncus rotundatus* (Kugelann, 1792)**

Distribution: E: AR, AU, BE, BH, BY, CR, CT, CZ, DE, EN, FI, FR, GB, GE, GG, HU, IR, IT, LA, LT, NL, NR, NT, PL, PT, SK, SP, ST, SV, SZ, UK, YU. **N**: AG, CI, EG, MO, TU. **A**: AF, FE, GAN, IN, IS, JA, MG, TAI, TM, UZ. **AFR, NAR, NTR, ORR.**

We recorded this species in the nests of White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia* Linnaeus), domestic hen, Starling (*S. vulgaris*), Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea* Linnaeus), Hooded Crow (*Corvus corone cornix* Linnaeus), Rook (*Corvus frugilegus* Linnaeus) and Tree Sparrow (*P. montanus*). These bird species have nests of three types: open nests located above the ground or water, nests located above the ground in shelters, and nests located in buildings. According to the literature [1], *G. rotundatus* is the least specialized to bird nests among *Gnathoncus* species. This idea is supported by our low values of occurrence (from 1,5 to 3,1 %) and occurrence intensity (from 0,03 to 0,1) for it.

Material:

BR, Bn, Baranovichi, in *C. frugilegus* nest on Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior* Linnaeus), 10 m above the ground, 11.06.2007, 1 specimen; same locality, in two *C. frugilegus* nests, 20.06.2008, 3 specimens; Kuntsevichi village, in *S. vulgaris* nest in the nest box on Black Alder (*Alnus glutinosa* (Linnaeus), 8 m above the ground, 28.06.2008, 2 specimens; Volohva village, in nest of *C. ciconia* on the water tower, 01.07.2010, 1 specimen.

Bt, Tomashovka village, in *S. europaea* nest in hole in old Birch (*Betula pendula* Roth.), 2,5 m above the ground, 26.06.2004, 2 specimens.

Lch, Turki village, in *C. ciconia* nest on water tower, 01.08.2009, 10 specimens; same locality, in *P. montanus* nest in the wall of *C. ciconia* nest, 01.08.2009, 2 specimens (2 m).

Pn, Hoino village, 6 m above the ground, in *C. c. cornix* nest on Willow (*Salix sp.*), 14.06.2002, 1 specimen.

Pr, Ruzany, in chicken barn, 02.08.2004, 5 specimens.

GM, Pt, Bagrimovichi village, in *C. ciconia* nest on water tower, 09.09.2007, 1 specimen.

Rg, Sverzhen village, in *C. ciconia* nest on water tower, 07.08.2009, 4 specimens (3 m, 1 f); same locality, in *P. montanus* nest in the wall of *C. ciconia* nest, 07.08.2009, 2 specimens (1 m, 1 f).

***Gnathoncus nannetensis* (Marseul, 1862)**

Distribution: **E**: BY, CT, CZ, DE, EN, GE, HU, IR, IT, LT, MC, NL, NR, NT, PL, PT, SK, SP, ST, SV, SZ, UK. **N**: TU. **A**: FE, GUA, IN, IS, JA, KZ, MG, TM.

We recorded this species in the nests of Kestrel (*F. tinnunculus*), Ural Owl (*Strix uralensis* Pallas), Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus* Linnaeus), Tengmalm`s Owl (*A. funereus*), Starling (*S. vulgaris*) and Rook (*C. frugilegus*). Our results show that *G. nannetensis* is observed in the nests of three types: open nests located above the ground and in shelters, and nests located in buildings. Low values of occurrence of this species in the nests of different types (from 0,6 to 2,3 %) and occurrence intensity (from 0,009 to 0,02) indicate possible low level of *G. nannetensis* connections to bird nests.

Material:

BR, Bn, Baranovichi, in *F. tinnunculus* nest in niche of service floor in a multi-story building, 25.06.2009, 1 specimen (1 f); same locality, in *A. otus* nest on Spruce (*Picea abies* Linnaeus), 7 m above the ground, 11.06.2008, 2 specimens; same locality, in *C. frugilegus* nest on Ash (*F. excelsior*), 10 m above the ground, 20.06.2008, 1 specimen; Tartaki village, Rodnik locality, *S. vulgaris* nest in nest box on Pine (*Pinus silvestris* Linnaeus), 4,5 m above the ground, 29.07.2009, 2 specimens.

MN, Mi, Trostyanets village, in *A. funereus* nest in the old hole of *D. martius*, 20.05.1984, 1 specimen.

BT, BBR, Lp, 3 km SE from Kraitzy village, in *S. uralensis* nest in old nest of *A. gentilis*, 25.06.1987, 5 specimens; 3 km W Domzerizy village, in nest box, 22.06.1987, 1 specimen.

***Gnathoncus communis* (Marseul, 1862)**

Distribution: E: BE, BY, CT, CZ, DE, FI, FR, GB, GE, HU, IT, MA, NL, NR, NT, PL, SK, SP, SV, SZ, UK, YU. **N**: EG, TU. **A**: FE, JA. **AUR, NAR**.

The species was found in the nests of nine bird species: Black Stork (*C. nigra*), Lesser Spotted Eagle

(*A. pomarina*), Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco* Linnaeus), Middle Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos medium* Linnaeus), Nuthatch (*S. europaea*), Starling (*S. vulgaris*), Sand Martin (*R. riparia*), Great Tit (*Parus major* Linnaeus) and Tree Sparrow (*P. montanus*). The nest of the above mentioned bird species divide into three types: nests located on the ground in shelters, open nests located above the ground or water, and nests located above the ground in shelters. The analysis have shown that the highest occurrence of *G. communis* was observed in bird nests located above the ground in shelters (7,6 %), suggesting specialization of the species to the nests of this type. In bird nests located on the ground in shelters the occurrence index of *G. communis* was 3,3 %, but its presence in the nests seems to be an exception, what proves a low index of occurrence extensity and occurrence intensity (0,02 and 0,03, respectively). Open nests located above the ground and water also are not as the main habitat of this type species as it was suggested by low indices of occurrence, occurrence extensity and occurrence intensity.

Material:

BR, Bn, Ushkovichi village, in *A. pomarina* nest on Birch (*B. pendula*) in mixed forest, 12 m above the ground, 03.08.2008, 1 specimen; same locality, in *P. major* nest in nest box on Birch (*B. pendula*) in mixed forest, 3 m above the ground, 03.08.2008, 2 specimens; Tartaki village, Rodnik locality, *S. vulgaris* nest in nest box on Pine (*P. silvestris*), 4 m above the ground, 22.06.2008, 3 specimens; same locality, in *S. vulgaris* nest, 25.08.2009, 1 specimen (1 f); Lesnaya village, in *S. vulgaris* nest in told hole of *D. major* in Pine (*P. silvestris*), 6 m above the ground, 21.07.2009, 2 specimens (2 m).

Bt, Tomashovka village, 24.06.1985, 2 specimens, leg. V. Demianchik; same locality, in *S. europaea* nest in hole in old Birch (*B. pendula*), 2,5 m above the ground, 26.06.2004, 1 specimen; same locality, in *S. europaea* nest in nest box on Pine (*P. silvestris*), 4 m above the ground, 26.06.2004, 1 specimen; same locality, in *S. vulgaris* nest in nest box on Pine (*P. silvestris*), 4 m above the ground, 26.06.2004, 1 specimen.

Km, Kamenets, abandoned sand pit, in *R. riparia* nest, 30.08.2003, 1 specimen.

Lu, Mikashevichi, in *S. aluco* nest, 4 m above the ground, 10.06.2009, 1 specimen (1 m); same locality, in *D. medium* nest hole, 10.06.2009, 5 specimens (1 m, 4 f); same locality, of in *S. vulgaris* nest in old hole of *D. major*, 4 m above the ground, 10.06.2009, 7 specimens (4 m, 3 f); same locality, in *C. nigra* nest on Oak (*Quercus robur* Linnaeus), 6,9 m above the ground, 26.06.2010, 2 specimens (1 m, 1 f).

Lch, Turki village, in *P. montanus* nest in the wall of *C. ciconia* nest, 01.08.2009, 2 specimens (1 m, 1 f).

***Gnathoncus buyssoni* Auzat, 1917**

Distribution: **E**: BY, CT, CZ, DE, FI, FR, GB, GE, HU, IT, LT, MA, NL, NR, NT, PL, SK, SP, SV, SZ. **A**: ES, WS.

This is the most common species of the genus. It was recorded in the nests of 20 species of birds: Black Kite (*Milvus migrans* Boddaert), Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis* Linnaeus), Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus* Linnaeus), Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo* Linnaeus), Greater Spotted Eagle (*Aquila clanga* Pallas), domestic hen, Long-eared Owl (*A. otus*), Tawny Owl (*S. aluco*), Tengmalm's Owl (*A. funereus*), Swift (*Apus apus* Linnaeus), Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis* Linnaeus), Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus major* Linnaeus), Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus minor* Linnaeus), Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio* Linnaeus), Starling (*S. vulgaris*), Rook (*C. frugilegus*), Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca* Pallas), Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata* Pallas), Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris* Linnaeus), Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos* C.L. Brehm), Great Tit (*P. major*), Nuthatch (*S. europaea*), Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs* Linnaeus). According to the literature, it was also observed in the nests of birds of prey and fish-eating birds [1], and in the nests of Starling [23].

G. buyssoni was found in open nests located above the ground or water, nests located above the ground in shelters and nests located in buildings. The highest occurrence (35,9 %) of *G. buyssoni* was observed in the nests located above the ground in shelters indicating high preference of the species to this type of nests. The occurrence of this species in open nests located above the ground or water was 8,4 %. However, within this category, the occurrence index is five times higher (45 %) for the nests of raptors (Accipitriformes and Falconiformes). The reason for this high proportion seems to be related to the food availability, since in the nests of birds of prey in addition to one class of nest-dwelling Saprininae food items, mites, larvae and adult fleas and other bird parasites [7–10], a substantial amount of organic remnatns accumulates. These items (prey remnants and pellets) attract numerous

rofagous and saprofagous insects, whose larvae also serve as food for histerids. *G. buyssoni* use nests of the last two types as a place for pupation, judging the regular presence of teneral beetles pupae in the nests of these types.

BR, Bn, Baranovichi, in *C. frugilegus* nest on Ash (*F. excelsior*), 10 m above the ground, 06.2007, 3 specimens; same locality, in two *C. frugilegus* nests, 20.06.2008, 6 specimens; same ality, in *A. otus* nest on Spruce (*P. abies*), 7 m above the ground, 11.06.2008, 5 specimens; same ality, in *S. vulgaris* nest in nest box on Apple tree (*M. domestica*), 6 m above the ground, 14.06.2008, pecimen (1 m, im); Mir, in hen barn, 19.08.2007, 1 specimen; same locality, in *F. coelebs* nest in rch (*B. pendula*), 3 m above the ground, 04.06.2003, 1 specimen; same locality, in *A. nisus* nest in ıe (*P. silvestris*), 12 m above the ground, 02.07.2007, 13 specimens; same locality, in *F. coelebs* st on Birch (*B. pendula*), 3 m above the ground, 08.06.2003, 1 specimen; Mir, Gai Locality, *T. philomelos* nest on Spruce (*P. abies*), 4 m above the ground, 22.07.2004, 1 specimen; same cality, in *A. gentilis* nest on Birch (*B. pendula*), 12 m above the ground, 03.06.2009, 2 specimens; me locality, in *B. buteo* nest, 29.06.2010, 2 specimens; same locality, in *P. major* nest in nest box ı Pine (*P. silvestris*), 5,6 m above the ground, 03.06.2009, 2 specimens; same locality, in *P. major* st in nest box on Pine (*P. silvestris*), 6,6 m above the ground, 03.06.2009, 3 specimens (1 m, 2 f); ıme locality, in *P. major* nest in nest box on Pine (*P. silvestris*), 4 m above the ground, 14.07.2009, specimens (1 m, 5 f); same locality, in *P. major* nest in nest box on Pine (*P. silvestris*), 6,6 m above ıe ground,14.07.2009, 3 specimens; same locality, in *P. major* nest in nest box on Pine (*P. silvestris*), ,6 m above the ground, 22.07.2009, 3 specimens (1 m, 2 f); same locality, in *P. major* nest in nest ox on Pine (*P. silvestris*), 6,6 m above the ground, 26.05.2010, 1 specimen; same locality, in *P. major* ıest in nest box on Pine (*P. silvestris*), 4,6 m above the ground, 26.05.2010, 4 specimens (3 m, 1 f); ame locality, in *P. major* nest in nest box on Pine (*P. silvestris*), 5,6 m above the ground, 26.05.2010, ; specimens; same locality, Tartaki village, Lochozva River floodplain, in *A. gentilis* nest on Spruce *P. abies*), 7 m above the ground, 21.07.2009, 5 specimens; Tartaki village, Rodnik Locality, in *S. europaea* nest in nest box on Pine (*P. silvestris*), 4,5 m above the ground, 22.06.2008, 1 specimen; same locality, in *P. major* nest in nest box, 25.08.2007, 1 specimen; in *P. major* nest in nest box with five large nestlings, 02.07.2008, 2 specimens; same locality, in *P. major* nest, 02.07.2008, 5 specimens; same locality, in *P. major* nest, 22.08.2008, 7 specimens; same locality, in *P. major* nest, 29.07.2009, 4 specimens; same locality, in *P. major* nest, 25.08.2009, 2 specimens; same locality, in *S. vulgaris* nest, 22.06.2008, 3 specimens; same locality, in *S. vulgaris* nest, 22.06.2008, 1 specimen; same locality, in *S. vulgaris* nest, 22.06.2008, 1 specimen; same locality, in *S. vulgaris* nest, 29.07.2009, 1 specimen (1 f); in *S. vulgaris* nest, 29.07.2009, 2 specimens (2 f); same locality, in *S. vulgaris* nest, 25.08.2009, 5 specimens; Tartaki village, in *A. apus* nest in nest box, 4 m above the ground, 21.07.2009, 1 specimen; Ushkovichi village, in *F. hypoleuca* nest in nest box on Birch (*B. pendula*), 3 m above the ground, 03.08.2008, 1 specimen; same locality, in *P. major* nest, 03.08.2008, 3 specimens; Antonovo village, in *P. major* nest in nest box on Black Alder (*A. glutinosa*) in water, 1,8 m above the water surface, 30.07.2004, 2 specimens; same locality, in *S. vulgaris* nest in nest box on Birch (*B. pendula*), 6 m above the ground, 30.07.2004, 1 specimen; Kunzevichi village, in *S. vulgaris* nest in nest box on Black Alder (*A. glutinosa*), 8 m above the ground, 28.06.2008, 2 specimens; same locality, in *S. vulgaris* nest in nest box, 6 m above the ground, 28.06.2008, 14 specimens; Malaya Kolpenitsa village, in *S. vulgaris* nest in nest box, 8 m above the ground, 20.06.2009, 1 specimen (1 m); Domashevichi village, in *D. minor* nest in tree hole in old Willow (*Salix* sp.), 3 m above the ground, 25.07.2006, 1 specimen; Volochva village, flooded Black Alder (*A. glutinosa*) forest in Myshanka River floodplain, in *B. buteo* nest on Black Alder (*A. glutinosa*), 8 m above the ground, 07.06.2009, 3 specimens (2 m, 1 f); same locality, in *B. buteo* nest, 01.07.2010, 3 specimens; same locality, Sochivka Park, in *S. vulgaris* nest in nest box, 8 m above the ground, 28.08.2010, 1 specimen.

Bt, in *S. aluco* nest, 01.05.1986, 1 specimen, leg. V. Demianchik; Cherny village, in *F. coelebs* nest, 15.07.2003, 5 specimens; Brest, in *P. major* nest in nest box on Maple (*Acer platanoides* Linnaeus), 23.09.2003, 1 specimen; Tomashovka village, in *P. major* nest in nest box on Pine (*P. silvestris*), 4,5 m above the ground, 01.07.2003, 3 specimens; same locality, in *M. striata* nest in nest box with five large nestlings, 3,5 m above the ground, 01.07.2003, 18 specimens; same locality, in *S. vulgaris* nest in nest box on Pine (*P. silvestris*), 3,5 m above the ground, 26.06.2004, 5 specimens; same locality,

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in *S. vulgaris* nest in nest box, 3 m above the ground, 26.06.2004, 4 specimens.

Iv, Iv, in *S. aluco* nest, 20.06.1987, 1 specimen, leg. V. Demianchik; Vygonoshchanskoye Lake, in *P. major* nest in nest box on Black Alder (*A. glutinosa*), 5 m above the ground, 12.06.2003, 5 specimens;

Dr, Zvanez Nature Reserve, in *S. vulgaris* nest in tree hole in Oak (*Q. robur*), 4 m above the ground, 23.07.2008, 1 specimen.

Km, BP, Kamenyuki village, in *P. major* nest in nest box on Pine (*P. silvestris*), 3,5 m above the ground, 19.07.2008, 3 specimens; Maloe Selishche village, in *S. vulgaris* nest in tree hole in Apple tree (*M. domestica*), 0,6 m above the ground, 19.07.2008, 1 specimen.

Lu, Mikashevichi, oak forest in Sluch River floodplain, in *M. migrans* nest with three nestlings on Oak (*Q. robur*), 12 m above the ground, 10.06.2009, 1 specimen (1 f); same locality, in *D. major* nest in tree hole in Oak (*Q. robur*), 10.06.2009, 1 specimen (1 m); same locality, in *L. collurio* nest, 2,9 m above the ground, 10.06.2009, 2 specimens (2 f); same locality, in *L. collurio* nest, 10.06.2009, 1 specimen (1 f).

Lch, Litva village, in *F. hypoleuca* nest in nest box on Birch (*B. pendula*), 3,5 m above the ground, 18.06.2009, 1 specimen; same locality, in *P. major* nest in nest box on Pine (*P. silvestris*), 5 m above the ground, 23.07.2009, 2 specimens; same locality, in *P. major* nest in nest box on Black Alder (*A. glutinosa*), 4,5 m above the ground, 08.10.2010, 1 specimen; same locality, in *B. buteo* nest on Spruce (*P. abies*), 10 m above the ground, 18.06.2009, 3 specimens; in the same nest, 27.06.2010, 13 specimens; same locality, in *B. buteo* nest on Pine (*P. silvestris*), 9 m above the ground, 16.09.2009, 1 specimen (1 f); Chizhi village, in *S. vulgaris* nest in nest box on Birch (*B. pendula*), 5 m above the ground, 15.07.2009, 1 specimen (1 m, im); same locality, in *T. pilaris* nest on Elm (*Ulmus scabra* Mill.), 3 m above the ground, 08.07.2004, 3 specimens; same locality, in *T. pilaris* nest on Acacia (*Robinia pseudoacacia* Linnaeus), 3 m above the ground, 08.07.2004, 3 specimens.

Pn, Hvorosno village, in *S. aluco* nest, 24.06.1987, 1 specimen, leg. V. Demianchik; Prostyr Nature Reserve, Ostrov village, in *A. clanga* nest in swampy alder forest on Black Alder (*A. glutinosa*), 6 m above the ground, 25.07.2008, 1 specimen; same locality, in *A. clanga* nest in swampy alder forest on Willow (*Salix* sp.), 12 m above the ground, 25.07.2008, 2 specimens.

St, Olmanskie Swamps Nature Reserve, in *A. clanga* nest on Black Alder (*A. glutinosa*), 15 m above the ground, 27.07.2008, 1 specimen; in *A. clanga* nest in swampy alder forest on Pine (*P. silvestris*), 17 m above the ground, 27.07.2008, 1 specimen (1 m, im); in the same nest, 15.07.2010, 1 specimen.

MN, Mi, Trostyanets village, in *A. funereus* nest in old *D. martius* hole in Pine (*P. silvestris*), 25.05.1984, 6 specimens.

Sl, Sluzk, in *S. vulgaris* nest in nest box, 15.07.2009, 1 specimen (1 f).

Mya, Uzlyanka River, in *A. atthis* nest, 07.05.1984, 1 specimen, leg. V. Gritschik.

MG, Os, Slopische village, in *A. nisus* nest on Spruce (*P. abies*), 7 m above the ground, 13.08.2008, 4 specimens.

VT, BBR, Lp, 12 km SE Kraizi village, Uvyazok Locality, in *B. buteo* nest, 12.07.1987, 1 specimen; Savsky Bor village, in *B. buteo* nest, 18.07.1987, 2 specimens; 3 km SE Kraizy village, in *S. uralensis* nest in old nest of *A. gentilis*, 25.06.1987, 1 specimen; 3 km W Domzerizi village, nest box, 22.06.1987, 2 specimens; 2 km W from settlement Domzerizy, nest box, 14.08.1987, 1 specimen.

***Gnathoncus nidorum* Stockmann, 1957**

Distribution: E: AU, BY, CT, CZ, FI, FR, GE, IT (Sardinia), LT, NR, NT, PL, SK, SV, SZ. **A**: WS.

Material:

The species was found in the nests of Greater Spotted Eagle (*A. clanga*), domestic hen, Tawny (*S. aluco*) and Ural Owls (*S. uralensis*), Starling (*S. vulgaris*), Pied Flycatcher (*F. hypoleuca*), Great Tit (*P. major*), Nuthatch (*S. europaea*) and Chaffinch (*F. coelebs*).

G. nidorum was recorded in the nests of three types: open nests located above water or the ground, nests located above the ground in shelters and nests located in buildings. The values of index of occurrence (9,2 %), occurrence extensity (0,17) and occurrence intensity (0,25) in nests located above the ground in shelters suggest that this species in spite of its rarity shows high preference to the nests of these types, which was not identified for the nests of other types.

Material:

BR, Bn, Baranovichi, in hen barn, 01.06.2009, 2 specimens (1 f, im); Tartaki village, compartment Rodnik Locality, in *F. hypoleuca* nest in old *D. major* hole, 22.06.2008, 2 specimens; same locality, in *P. major* nest in old *D. major* hole, 25.08.2007, 10 specimens; same locality, in *P. major* nest, 25.08.2007, 4 specimens; same locality, in *S. europaea* nest in old *D. major* hole, 25.08.2007, 4 specimens; same locality, in *S. vulgaris* nest, 22.06.2008, 1 specimen; same locality, in *S. vulgaris*

nest, 22.06.2008, 3 specimens; same locality, in *S. vulgaris* nest, 22.06.2008, 1 specimen; same locality, in *P. major* nest, 29.07.2009, 1 specimen (1 m); Lesnaya village, in *F. hypoleuca* nest in old *D. major* hole, 4 m above the ground, 21.07.2009, 1 specimen (1 m); Kuntsevichi village, in *S. vulgaris* nest in nest box on Black Alder (*A. glutinosa*), 8 m above the ground, 28.06.2008, 1 specimen.

Bt, Tomashovka village, in *S. aluco* nest in tree hole in Pine (*P. silvestris*), 25.06.1985, 2 specimens, leg. V. Demianchik; Brest, in *P. major* nest in nest box, 23.09.2003, 1 specimen; Cherny village, in *F. coelebs* nest, 15.07.2003, 2 specimens.

Iv, Vygonoschanskoe Nature Reserve, Koziki village, in *A. clanga* nest in swampy alder forest on Black Alder (*A. glutinosa*), 18 m above the ground, 22.07.2008, 1 specimen.

Pn, Hvorosno village, in *S. aluco* nest, 24.06.1987, 2 specimens, leg. V. Demianchik.

Lu, Mikhashevichi, oak forest in Sluch River floodplain, flood plain oak-grove of river Sluch, in *S. vulgaris* nest in hole in Oak (*Q. robur*), 4 m above the ground, 10.06.2009, 5 specimens.

St, Olmanskie Swamps Nature Reserve, in *A. clanga* nest on Black Alder (*A. glutinosa*), 15 m above the ground, 27.07.2008, 1 specimen.

MN, Dz, 2 km N Aleksandrovo village, in *S. aluco* nest in the box on Ash (*F. excelsior*), 12 m above the ground, 24.09.2005, 5 specimens, leg. A. Pisanenko.

Ud, 2,5 km NW Telyakovo village, 2 km E Alehovka village, in *S. aluco* nest in nest box on Aspen (*Populus tremula* Linnaeus), 8 m above the ground, 25.09.2005, 1 specimen, leg. A. Pisanenko.

VT, BBR, Lp, Kvetcha village, in *S. aluco* nest in natural tree hole in Ash (*F. excelsior*), 08.07.1985, 2 specimens; 3 km SE Kraizy village, in *S. uralensis* nest in old nest of *A. gentilis*, 25.06.1987, 1 specimen.

Conclusion. During our surveys, seven species of Saprininae were found in Belarus. The highest presence (31,5 %) and the number of species (6) of saprininaes was recorded in nests located above the ground in shelters (tree holes, nest boxes, etc.). The highest occurrence (35,9 %) among all species was recorded for *G. buyssoni* in nests located above the ground in shelters, indicating high preference of this species to this type of nests.

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Статья содержит сведения по видовому составу жесткокрылых подсемейства Saprininae (Histeridae, Coleoptera), обитающих в гнездах птиц Беларуси. С 1984 по 2010 гг. изучены гнезда 120 видов птиц, в гнездах 32 видов отмечен 421 экземпляр 7 видов жесткокрылых подсемейства Saprininae. Жесткокрылые подсемейства Saprininae в гнездах птиц выступают основными регуляторами численности паразитов птиц. *G. buyssoni* окукливается в гнездах. Самая высокая заселенность (31,5 %) и число видов (6) жесткокрылых подсемейства Saprininae были отмечены в гнездах, расположенных над землей в укрытиях (дупла, дуплянки и т.д.). Наибольшая встречаемость (35,9 %) среди всех жесткокрылых подсемейства отмечена для *G. buyssoni* в гнездах, расположенных над землей в укрытиях, что указывает на высокую привязанность данного вида к этому типу гнезд.

Ключевые слова: гнезда, птицы, жесткокрылые, Saprininae, Histeridae, Беларусь.