

A new species of *Laccophilus* LEACH, 1815 from Vietnam (Coleoptera: Dytiscidae)

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Abstract

Laccophilus vietnamensis sp.n. is described from Vietnam. It is closely related to *L. decoratus* BOHEMAN, 1858 (Philippines) and *L. smithi* BRANCUCCI, 1983 (N Thailand). The new species is well characterized by its black dorsal surface with 8 bright yellow patches.

Key words: Coleoptera, Dytiscidae, *Laccophilus*, new species, Vietnam

Introduction

The Oriental species of *Laccophilus* LEACH were revised by BRANCUCCI (1983), who redescribed all the species then known and added several new ones. Extensive fieldwork in SE Asia conducted by several colleagues during the past decade produced a remarkable stock of *Laccophilus* specimens which are now chiefly housed in the Vienna Natural History Museum (NMW). This material includes numerous new distributional records and at least one species yet to be named. Review of the entire material will take years, but we here describe one new species from Vietnam which can readily be separated from all other known species of *Laccophilus*.

Laccophilus vietnamensis sp.n.

Holotype ♂: "S - Vietnam 28.- 30.4. 12 km N Da Lat, 1994 Lang Bian Pacholatko & Dembicky" (NMW).
Paratypes: 39 exs., same label data as holotype (NMW).

DIAGNOSIS: Measurements (N=15). Length 4.3 - 4.7 mm (holotype 4.4 mm); width 2.3 - 2.6 mm (holotype 2.5 mm).

Color (Fig. 1). Head black; becoming somewhat castaneous towards clypeus. Antenna and palpi reddish. Pronotum black; antero-laterally with a bright yellow spot on level of eyes on each side. Elytra black; with a bright yellow antero-discal patch on level of eyes; posteriorly with a transverse, latero-discal, brightly yellow patch (width of patch variable); apically with a yellowish spot. Epipleura and legs dark, castaneous. Venter black.

Sculpture. Dorsal surface sculpture composed of irregular polygonal meshes and micro-reticulation which is moderately deeply impressed. Elytron with a discal, a lateral and a sutural row of larger serial punctures. Dorsal surface otherwise with few smaller punctures only.

Male. Pro- and mesotarsomeres not dilated laterally. Median lobe (Fig. 3) broad at base and abruptly narrowing ventrally at level of half of the length of the median lobe, a denticle visible there; apical half half narrow and only slightly narrowing towards tip; tip blunt, dorsal angle acute but ventral angle gently rounded in lateral view. Parameres as in Fig. 2.

DISTRIBUTION: Known only from the type locality.

SYSTEMATIC POSITION: *Laccophilus vietnamensis* sp.n. is closely related to *L. decoratus* BOHEMAN, 1858 (Philippines) and *L. smithi* BRANCUCCI, 1983 (N Thailand). These three species

all possess a small denticle on the ventral margin of the median lobe (see BRANCUCCI 1983: Fig. 3 and Figs. 192, 193). Presence of such a denticle is deemed apomorphic suggesting monophyly of these species. Ventral margin of median lobe continuously curved is the plesiomorphic character state.

Laccophilus vietnamensis can easily be distinguished from all other known species of the genus by the coloration of the dorsal surface as depicted in Fig. 1.

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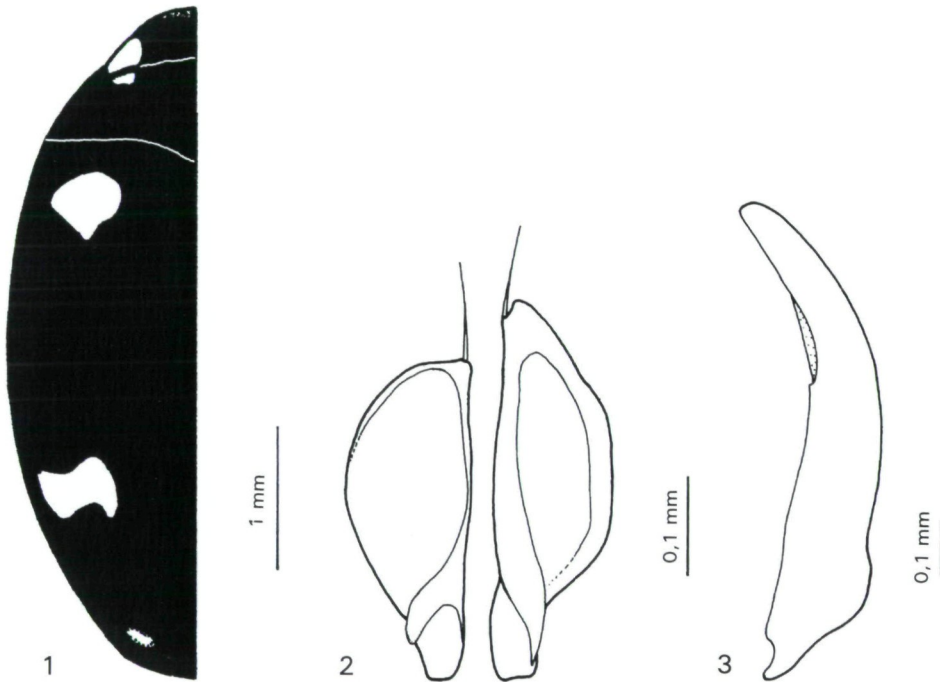


Fig. 1 - 3: *Laccophilus vietnamensis* sp.n., 1) habitus, 2) parameres, 3) median lobe.

Reference

BRANCUCCI, M. 1983: Révision des espèces est-paléarctiques, orientales et australiennes du genre *Laccophilus*. - Entomologische Arbeiten aus dem Museum Frey, Tutzing 31/32: 241-426.

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