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## **A new *Medon* species from Afghanistan (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae, Paederinae)**

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**A b s t r a c t :** *Medon reuteri* nov.sp. (East Afghanistan) of the *M. apicalis* group is described and illustrated.

**K e y w o r d s :** Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Paederinae, *Medon*, Palaearctic region, Afghanistan, taxonomy, new species.

### **Introduction**

According to a recent comprehensive revision by ASSING (2004a, 2004b, 2005, 2006, 2007a, 2007b, 2007c), the genus *Medon* STEPHENS is represented in the Western Palaearctic region by 56 species and subspecies and five nomina dubia; for a synonymic catalogue see ASSING (2005).

In material from Afghanistan, which was recently collected by Christoph Reuter (Hamburg), an undescribed species of the *Medon apicalis* group was found. The new species is the first representative of *Medon* reported from this country (see references above; SMETANA 2004) – not really a surprise, considering that the knowledge of the staphylinid fauna of Afghanistan is relatively poor.

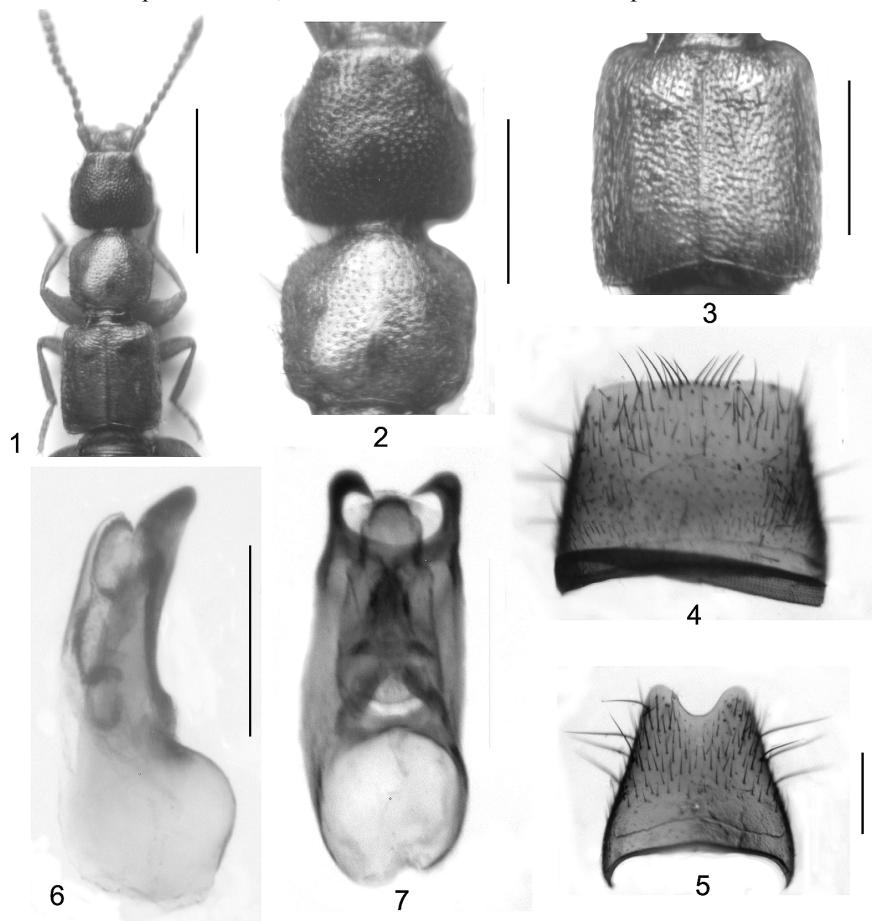
### ***Medon reuteri* nov.sp. (Figs 1-8)**

**H o l o t y p e** ♂: E-Afghanistan, Kunar, Chapa Dara, ca. 2000 m, 23.VII.2007, leg. C. Reuter / Holotypus ♂ *Medon reuteri* sp.n. det. B. Feldmann 2007 (author's private collection).

**D e s c r i p t i o n :** Forebody as in Fig. 1. Relatively small species, total length: 3.7 mm; length from anterior margin of clypeus to posterior apex of suture: 1.95 mm. Coloration: Head blackish; pronotum and elytra light reddish brown; abdomen dark brown, with the apex reddish brown; legs and antenna reddish yellow.

Head 0.96 times as long as wide (length measured from anterior margin of clypeus to posterior margin), of subquadrate shape; eyes moderately large (Fig. 2) and weakly projecting from lateral outline of head, about half the length of postocular region in dorsal view; microsculpture distinct, therefore integument matt; puncturation in lateral area coarse and dense with interstices distinctly shallower than diameter of punctures, in anterior and central dorsal area less dense with interstices partly wider than diameter of punctures (Fig. 2). Antennomeres of similar morphology as in other species of the *M. apicalis* group (Fig. 1).

Pronotum (Fig. 2) 1.05 times as wide as long and 0.96 times as wide as head; puncturation distinctly less coarse and dense than that of head, therefore with more shine; midline with narrow impunctate area; interstices with distinct microsculpture.



**Figs 1-7:** *Medon reuteri* nov.sp.: (1) forebody; (2) head and pronotum; (3) elytra; (4) male sternite VII; (5) male sternite VIII; (6) aedeagus in lateral view; (7) aedeagus in ventral view. Scale bars: 1: 1.0 mm; 2-3: 0.5 mm; 4-7: 0.2 mm.

Elytra 1.17 times as wide and at suture 1.14 times as long as pronotum (Fig. 1); surface relatively shiny; puncturation well defined, somewhat granulose (Fig. 3); microsculpture not visible. Hind wings fully developed. Legs of similar morphology as in other species of the *M. apicalis* group.

Abdomen with fine and relatively dense puncturation and microsculpture. Posterior margin of tergite VII with palisade fringe.

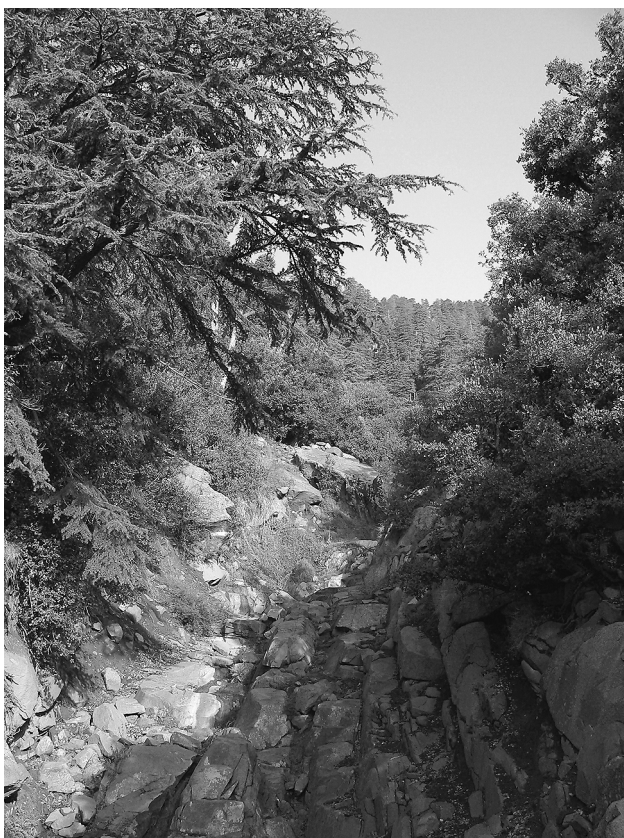
♂: posterior margin of sternite VII indistinctly bisinuate, without palisade setae, but with a row of long black stout setae (Fig. 4); posterior impression of sternite VIII relatively deep, U-shaped (Fig. 5); aedeagus (Figs 6-7) of distinctive shape, especially in ventral view.

**Comparative notes:** Based on the morphology of the aedeagus, as well as on the shape and chaetotaxy of the male sternite VII, the new species is a member of the *M. apicalis* group (sensu ASSING 2007).

The geographically closest representatives of the *M. apicalis* group are *M. maronitus* (SAULCY) (widespread from the eastern Mediterranean to Middle Asia) and *M. bucharicus* BERNHAUER (Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan) (ASSING 2005). From *M. maronitus*, the new species is distinguished by the broader body (especially the broader head), the coarser and less dense puncturation of the forebody, and by the shape of the aedeagus; for illustrations of the male primary and secondary sexual characters of *M. maronitus* see ASSING (2004a: Figs 4-7). From *M. bucharicus*, *M. reuteri* is separated by its broader head, the more pronounced puncturation of the pronotum, the slightly shorter antennae, and by the shape of the aedeagus; for illustrations of *M. bucharicus* see ASSING (2006: Figs 112-116).

For illustrations of the male primary and secondary sexual characters of the other species of the *M. apicalis* group from the western Palearctic region see ASSING (2004a, 2006).

**Etymology:** The species is dedicated to Christoph Reuter, who collected the holotype.



**Fig. 8:** Type locality of *Medon reuteri* nov.sp.

**Distribution and bionomics:** The type locality is situated in the Chapa Dara district (Kunar province), eastern Afghanistan, at an altitude of about 2000 m. The species was collected in July, close to a meltwater stream in a cedar wood (Fig. 8) (REUTER pers. comm.).

### Acknowledgements

I am much indebted to Volker Assing (Hannover) for the loan of material of *Medon maronitus* and *Medon bucharicus* from his collection and for critically proof-reading the manuscript. Special thanks are due to Christoph Reuter for the generous gift of the holotype and for providing the habitat photo.

### Zusammenfassung

*Medon reuteri* nov.sp. (Afghanistan) aus der *M. apicalis*-Gruppe wird beschrieben und abgebildet.

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