

Two New Species of Dytiscidae (Coleoptera) from Sri Lanka

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Abstract

Two new species of Dytiscidae are described from Sri Lanka. *Copelatus taprobanicus* has been compared with *C. brivioi* ROCCHI while *Sandracottus jaechi* is shown to differ from all other species of the genus by its black colour as against variegated with golden yellow elytral markings in other species.

Introduction

The extensive collection of aquatic coleoptera made by M. Jäch (Scheibbs, Austria) in 1980 in Sri Lanka has revealed at least two new species which are described below.

Copelatus taprobanicus n. sp.

Holotype ♂, Sri Lanka, Veligama, 15. xii. 1980, leg. M. Jäch, in coll. Wewalka.

This species belongs to *C. irinus* group with six dorsal striae and a submarginal stria on each elytron.

Length 5,8 mm., breadth 3,2 mm.

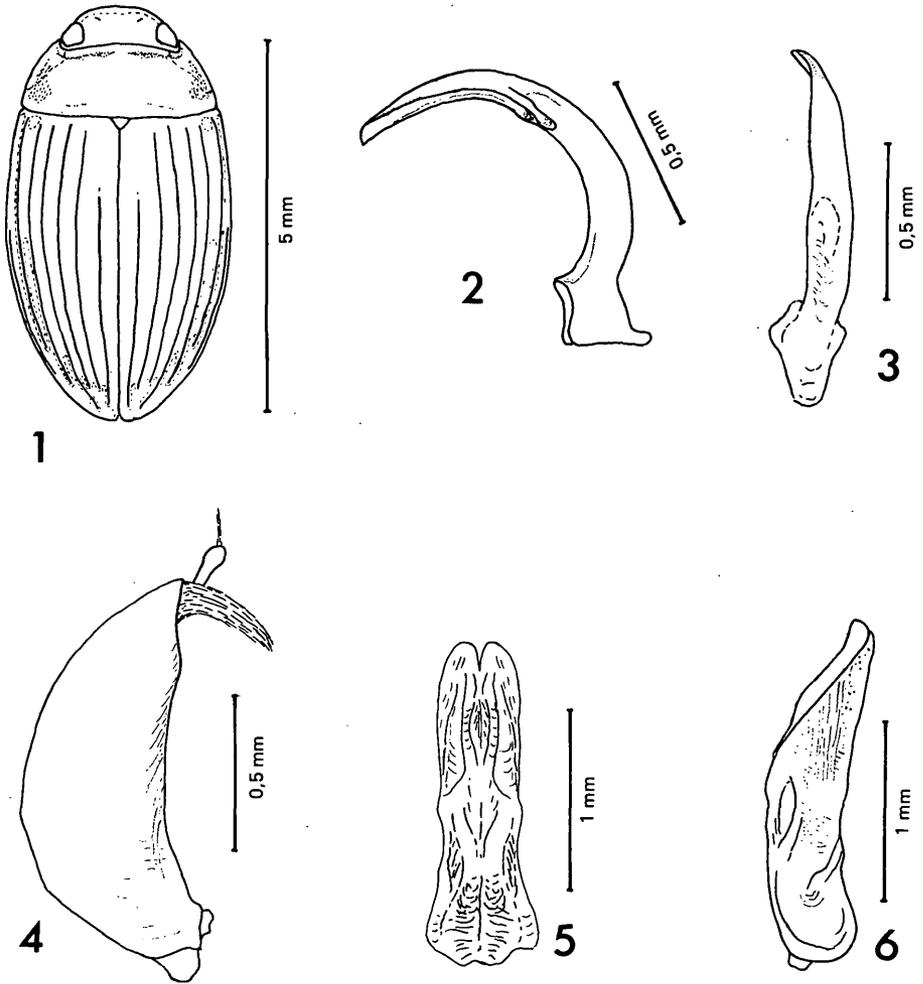
Form oval, moderately convex. Head black, clypeus reddish anteriorly; surface microreticulate; punctation moderate and quite regular. Pronotum black, at the anterior angles reddish; reticulation as on head; punctation less dense and stronger but more irregular than on head; row of punctures along anterior margin irregular and distinct, absent in a short area in middle; punctures along posterior margin almost absent; small strioles present near posterior angles. Elytra black with reddish markings between sixth dorsal stria and lateral margin as well as between fifth and sixth stria at the base and posterior half and also reddish at apices of elytra. Each elytron with six dorsal (stria 1 abridged for basal one fourth) and one submarginal striae moderately impressed, layed out as in figure 1; surface microreticulate as on head; punctation moderate, less dense than on head.

Ventral side black, except reddish head, prothorax and reddish brown antennae, palpi and legs; metacoxal lines short and moderately impressed; scratches on metacoxae scarcely and moderately impressed.

Male with basal three segments of protarsi and mesotarsi distinctly dilated, protibiae moderately curved at base and dilated. Penis (median lobe) (figs. 2, 3) strongly arched, slightly but uniformly narrowed from base to apex; parameres broad (fig. 4).

Female – unknown.

Comments: *C. taprobanicus* n. sp. comes near to *C. brivioi* ROCCHI in the revised key to species of *Copelatus* from Indian subregion (VAZIRANI and HOLMEN, in press) in having elytron with stria 1 abridged at base for at least $\frac{1}{5}$ of its length, but it differs from it



Copelatus taprobanicus n.sp., Holotype. 1 – outline, 2 – penis in lateral view.

3 – penis in ventral view, 4 – left paramere.

Sandracottus jaechi n.sp., Holotype. 5 – ventral view of penis, 6 – left paramere.

in male genitalic structure, the penis is more regularly arched and without any dorsal lobe. *C. taprobanicus* also comes near to *C. freudei* GUIGNOT and *C. indicus* SHARP in colour and in sculpture of the surface, but it is a little larger and broader; the dorsal striae are less impressed and the dorsal stria 1 is more abridged at the base; the metacoxal lines are shorter; the scratches on the metacoxae are less frequent than in *C. freudei*.

Sandracottus jaechi n.sp.

Holotype ♂, Sri Lanka, Nuwara Elyai, 1800 m. about 1930, leg. Frances, in coll. Wewalka. Paratypes: 2 ♀♀ with the same particulars as above. One ex. deposited in coll. Jäch, and the other ex. deposited in the British Museum (Natural History), London.

Length 14.4-15.0 mm., breadth 8.2-8.8 mm.

Body oval, somewhat broadened posteriorly behind the middle; black and shining. Head: punctation fine and sparse, surface microreticulate. Pronotum: punctation and reticulation less impressed than on head; sides not margined. Elytra: shining; inner line of normal series of punctures complete in anterior half, the other two rows of punctures incomplete; punctation fine and sparse; surface microreticulate.

Ventral surface black; prosternal process almost flat with its apex more or less rounded. Outer margin of metasternal wings curved. Hind tibial spurs bifid. Apical sternite of abdomen not notched in middle. Setae along posterior margin of middle femora sparse and about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the width of mesofemora at the base. Metacoxal lines short, not reaching apices of metacoxal processes.

Male: protarsi with 13 sucker pallettes, mesotarsi apparently without any sucker pallettes or pubescence. Male genitalia: penis (median lobe) dorsoventrally flattened (fig. 5), parameres similar to each other (fig. 6).

Female: protarsi and mesotarsi simple.

Comments: this species differs from all other known species of *Sandracottus* by its completely black colour, without any golden yellow markings on elytra. By the black colour and the form of body this species is also superficially similar to species of *Pleurodytes* from which it differs by the generic characteristics such as the form of metasternal wings, the bifid hind tibial spurs and the presence of hairs along the posterior border of the four basal segments of the hind tarsi.

Zusammenfassung

Zwei neue Arten von Dytiscidae werden von Sri Lanka beschrieben. *Copelatus taprobanicus* wird mit *C. brivioi* ROCCHI verglichen. *Sandracottus jaechi* unterscheidet sich von allen anderen Arten des Genus durch seine schwarze Färbung.

REFERENCES

VAZIRANI, T.G. and HOLMEN, M.: On a collection of Haliplidae, Noteridae and Dytiscidae from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka (Coleoptera). *Entomologica scand.* (in press).

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