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# **A revision of *Nazeris* X. The first record of the genus from South Vietnam and additional records from Thailand (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Paederinae)**

Volker ASSING

**A b s t r a c t :** *Nazeris raptus* nov.sp. from South Vietnam is described and illustrated. This record is of special zoogeographic significance, as it is situated nearly 6.5 degrees of latitude farther south than the previous southernmost record of the genus as a whole, thus casting doubt on the previous classification of the distribution of *Nazeris* FAUVEL, 1873 as essentially South Palaearctic. Additional records of two species from Thailand are reported. An updated map illustrating the distribution of the genus as a whole is provided. Including the new species, *Nazeris* now includes 255 described species and seven subspecies

**K e y w o r d s :** Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Paederinae, *Nazeris*, Oriental region, South Vietnam, taxonomy, new species, zoogeography, distribution map.

## **Introduction**

According to ASSING (2017), the Palaearctic genus *Nazeris* FAUVEL, 1873 was represented by 250 species and seven subspecies, all of them micropterous and with more or less restricted distributions. Very recently, four additional species were described from China (HU & LI 2017). The distribution of the genus as a whole ranges from the Iberian Peninsula and Northwest Africa in the west across the southern Palaearctic region (sensu SCHÜLKE & SMETANA 2015) to Japan in the east. It is remarkably discontinuous, with pronounced gaps in South Europe, North Africa, Middle Asia, and the East Himalaya. For a map illustrating the previously known general distribution of the genus see ASSING (2014b).

The vast majority of the species has been recorded from the Himalaya, China, Taiwan, and Japan in the southern East Palaearctic. Merely nine described species have been discovered in the northern Oriental region, two in North Thailand and seven in North Vietnam. Only one of these species is distributed south of 20 degrees northern latitude, *N. siamensis* ROUGEMONT, 1988, an endemic of Doi Inthanon (Chiang Mai), North Thailand (approximately 18°33'N, 98°28'E). Since the border between the southern East Palaearctic and the Oriental region is a primarily vertical one and *Nazeris* species in North Thailand and North Vietnam are confined to altitudes above approximately 1900 and 1600 m, respectively, the distribution of the genus has been considered to be essentially South Palaearctic (ASSING 2014b).

In the light of what had been known about the zoogeography of *Nazeris*, the discovery of a species from South Vietnam in Staphylinidae material sent to me by Luca Bartolozzi (Museo di Zoologia, Università di Firenze, MZUF) is nothing less than a formidable surprise. The specimens were collected during expeditions in Vietnam in the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Vietnam National Museum of Nature, Hanoi, and MZUF.

### Material and methods

The material treated in this study is deposited in the following collections:

MZUF ..... Museo di Zoologia, Università di Firenze (L. Bartolozzi)

VNMN ..... Vietnam National Museum of Nature, Hanoi

cAss..... author's private collection

The morphological studies were conducted using a Stemi SV 11 microscope (Zeiss Germany) and a Jenalab compound microscope (Carl Zeiss Jena). The images were created using a digital camera (Nikon Coolpix 995) and a photographing device constructed by Arved Lompe (Nienburg) and CombineZ software. The map was created using Map-Creator 2.0 (primap) software.

Body length was measured from the anterior margin of the labrum to the abdominal apex, the length of the forebody from the anterior margin of the labrum to the posterior margin of the elytra, head length from the anterior margin of the frons to the posterior constriction of the head, elytral length at the suture from the apex of the scutellum to the posterior margin of the elytra (at the suture), and the length of the aedeagus from the apex of the ventral process to the base of the aedeagal capsule. The "parameral" side (i.e., the side where the sperm duct enters) is referred to as the ventral, the opposite side as the dorsal aspect.

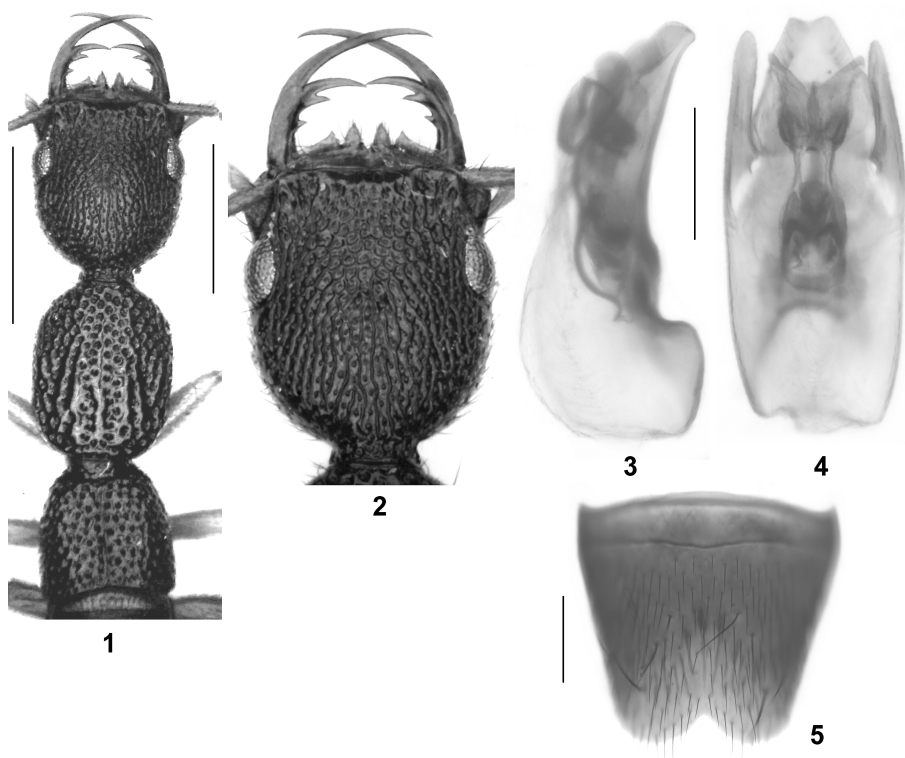
### Description and additional records

#### *Nazeris raptus* nov.sp. (Figs 1-5, Map 1)

**Type material:** Holotype ♂: "S VIETNAM: Lâm Đông Prov., Lạc Dulong Distr., Bidoup Nui Ba Natl Park, surr. Giang Ly Ranger Station (1420-1460 m a.s.l.) 16-21.VI.2015 / legit L. Bartolozzi, G. Chelazzi, S. Bambi, F. Fabiano, E. Orbach, V. Sbordoni (n. Magazzino 3023) / Holotypus ♂ *Nazeris raptus* sp.n. det. V. Assing 2017" (VNMN). Paratypes: 2 ♀ ♀: same data as holotype (MZUF, cAss) [paratype in MZUF registered as MZUF 18321].

**Etymology:** The specific epithet is the past participle of the Latin verb rapere (to abduct) and alludes to the fact that the type locality is situated far outside the previously known range of the genus.

**Description:** Body length 5.1-5.7 mm; length of forebody 2.8-3.0 mm. Coloration: body black; legs and antennae yellow.



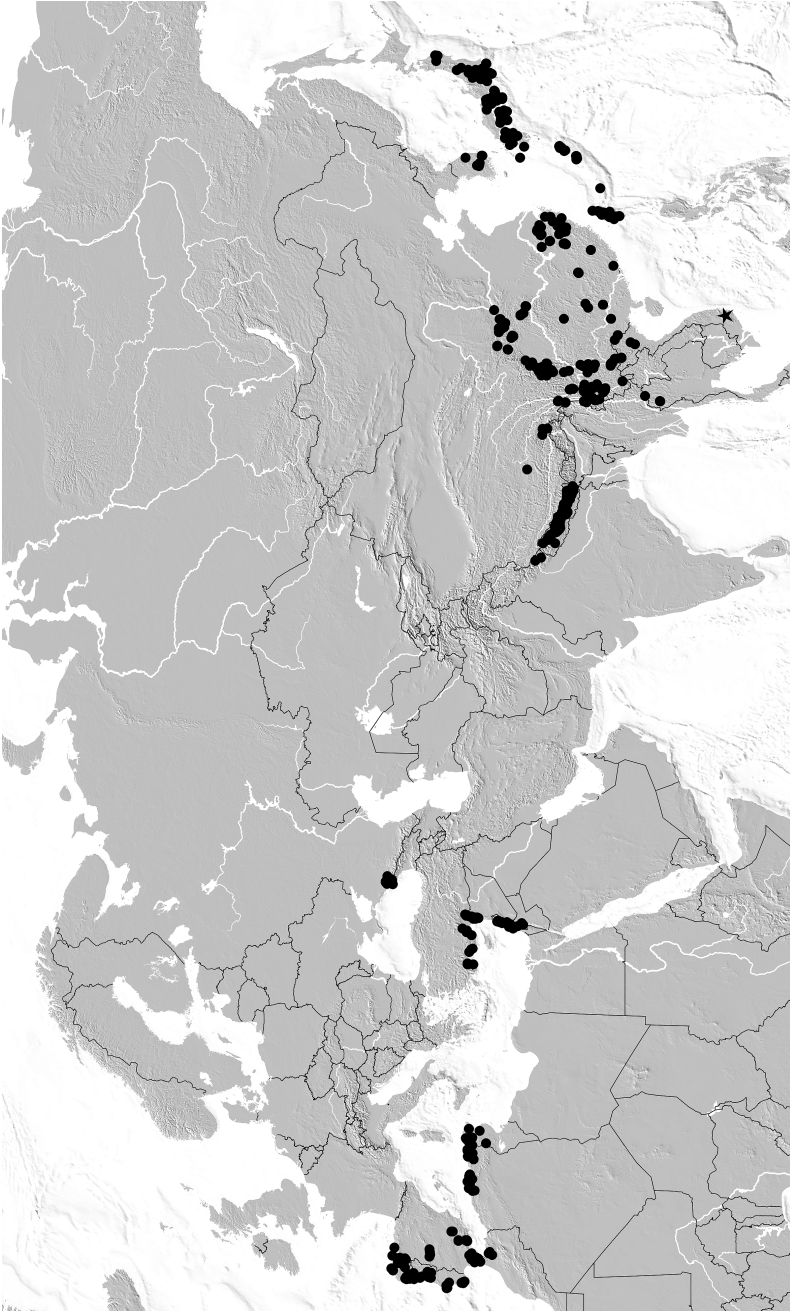
**Figs 1-5:** *Nazeris raptus* nov.sp.: (1) forebody; (2) head; (3-4) aedeagus in lateral and in ventral view; (5) male sternite VIII. Scale bars: 1: 1.0 mm; 2: 0.5 mm; 3-5: 0.2 mm.

Head (Figs 1-2) oblong, 1.03-1.05 times as long as broad; median portion of dorsal surface somewhat elevated; punctation dense, coarse, umbilicate, and partly confluent; interstices forming narrow ridges. Eyes less than one-third as long as distance from posterior margin of eye to posterior constriction of head.

Pronotum (Fig. 1) 1.23-1.27 times as long as broad and 0.91-0.92 times as broad as head; punctation very coarse, much coarser than that of head; midline with a narrow and somewhat elevated glossy band; postero-laterally with an irregular oblong glossy elevation on either side.

Elytra (Fig. 1) 0.52-0.54 times as long as pronotum; punctation coarse, dense, and deep, slightly less coarse than that of pronotum.

Abdomen broader than elytra; punctation very dense and distinct on tergites III-VI, finer and less dense on tergites VII and VIII; interstices without microsculpture; posterior margin of tergite VII with or without an indistinct rudiment of a palisade fringe.



**Map 1:** Pooled distribution of all described *Nazeris* species based on revised material and reliable literature records. Star: type locality of *N. raptus*.

♂: posterior margin of sternite VII weakly concave in the middle; sternite VIII (Fig. 5) weakly transverse, with dense and unmodified pubescence, posterior excision broadly and shallowly V-shaped, only 0.13 times as deep as length of sternite; aedeagus (Figs 3-4) 0.65 mm long; ventral process with broad and shallow V-shaped excision apically; dorso-lateral apophyses stout, straight, apically nearly extending to apex of ventral process.

**Comparative notes:** This species is characterized by coarse, umbilicate, and partly confluent punctation of the head, very coarse punctation of the pronotum, a very shallow posterior excision of the male sternite VIII, and particularly by the morphology of the aedeagus (dorso-lateral apophyses very stout and straight).

**Distribution and natural history:** The type locality is situated at about 12°08'N, 108°32'E in South Vietnam, at an altitude of approximately 1450 m. One of the paratypes is teneral.

**Comment:** Remarkably, the type locality of *N. raptus* is situated in the Oriental region, nearly 6.5 degrees of latitude farther south than that of *N. siamensis*, previously the southernmost representative of the genus (Map 1). This unexpected discovery casts doubt on the previous zoogeographic classification of *Nazeris* as essentially South Palaearctic.

### ***Nazeris siamensis* ROUGEMONT, 1988**

**Material examined:** Thailand: 1♂, Doi Inthanon, Kew Mae Pan, 18°33'N, 98°29'E, 2180 m, 14.XII.2013, leg. Ob (cAss); 2♂♂, 1♀, Doi Inthanon, 18°35'N, 98°29'E, 2530 m, moist leaf litter, 16.XII.2013, leg. Ob (cAss); 1♂, Doi Inthanon, Kew Mae Pan, 18°33'N, 98°29'E, 2210 m, primary cloud forest, dry litter sifted, 10.XII.2013, leg. Ob (cAss); 1♂, 1♀, Doi Inthanon, Kew Mae Pan, 18°33'N, 98°29'E, 2210 m, litter layer, 10.XII.2013, leg. Ob (cAss); 2♂♂, 4♀♀, Doi Inthanon, summit, 18°35'N, 98°29'E, 2530 m, along stream bank, 11.XII.2013, leg. Ob (cAss); 2♂♂, Doi Inthanon, summit, 18°35'N, 98°30'E, 2510 m, litter along stream with tree ferns, 16.I.2014, leg. Ob (cAss); 3♂♂, 3♀♀, Doi Inthanon, peat bog, 18°35'N, 98°29'E, 2440 m, litter in swampy area, 14.I.2014, leg. Ob (cAss).

**Comment:** Previously, only the type specimens from "Doi Inthanon 2500 m" were known (ROUGEMONT 1988). As can be inferred from the records above, *Nazeris siamensis* is not uncommon in Doi Inthanon. The altitudes range from 2180 to 2530 m.

### ***Nazeris bicuspis* ASSING, 2014**

**Material examined:** Thailand: 2♂♂, Doi Pha Hom Pok, Kiew Lom, 20°03'N, 99°09'E, 1935 m, primary evergreen forest, leaf litter sifted, 22.I.2014, leg. Ob (cAss).

**Comment:** The above specimens represent the first record since the original description, which is based on two type specimens from "Pha Hom Pok Mt., 1900-2200 m" (ASSING 2014a).

## **Acknowledgements**

I am indebted to Luca Bartolozzi (MZUF) for arranging the loan of the material of *Nazeris raptus*. Benedikt Feldmann (Münster) proof-read the manuscript.

## Zusammenfassung

*Nazeris raptus* nov.sp. aus Südvietnam wird beschrieben und abgebildet. Dieser Nachweis ist insofern von besonderer Bedeutung, als er die südliche Verbreitungsgrenze der Gattung um fast 6,5 Breitengrade weiter nach Süden verlagert und damit auch die bisherige Einordnung von *Nazeris* FAUVEL, 1873 als südpaläarktische Gattung in Frage stellt. Die derzeit bekannte Gesamtverbreitung von *Nazeris* wird anhand einer Karte illustriert. Weitere Nachweise der beiden aus Thailand bekannten *Nazeris*-Arten werden gemeldet. Die Gattung ist mit derzeit insgesamt 255 beschriebenen Arten und sieben Unterarten in der südlichen Paläarktis und in der nördlichen Orientalis verbreitet.

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