

A new species of *Laricobius* (Coleoptera: Derodontidae) from Nepal

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A new species *Laricobius loebli* sp. n. from Nepal is described. Error concerning the sex of the holotype of *Laricobius schawalleri* Háva & Jelínek, 2000 is corrected. Key to the species of *Laricobius* from the Himalaya and China is provided.

Key-words: Coleoptera - Derodontidae - *Laricobius* - taxonomy - new species - China - Nepal.

INTRODUCTION

No representatives of the beetle family Derodontidae were previously known from southeastern part of the Palaearctic region. Recent discovery of two species of the genus *Laricobius* Rosenhauer, 1846 from the Himalaya and China (Háva & Jelínek 1999, 2000) drew attention to the family, so that additional specimens are gradually emerging from various collections. In the present paper a new species of *Laricobius* from Nepal is described along with a notice on a questionable female specimen from China, possibly conspecific with *Laricobius mirabilis* Háva & Jelínek, 1999. Key to the *Laricobius* species from the Himalaya and China is provided, too.

TAXONOMIC PART

Laricobius cf. *mirabilis* Háva & Jelínek, 1999

Material examined. China - Sichuan prov., Kangding distr., Mugezo lake, 4500m, 16-19.vii.1992, 1 female, R. Dunda lgt. Deposited in coll. J. Háva (Praha).

This examined female specimen, received from Mr. Radek Dunda (Praha), agrees in all external characters with *Laricobius mirabilis*, but differs from it by its colouration. It is black-brown with yellow elytra infuscate on the two outermost interstries and in the apical portion and with brown-yellow appendages, whilst all known specimens of *L. mirabilis* are concolorous, red-brown with brown-yellow appendages. The status of this specimen remains doubtful until a more extensive material can be studied.

Laricobius schawalleri Háva & Jelínek, 2000

The holotype of this Himalayan species is female, not a male as erroneously stated in the original description.

Laricobius loebli sp. n.

Figs 1, 4

Holotype, female: Nepal, Kathmandu distr., Phulcoki, 2500m, 28-29.IV.1984, Löbl - Smetana. Deposited in Muséum d'histoire naturelle, Genève.

Description. Length 2.4 mm, width 1.2 mm. Body ovate, convex, dorsum black, meso- and metasternum black, proximal abdominal sterna piceous, posterior ones becoming gradually brown. Antennae brown-yellow, fore legs brown-yellow, tips of femora black; middle and posterior femora black, corresponding tibiae yellow-brown and brown respectively. Pubescence of normal length, thin, light, semierect, inconspicuous.

Head somewhat transverse, eyes large, convex, finely faceted. Clypeus short, transversely convex, truncate anteriorly, finely densely punctulate, not separated from frons by any transverse impression. Frons flatly convex with irregularly dispersed large and deep punctures with diameter nearly equal to the width of antennal flagellum, at sides more widely separated transversely than longitudinally. Spaces between them finely punctulate, moderately shining. Antennae slender, somewhat shorter than the maximum width of pronotum (1.16 times as long as the width of head across eyes), antennomere III as long as wide, IV to VII longer than wide; loose three-segmented club occupying one third of the antennal length (Fig. 1).

Pronotum (Fig. 4) widest at its midlength and there 1.18 times wider than long (PL/PW 0.84), transversely convex, constricted behind anterior margin, small sharp anterior angles projecting laterally. Sides in median portion behind the constriction broadly and regularly outcurved. Posterior angles distinct, small, obtuse. Basal margin broadly arcuately outcurved posteriorly. Surface punctate like frons, but some of the punctures larger, with diameter nearly equal to the width of the second antennomere, separated mostly by less than one diameter. Spaces between punctures moderately shining, finely punctulate. Scutellum small, semicircular.

Elytra ovate, widest behind their midlength, 1.33 times longer than their combined width and 3.0 times longer than pronotum, simultaneously rounded at the apex. Base of elytra wider than pronotum, humeri rounded. Surface of elytra strongly transversely convex, shallowly transversely impressed behind one fourth of their length; lateral margins just visible simultaneously from above only in posterior half. Each elytron with scutellary striole and 10 complete striae. All striae canaliculate apically, punctures nearly equal in size to those of frons, within one stria separated by nearly one diameter. The first three complete striae (counted from suture) more deeply incised, with smaller and more widely spaced punctures in posterior half. Interstriae in anterior half nearly as wide as striae, moderately convex, sutural one somewhat raised behind scutellary striole. Interstriae as well as impunctate humeral bulge moderately shining, finely and sparsely punctulate.

Legs slender, pro- and mesotibiae nearly 7 times, metatibiae nearly 4.5 times longer than wide, fore and middle tarsi reaching about two thirds, hind ones about three fourths of the length of corresponding tibia. Tarsal claws simple.

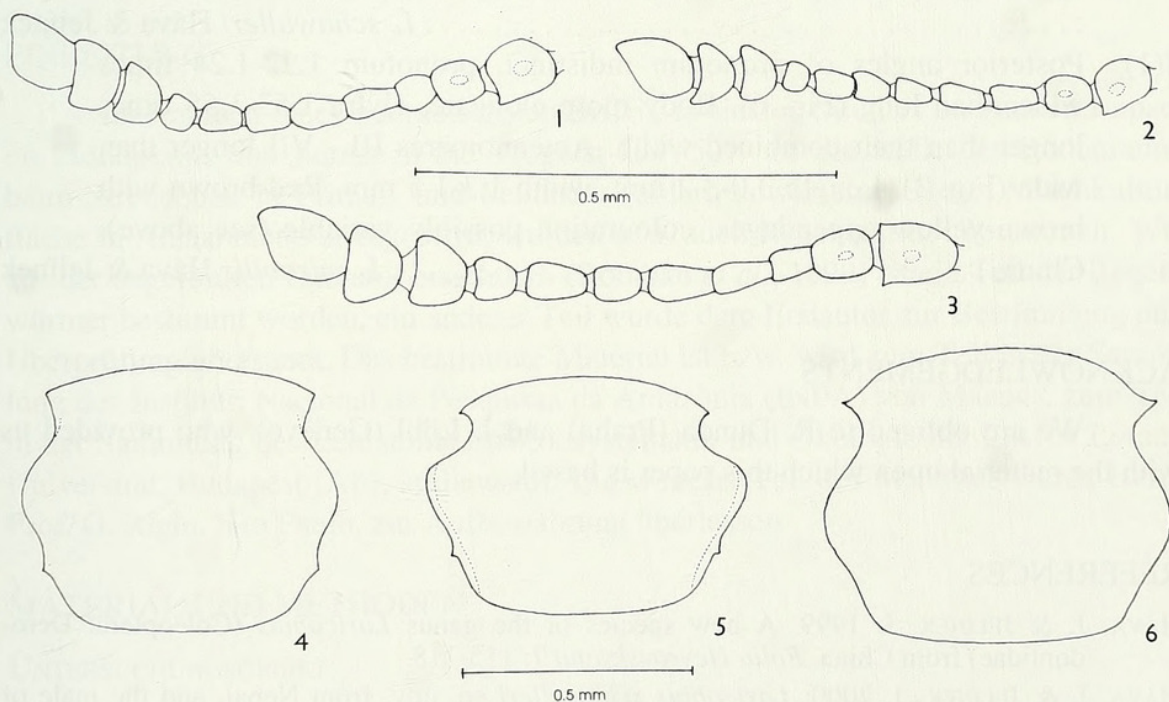
Mentum with pair of deep subtriangular impressions. Prosternum flat, in front of procoxae as short as the width of antennal flagellum, with finely bordered anterior margin and without distinct punctures. Prosternal process flat, somewhat dilated distad, truncate at the apex and there nearly as wide as the second antennomere. Hypomera flat with rather dense obsolete punctures. Mesosternum with flat, bluntly pointed impunctate yellow intercoxal process, in front of it with pair of fine raised edges diverging anteriorly on mesosternum proper and converging on prepectus, thus enclosing a shallowly concave, impunctate and strongly shining rhomboidal cell, besides it shallowly concave, smooth and shining with rather large shallow punctures. Metasternum broadly convex with deeply incised mediolongitudinal furrow all along its length, with fine punctures mostly separated by more than one diameter, between them smooth and shining. Hypopygium broadly rounded apically.

Male unknown.

Distribution: Nepal, Kathmandu district.

Etymology: We are pleased to dedicate the new species to one of collectors, Dr. Ivan Löbl.

Comments: *Laricobius loebli* sp. n. differs from the sympatric bicoloured species *L. schawalleri* Háva & Jelínek, 2000 by its unicoloured black elytra as well as by different shape and proportions of pronotum and antennae.



FIGS 1-6

Antennae (Figs 1-3) and pronota (Figs 4-6) in *Laricobius*; 1 and 4. *L. loebli* sp. n.; 2 and 5. *L. schawalleri* Háva & Jelínek; 3 and 6. *L. mirabilis* Háva & Jelínek. Scale bars = 0.5 mm in figs 1-3, = 0.5 mm in figs 4-6.

Distinguishing characters of all *Laricobius* species from southeastern part of the Palaearctic region are given in key below.

KEY TO THE *LARICOBIOUS* SPECIES FROM THE HIMALAYA AND CHINA

- 1(4) Pronotum with minute, but distinct, subrectangular to obtuse posterior angles. Body comparatively shorter, elytra less than 1.5 times longer than their combined width. Species from the Himalaya.
- 2(3) Pronotum comparatively narrow, 1.18 times wider than long. Lateral margins of pronotum regularly outcurved in median portion, equally converging both anteriorly and posteriorly (Fig. 4). Antennomere III as long as wide, IV 1.8 times longer than wide, following ones becoming gradually shorter, VII nearly 1.2 times longer than wide (Fig. 1). Elytra broadly ovate, 1.33 times longer than their combined width. Black, appendages brown-yellow, femora at least partly black. Length 2.4 mm, width 1.2 mm. Nepal *L. loebli* sp. n.
- 3(2) Pronotum distinctly transverse, 1.3 times wider than long. Lateral margins of pronotum asymmetrically outcurved in median portion, more strongly converging anteriorly than posteriorly (Fig. 3). Antennomeres III - V nearly twice as long as wide (Fig. 2). Elytra 1.44 times longer than their combined width. Brown-yellow, elytra black, suture behind the transverse impression and a subtriangular apical area brown-yellow; appendages brown-yellow. Length 2.3 mm, width 1.1 mm. Nepal *L. schawalleri* Háva & Jelínek
- 4(1) Posterior angles of pronotum indistinct, pronotum 1.22-1.24 times wider than long (Fig. 6). Body more elongate, elytra 1.53-1.55 times longer than their combined width. Antennomeres III - VII longer than wide (Fig. 3). Length 3.0-3.2 mm, width 1.3-1.5 mm. Red-brown with brown-yellow appendages, colouration possibly variable (see above). China. *L. mirabilis* Háva & Jelínek

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