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Three new species of *Laena* LATREILLE from Upper Burma (Myanmar) (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae)

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Abstract

Three new species of *Laena* LATREILLE, 1829 (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Lagriinae) from Upper Burma (Myanmar) are described (*L. kachinorum*, *L. putaica*, *L. reuteri*). These species were collected syntopically in a subalpine mature *Abies-Rhododendron*-forest in an altitude of 3500 m. An identification key for all five species of *Laena* known from Burma is compiled, the localities are mapped.

Key words: Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, Lagriinae, *Laena*, Burma, Myanmar, new species, identification key.

Introduction

As predicted in the most recent contribution about the genus *Laena* LATREILLE, 1829 (Tenebrionidae: Lagriinae) from continental southeastern Asia (SCHAWALLER 2006), every new sampling, particularly sifting, in as yet unexplored mountainous forests in this region yields new species of that genus. Recently, under difficult conditions, Christoph Reuter (Hamburg) was able to reach higher altitudes in northwestern Burma (Kachin State) and could collect three new species of *Laena*, which are described herein. Unfortunately, two of these species are represented by females only. However, it seems justified to describe these two species formally as new, because additional specimens from this remote area can hardly be expected to turn up in the near future. Furthermore, these species can be recognized by external characters easily. So far, only two species were known from other parts of Burma (SCHAWALLER 2006).

The species of *Laena* are wingless inhabitants of forests. They are usually restricted to small distributional areas in horizontal and vertical aspects. The three new species described herein were collected on the same day in a single locality, a mature subalpine *Abies-Rhododendron* forest. The bulk of *Laena* species occurs in various Chinese mountain ranges (SCHAWALLER 2001, 2008) and in the Himalayas (SCHAWALLER 2002). The adjacent parts of southeastern Asia (Thailand, Burma, W Malaysia, Laos and Vietnam) obviously harbours only a smaller number of species in isolated (and thus endangered) montane and lowland forests, none of these being conspecific with the Himalayan and Chinese species.

The cited papers of the present author contain discussions about the specific characters within the genus, identifications keys, distributional data and complete lists of references, not repeated in this contribution dedicated to the Burmese fauna.

Material and methods

NMW: Naturhistorisches Museum Wien

SMNS: Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart

¹ Contributions to Tenebrionidae, no. 73. – For no. 72 see: Annales Zoologici 58, 2008.

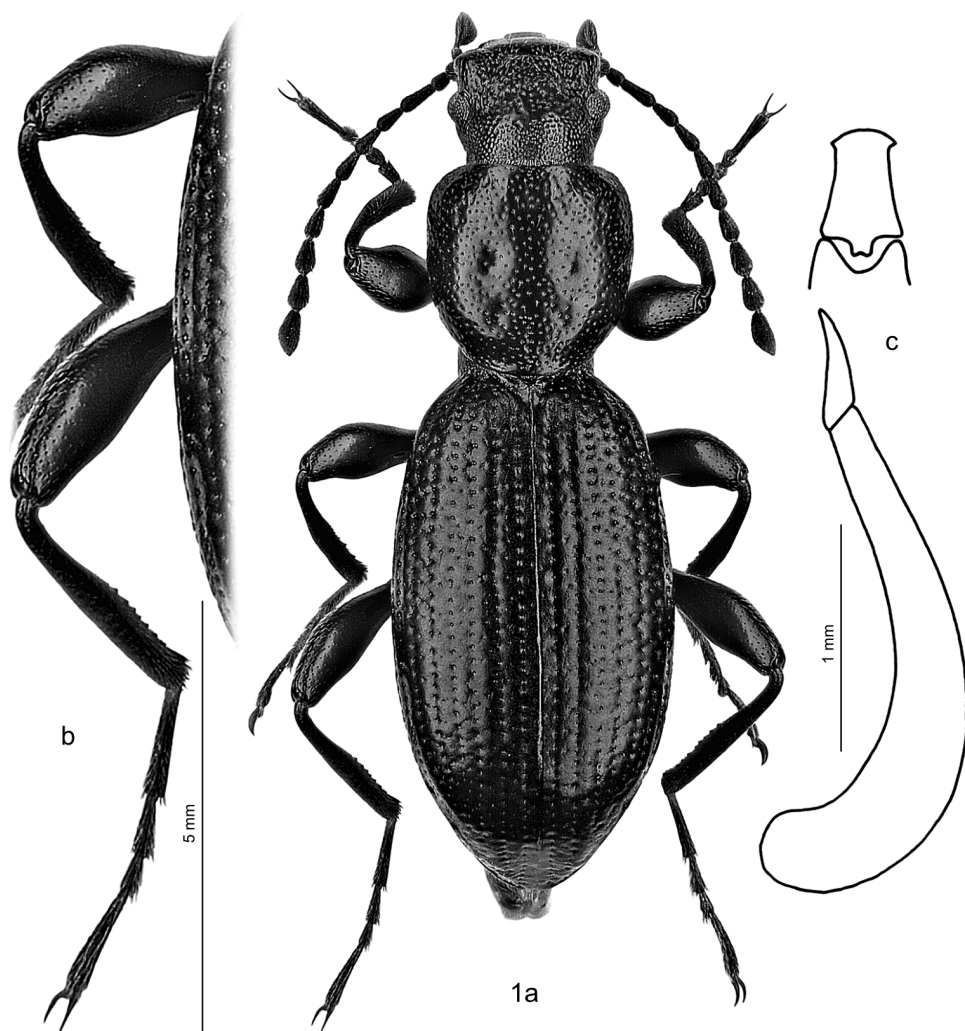


Fig. 1: *Laena kachinorum*, a) holotype, dorsal view, b) male meso- and metatibia, c) aedeagus.

The extracted aedeagus was mounted with a water-soluble glue on the same card as the corresponding male. Photographs were made by using a Leica DFC320 digital camera on a Leica MZ16 APO microscope. The digital photographs were subsequently processed by using Auto-Montage (Synchroscope) software.

The species of *Laena* from Burma

Laena bicolor SCHUSTER, 1926

TYPE LOCALITY: Central Burma, Mandalay Division, Ruby Mines.

***Laena kachinorum* sp.n.**

(Figs. 1, 4)

TYPE MATERIAL: **Holotype** ♂ (NMW): NW Burma, Kachin State, 30–50 km NW Putao, way to Mt. Hponkan Razi, 3500 m, 13.VIII.2006, leg. C. Reuter. **Paratypes**: 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (NMW), 1 ♂ (SMNS): Same data as holotype; 1 ♀ SMNS: NW Burma, Kachin State, 30–50 km NW Putao, 2200 m, 10.VIII.2006, leg. C. Reuter.

DIAGNOSIS: Recognized by the large body size with dull shagreened dorsal surface, by crenulated and marked, but unbordered lateral pronotal margin, by pronotum and elytra only with indistinct microsetae, by not prominent eyes, by completely unarmed femora, by male tibiae medially modified with spines, and by the aedeagus. See also identification key and figures.

DESCRIPTION: Body length 9.2–9.6 mm. Eyes not prominent. Pronotum (Fig. 1a) with fine punctures, separated by 2–7 diameters, punctures with indistinct microsetae; surface flat besides a pair of quite feeble impressions at disc, shagreened; lateral margin slightly crenulate and marked, but unbordered; propleurae with similar punctation and similar setation as on disc. Elytra (Fig. 1a) with rows of punctures without striae, punctures of rows as large as punctures on pronotum, punctures with indistinct microsetae; intervals with an irregular row of indistinct fine punctures bearing a similar microseta, interval 9 with three distinct setiferous pores; all intervals flat and shagreened. All femora without teeth, angles or other modifications. Sexual dimorphism of tibiae distinct (Fig. 1b): all tibiae of males medially with a row of distinct spines, absent in females. Aedeagus as in Fig. 1c.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honour of the human ethnic tribe Kachin, settling in the area where the type series was collected.

***Laena putaoica* sp.n.**

(Figs. 2, 4)

TYPE MATERIAL: **Holotype** ♀ (NMW): NW Burma, Kachin State, 30–50 km NW Putao, way to Mt. Hponkan Razi, 3500 m, 13.VIII.2006, leg. C. Reuter (right posterior leg missing). **Paratype**: 1 ♀ (SMNS): Same data as holotype (teneral).

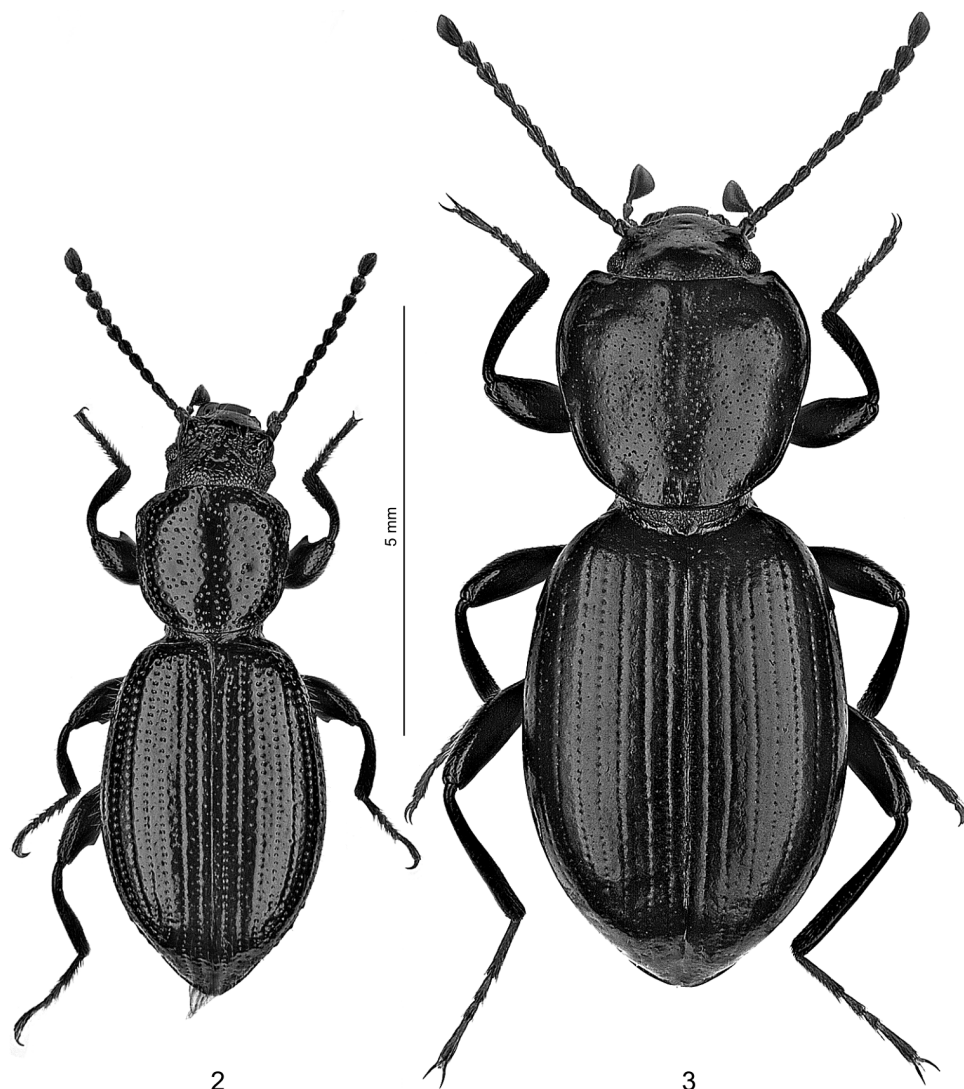
DIAGNOSIS: To be recognized by medium body size with shining dorsal surface, by bordered lateral margin of pronotum, by longer setation on pronotum and elytra (at least laterally), by not prominent eyes, by distinctly armed femora; aedeagus and other male characters unknown. See also identification key and figures.

DESCRIPTION: Body length 6.0–6.5 mm. Eyes not prominent. Pronotum (Fig. 2) with larger punctures, separated by 1–4 diameters, most punctures with longer erect setae, particularly laterally; surface flat and shining; lateral margin slightly crenulate and bordered; propleura with similar punctation and similar setation as on disc. Elytra (Fig. 2) with rows of punctures, without striae, punctures of rows as large as punctures on pronotum, punctures without seta; intervals with an irregular row of distinct punctures bearing mostly a longer erect seta, particularly laterally, interval 7 basally with one indistinct setiferous pore, interval 9 in the anterior third with one distinct setiferous pore; all intervals flat and shining. All femora each with a distinct and opposite indistinct angle. Sexual dimorphism of tibiae unknown.

ETYMOLOGY: Named after the village Putao, where the type series was collected.

***Laena kurbatovi* SCHAWALLER, 2006**

TYPE LOCALITY: N Burma, Chin State, Saw, 900–1500 m.



Figs. 2–3: 2) *Laena putaoica*, holotype, dorsal view, 3) *L. reuteri*, holotype, dorsal view.

***Laena reuteri* sp.n.**
(Figs. 3–4)

TYPE MATERIAL: **Holotype** ♀ (NMW): NW Burma, Kachin State, 30–50 km NW Putao, way to Mt. Hponkan Razi, 3500 m, 13.VIII.2006, leg. C. Reuter. **Paratype:** 1 ♀ (SMNS): Same data as holotype.

DIAGNOSIS: To be recognized by the large body size with dull shagreened dorsal surface, by bordered lateral margin of pronotum, by the shape of the pronotum widest in the anterior part, by lacking dorsal setation, by not prominent eyes, by completely unarmed femora; aedeagus and other male characters unknown. See also identification key and figures.

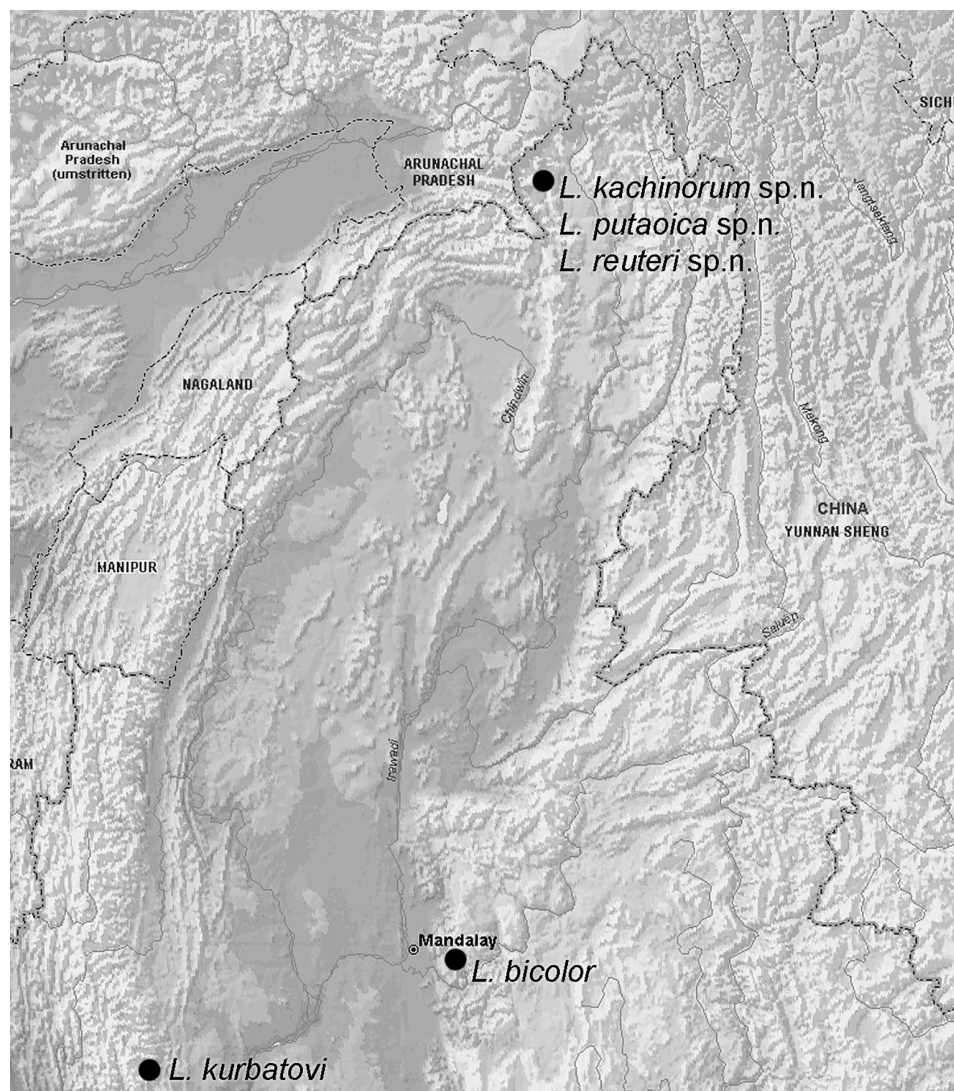


Fig. 4: Type localities of all known *Laena* species in Burma.

DESCRIPTION: Body length 8.3–8.7 mm. Eyes not prominent. Pronotum (Fig. 3) with fine punctures, separated by 3–7 diameters, only a few punctures in the anterior part with short adpressed setae; surface flat except for a pair of quite feeble impressions at disc, shagreened; lateral margin distinctly bordered; propleura without punctation and without setation. Elytra (Fig. 3) with rows of punctures with striae, punctures of rows as large as punctures on pronotum, punctures without setae; intervals with a few scattered, nearly invisible micropunctures without setae, interval 7 basally with one indistinct setiferous pore, interval 9 with five indistinct setiferous pores; all intervals flat and shagreened. All femora without teeth, angles or other modifications. Sexual dimorphism of tibiae unknown. Aedeagus unknown.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in honour of Christoph Reuter (Hamburg), collector of all three species described herein.

Key to species of *Laena* from Burma

- 1 All femora modified each with a distinct and opposite indistinct angle..... *putaica*
- All femora unmodified without angles or teeth 2
- 2 Lateral margin of pronotum unbordered or somewhat marked but not bordered 3
- Lateral margin of pronotum distinctly bordered 4
- 3 Body length 5.0 mm. Eyes prominent. Elytral intervals shining, with a few scattered large punctures, intervals convex. Male tibiae without modifications *bicolor*
- Body length 9.2–9.6 mm. Eyes not prominent. Elytral intervals shagreened, with an irregular row of indistinct fine punctures, intervals flat. Male tibiae medially modified with spines.....
..... *kachinorum*
- 4 Body length 8.3–8.7 mm. Pronotum widest near anterior angles. Dorsal side only with a few adpressed setae. Elytral intervals flat..... *reuteri*
- Body length 3.7 mm. Pronotum widest in the middle. Dorsal side with dense long and erect setation. Elytral intervals convex..... *kurbatovi*

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Dr. Harald Schillhammer (NMW) kindly offered me this valuable material for study and allowed to keep duplicates for the SMNS. Christoph Reuter (Hamburg) generously deposited several tenebrionids from his travels to remote Asian regions in the SMNS. Thanks are due also to Johannes Reibnitz (SMNS) for the photographs and the map.

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