

## Die Gattung *Stenosis* HERBST in Thailand (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae)

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### Abstract

*Stenosis palmi* is described from Thailand. Characters which distinguish this species from the second Thai *Stenosis*, *S. herberti* KULZER, and remarks on their distribution are given.

**Key words:** Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, *Stenosis*, Thailand, new species, taxonomy

### Introduction

The genus *Stenosis* HERBST is distributed from North Africa and southern Europe over the Middle East and Central Asia to India and Ceylon, and includes more than 130 species. Only three species are reported to occur east of the Indian subcontinent: *Stenosis caprai* KOCH and *S. sulcifrons* KASZAB from Burma, and *S. herberti* KULZER from Thailand. A more eastern distribution has only the very closely related genus *Gebeniella* which was erected by KOCH (1940). *Gebeniella* occurs from North-East India to the Philippines.

In the present paper a new species is described from Thailand.

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### *Stenosis palmi* sp.n.

**Holotype** ♂: Thailand, Pattaya, 28.11.79, leg. T. Palm; deposited in the Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm. **Paratypes**: 5 ♀♀ (same locality and same collector) in the collections of the authors.

**Length:** 4.5 - 5.5 mm. **Width (at elytra):** 1.4 - 1.5 mm.

**Colour:** Body reddish to dark brown, appendages reddish brown.

Head elongate (Fig. 1). Dorsally moderately convex, covered with rather coarse, dense, setiferous punctures which become finer towards the epistome. Bristles pale yellow. Clypeal impressions well developed, oblique. Genae rounded and little wider than eyes. Distance from posterior margin of head to posterior margin of eyes about 1.3 times longer than distance between anterior margin of eyes to anterior margin of head. Eyes not constricted by a temporal canthus posterolaterally, triangular in lateral view. Supraorbital edge without a row of ciliiform bristles. Postocular groove short, flat and indistinct. Antenna comparatively stout, not reaching pronotal base, with squarrose, golden yellow bristles. Antennomere III little longer than wide and little longer than antennomere IV. Antennomeres IV-VIII nearly as long as wide; antennomeres IX, X and XI little wider than long. Last antennomere only a little smaller than penultimate.

Pronotum slightly heart-shaped, 1.3 - 1.4 times longer than wide, about as wide and slightly longer than head; in the middle with a flat longitudinal impression. Punctures of same size and depth in this impression as on the pronotal sides, but setae conspicuously shorter in the

impression than on pronotal sides. Lateral margin of pronotum entirely distinct, slightly arcuate, lateral edge dorsally with densely arranged, short setae. Base truncate, posterior angles obtuse. Dorsal surface as that of head, with dense, subrugose, deep, coarse, setiferous punctures, deeper and denser than on head. Episternum coarsely and deeply punctured, punctures bearing very fine short setae.

Elytra elongate-oval, wider than head and pronotum, flattened on disc, but strongly arched laterally; lateral margin not visible in its full length in dorsal view. Base emarginate, shoulders distinctly produced. Scutellar striae present. Elytra with deeply impressed, complete rows of punctures and a row of whitish, comparatively short setae on alternate intervals. Punctures of striae dense and round, much smaller than those on head and pronotum, becoming deeper towards lateral margin and slightly finer on apical declivity. Alternate intervals wider than striae, flat on disc, becoming gradually narrower and more convex towards sides. Epipleura with a distinct row of punctures which is extended to apex.

Sternites moderately deeply punctured, bearing fine setae. Punctures becoming deeper at sides and on anal sternite.

Legs with short, yellow bristles. Tarsal segment I much shorter than segment IV. Posterior tibia of male with 3 - 5 minute, not very distinct spinulae on inner side.

Aedeagus (Fig. 2) regularly narrowed to apex, truncate.

According to the collector (pers. comm.) the beetles were obtained from pit fall traps (containing a solution of water and glycol) in a forest near the coast.

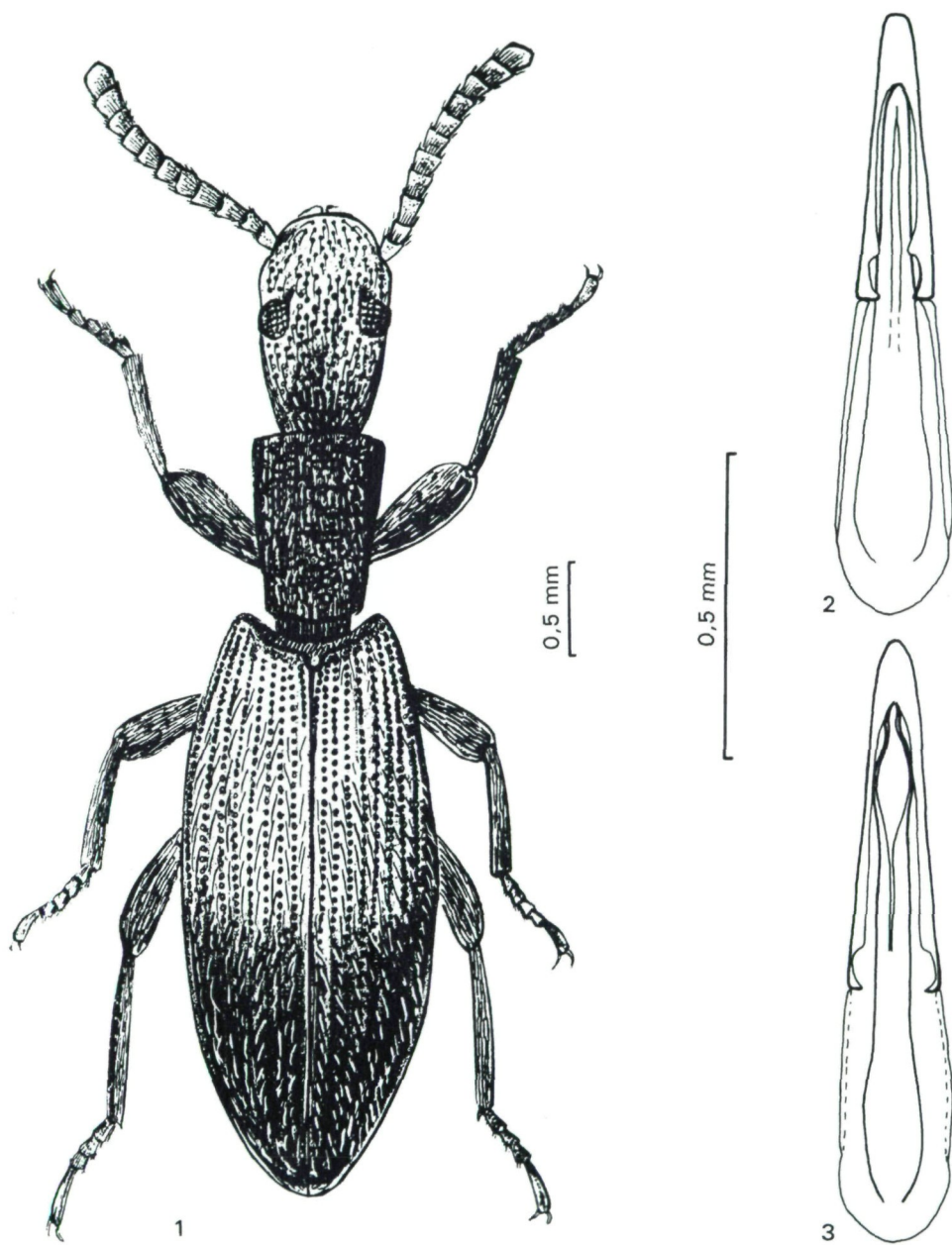
The species is dedicated to its discoverer, the late Dr. Thure Palm.

### Discussion

*Stenosis palmi* is probably closely related to *S. herberti*. The following characters distinguish these two species.

| <i>S. palmi</i>  | <i>S. herberti</i>  |
|--|---|
| Head comparatively flat.   | Head strongly arched.   |
| Pronotum heart-shaped.   | Pronotum evenly and regularly rounded.  |
| Pronotum with central impression which is nearly free of hairs; sides covered with long, stout hairs; punctures coarse and deep. | Pronotum without any impression in the middle, evenly covered with short thin hairs; punctures shallow. |
| Elytra convex, lateral margin not completely visible in dorsal view. Hairs stronger.   | Elytra flat, lateral margin completely visible in dorsal view. Hairs much thinner.                      |
| Epipleura with a long and distinct row of punctures.   | Epipleura without a distinct row of punctures.  |

The aedeagus of *S. herberti* (Fig. 3) is of the same ground plan as that of *S. palmi*, which, together with the general habitus, the structure of the head, the deep, coarse punctures of head and pronotum and the geographical distribution, indicates a close relationship between these species.



Figs. 1 - 2: *Stenosis palmi* sp.n.; 1) habitus, 2) aedeagus.

Fig. 3: *Stenosis herberti*, aedeagus.

In KASZAB'S (1981) key to Oriental *Stenosis*, *S. palmi* is close to *S. sulcifrons*. However, *S. sulcifrons* is well distinguished from *S. palmi* by a transverse groove on the frons, the heart-shaped pronotum, the pronotal groove and the carinate elytra. Furthermore, *S. sulcifrons* has a darker body, head and pronotum distinctly wider, and head, pronotum and elytra less pubescent. *Stenosis sulcifrons* belongs to a different species group.

### Distribution

*Stenosis herberti* is known from the Khwae Noi River in western Thailand and from Khon Kaen, northeastern Thailand. *Stenosis palmi* was described from Pattaya, 100 km SE of Bangkok.

### Zusammenfassung

*Stenosis palmi* sp.n. wird aus Thailand beschrieben und mit der zweiten thailändischen *Stenosis*-Art, *S. herberti*, verglichen.

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