

Synopsis of the genus *Hesperopalpus* SHIBATA, 1973 (Insecta: Coleoptera: Staphylinidae) with description of a new species from Vietnam

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Abstract

Some descriptive and systematic notes on the genus *Hesperopalpus* SHIBATA, 1973 (Staphylinidae: Staphylininae) are given and a new species is described: *Hesperopalpus vietnamensis* sp.n. A key to the species of *Hesperopalpus* is provided. The aedeagi of all species and some morphological details of the new species are figured.

Key words: Insecta, Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Staphylininae, Philonthina, *Hesperopalpus*, new species, key, systematics, taxonomy.

Zusammenfassung

Einige Ergänzungen und Berichtigungen zur Diagnose und systematischen Stellung der Gattung *Hesperopalpus* SHIBATA, 1973 (Staphylinidae: Staphylininae) werden angeführt. Im Zuge dieser Arbeit wird eine neue Art beschrieben: *Hesperopalpus vietnamensis* sp.n. Die Arten der Gattung werden in einem Schlüssel gegenübergestellt. Die männlichen Kopulationsorgane aller Arten sowie morphologische Details der neuen Art werden abgebildet.

Introduction

When SHIBATA (1973) described the genus *Hesperopalpus*, he provided a long and precise generic diagnosis, requiring only a few improvements and additions: 1) Elytra with conspicuously elevated suture. 2) First three visible tergites of abdomen with two basal lines; posterior basal lines more or less crenulate and vanishing before reaching lateral margin. 3) Last segment of labial palpi not only swollen, but even slightly securiform; terminal membranous area oblong and narrow. 4) The genus is not at all similar to *Hesperomimus* CAMERON, 1937, which Shibata obviously knew only from description. I am even doubtful about the close relationship with *Hesperus* FAUVEL, 1872 as the systematic position of *Hesperopalpus* within the subtribe Philonthina seems to be a rather isolated one. The revealment of new genera during the last few years (SCHILLHAMMER 1996b, 1998) has shown that the Asian staphylinid fauna is still very badly explored and that this fragmentary knowledge does not enable us at the moment to develop more than only vague ideas on the phylogeny of this group.

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Key to species of *Hesperopalpus*

- 1 First 3 visible segments of abdomen red..... *H. hesperiformis*
- All visible abdominal segments black or dark brown, rarely first visible tergite and paraterga of first 2 visible segments partly reddish-brown..... 2
- 2 Head brightly red, in color not differing from pronotum and elytra..... *H. venustus*
- Head black or black-brown, conspicuously darker than pronotum and elytra
..... *H. vietnamensis*

Hesperopalpus venustus SHIBATA, 1973

Hesperopalpus venustus SHIBATA, 1973: 25.

Material examined: 2 exx.: T A I W A N: NANTOU: near Lushan, 31.VII.1979, leg. Y. Shibata; Lushan Wenchuan, 4.VIII.1985, leg. Y. Shibata. Both specimens were donated by Y. Shibata to Coll. Naturhistorisches Museum Wien.

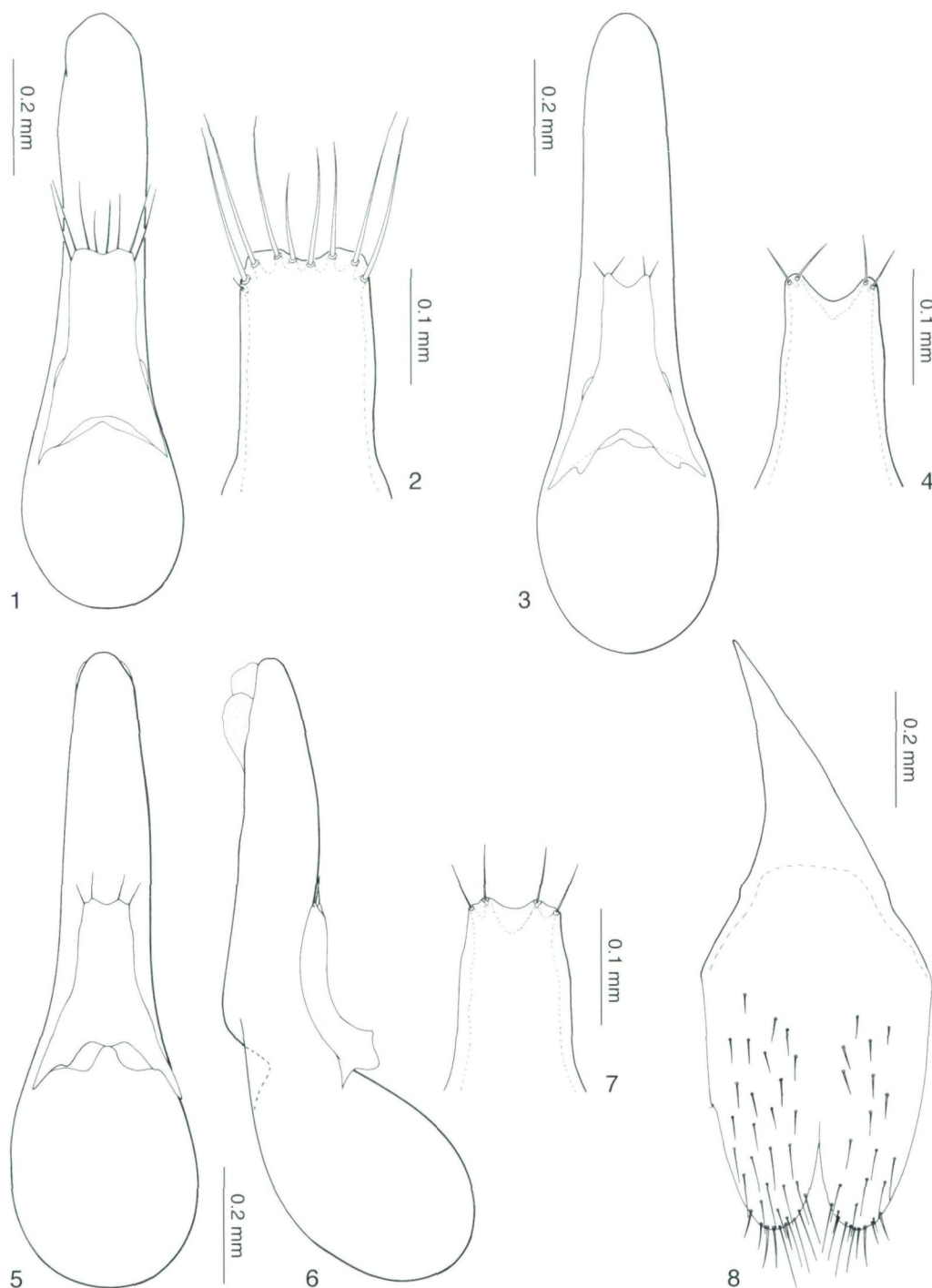
Type locality: Taiwan, Nantou Hsien, Koantauchi

Description: 9.0 - 9.5 mm (4.5 - 4.7, abdomen excluded). - Head, pronotum, thoracic sterna and elytra brightly orange-red, posterior margin of elytra somewhat paler; abdomen black, posterior margins and paraterga of first two visible tergites sometimes obscurely reddish; antennae black, three outer segments creamy white, base of segment 2 reddish; legs with femora dark brown, tibiae and tarsi pale yellowish, medial faces of middle and front tibiae slightly infuscate, tips of hind tibiae slightly obscured; male sternite IX and female tergite X pale yellowish-brown.

Head transversely oval to rounded quadrangular, 1.35 times as wide as long; eyes slightly protruding, 1.25 times as long as regularly convex tempora; tempora densely punctate, punctures arranged in irregular transverse rows, punctural grooves with more or less confluent posterior margins, forming crenulate ridges; punctate temporal areas hardly meeting medially; frons sparingly punctate, with two transverse rows of at least four punctures each; vertex with deltoid impunctate area; antennae rather short, segments 4 and 5 inconspicuously oblong, following segments gradually decreasing in length, penultimate segments slightly transverse; pronotum with almost regularly convex surface, 1.1 times as long as wide, widest in anterior third, slightly concavely narrowed toward base; disc moderately densely and strongly punctate, with impunctate midline; elytra almost quadrate, at shoulders longer than pronotum, but with very short suture, densely and coarsely punctate and setose, punctural grooves isolated; abdomen with first three visible tergites densely and coarsely punctate in anterior portion, punctuation restricted to basal depression and elevated area between two basal lines, second basal line therefore usually crenulate; tergites VI - VIII with large, longitudinal, posteriorly not bordered punctural grooves; anterior halves of all sternites furnished with similar grooves; sternites VI - VIII with numerous stiff, half-erect or erect setae on and before posterior margin; male sternite VIII with rather flat and narrow medio-apical notch.

Aedeagus (Fig. 3) small, with simple, rod-like median lobe; paramere (Fig. 4) short, flat, with emarginate apex, apico-lateral edges bearing two short setae each.

Distribution: Known only from the island of Taiwan.



Figs. 1 - 8: (1, 2) *Hesperopalpus hesperiformis*, (3, 4) *H. venustus*, (5 - 8) *H. vietnamensis* sp.n.; (1, 3, 5, 6) aedeagi, (2, 4, 7) parameres, (8) male sternite IX.

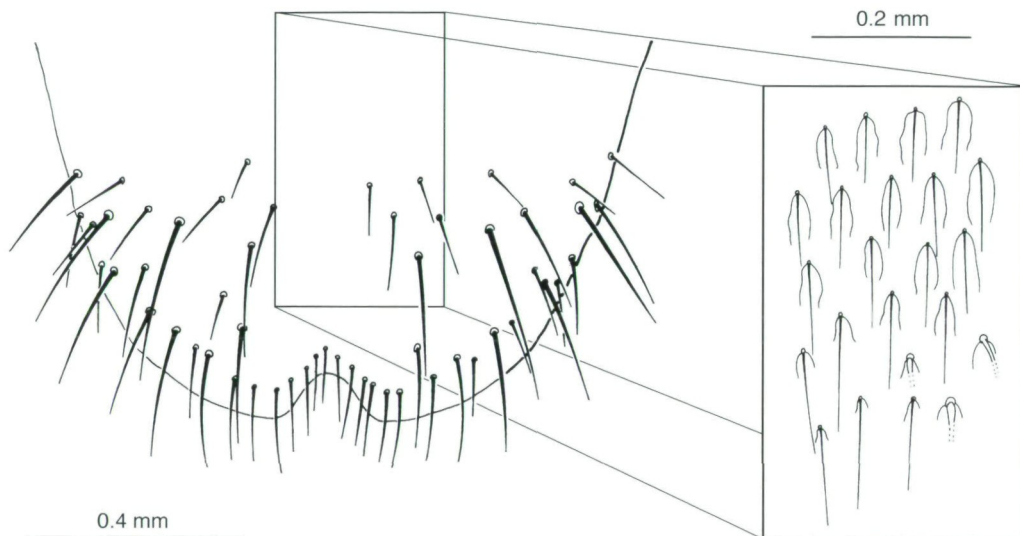


Fig. 9: *Hesperopalpus vietnamensis* sp.n., male sternite VIII with magnified portion showing ground pubescence.

Hesperopalpus vietnamensis sp.n.

Holotype ♂: "Vietnam, Taj Nguen, Bud Loij, 65km n. Ankche, A. Pokarzevskij lgt., 20.-30.12.80 trop. les" (Coll. Boháč, České Budějovice, Czech Republic); **Paratype** ♀: "Vietnam, 65 km n. Ankche, Tau Nguen, XII.79, A. Pokarzevskij lgt." (Coll. Naturhistorisches Museum Wien). **Note:** Most likely there are some incorrect spellings of the localities, but I was not able to obtain more detailed information on this matter.

Description: 8.5 - 9.0 mm (4.5). - Head black; neck, pronotum, elytra and thoracic sternum rufo-testaceous (somewhat darker in the holotype); abdomen black, paraterga and marginal portions of first two visible tergites to a various extent dark reddish; femora reddish-brown, distal third dark brown, tibiae and tarsi pale yellowish, apical portion of tibiae infuscate; antennae black, three outer segments creamy white.

In build very similar to *H. venustus*, but differing as follows: shape of head more trapezoid, tempora more straightly narrowed toward neck; eyes slightly smaller (1.13 times as long as tempora), punctuation of tempora stronger and denser, punctural grooves more conspicuously confluent; antennae slightly longer; pronotum inconspicuously wider, grooves of discal punctuation much larger, thus appearing distinctly denser; elytral punctuation much denser, punctural grooves to a large extent confluent; male sternite VIII (Fig. 9) with deeper medio-apical emargination. Male sternite IX: Fig. 8.

Aedeagus (Figs. 5, 6) similar to that of *H. venustus*, median lobe somewhat more slender; paramere (Fig. 7) with less deeply emarginate apex.

Distribution: Known only from the type locality in Vietnam.

Hesperopalpus hesperiformis* (CAMERON, 1932)Philonthus hesperiformis* CAMERON, 1932: 153.*Hesperopalpus hesperiformis*: SCHILLHAMMER 1996a: 83.

Material examined: I have studied the only two known specimens, the holotype (♀) and one additional ♂ (for locality data see SCHILLHAMMER 1996a: 83).

Type locality: India, Nilgiri Hills.

Description: 7.5 mm (4.3). - Head, pronotum and elytra reddish, elytra somewhat paler, meso- and metasternum darker reddish-brown; first three visible segments of abdomen reddish, remaining segments black, paraterga and base of tergite of fourth visible segment obscurely reddish; antennae black, three or four outer segments creamy white; femora reddish-testaceous, tibiae pale yellowish, medial faces of middle and hind tibiae reddish-testaceous, tips black; tarsi reddish, basal segments darker than rest.

Head trapezoid, 1.3 times as wide as long; tempora as long as eyes, distinctly and almost straightly narrowed toward neck; temporal punctation coarse and dense (as in *H. vietnamensis*), punctate areas broadly confluent postero-medially; antennae as in *H. vietnamensis*; pronotum 1.15 times as long as wide, less wide than in the other two species, discal punctures as fine as in *H. venustus* but more numerous; elytra slightly longer than in the other two species, punctation denser, but punctures for the most part isolated; punctation of abdomen as in the other two species; male sternite VIII with very flat, almost inconspicuous medio-apical emargination.

Aedeagus (Fig. 1) with median lobe somewhat more robust than in the other two species; paramere (Fig. 2) slightly larger, with flat medio-apical emargination, apical margin bearing eight comparatively long setae.

Distribution: Known only from southern India: Tamil Nadu, Nilgiri Hills.

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