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Heterocerus astoni sp.n. from Hong Kong (Coleoptera: Heteroceridae)

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Abstract

Heterocerus astoni sp.n. (Coleoptera: Heteroceridae) from Hong Kong is described and illustrated. *Heterocerus maindroni* GROUVELLE, 1903 and *H. virgatus* MAMITZA, 1933 are reported from Hong Kong for the first time.

Key words: Coleoptera, Heteroceridae, new species, new records, Hong Kong.

Introduction

The Heteroceridae fauna of Hong Kong is poorly known, being based on a single publication MASCAGNI (1995), which lists a single species: *Heterocerus nepalensis* MASCAGNI, 1993 (Tai Po Kau). A small series of Heteroceridae deposited in the Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, all collected from the same locality in Hong Kong by Paul Aston, contains a new species, which is described herein.

In addition, *Heterocerus maindroni* GROUVELLE, 1903 and *H. virgatus* MAMITZA, 1933 are reported from Hong Kong for the first time.

The following acronyms are used in the text to indicate the depository of the material examined:

CSU Coll. S. Skalický, Ústí nad Orlicí, Czech Republic
NMW Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Austria

Heterocerus astoni sp.n.

TYPE MATERIAL: **Holotype** ♂ (NMW): "HONG KONG: Lantau Wang Tong 10.IV.2008 leg. P. Aston (#10)". **Allotype** ♀ (NMW): "HONG KONG: Lantau Wang Tong 21.IV.2008 leg. P. Aston (#7)". **Paratypes**: 22 (11 ♂♂, 11 ♀♀) specimens, the same data as holotype, except: 1 ♂: "27.III.2008 (#11)" (NMW), 1 ♀: "27.III.2008 (#12)" (NMW), 1 ♂: "27.III.2008 (#13)" (CSU), 1 ♂: "27.III.2008 (#14)" (NMW), 1 ♀: "27.III.2008 (#15)" (NMW), 1 ♀: "10.IV.2008 (#6)" (NMW), 1 ♂: "10.IV.2008 (#7)" (NMW), 1 ♂: "10.IV.2008 (#8)" (NMW), 1 ♀: "10.IV.2008 (#9)" (CSU), 1 ♂: "10.IV.2008 (#11)" (NMW), 1 ♂: "10.IV.2008 (#12)" (CSU), 1 ♂: "10.IV.2008 (#13)" (NMW), 1 ♀: "21.IV.2008 (#4)" (NMW), 1 ♀: "21.IV.2008 (#5)" (NMW), 1 ♀: "21.IV.2008 (#6)" (NMW), 1 ♂: "21.IV.2008 (#8)" (NMW), 1 ♂: "2.V.2008 (#11)" (NMW), 1 ♀: "2.V.2008 (#12)" (NMW), 1 ♀: "2.V.2008 (#13)" (NMW), 1 ♀: "2.V.2008 (#14)" (NMW), 1 ♀: "2.V.2008 (#15)" (NMW), 1 ♂: "2.V.2008 (#16)" (NMW).

DESCRIPTION: Holotype ♂: Total length 4.00 mm (incl. labrum); elytra 2.50 mm long, 1.45 mm wide across shoulders. Ground colour pale brown, elytra and pronotum with dark brown pattern as in Fig. 1. Head dark brown, labrum black with light anterior margin. Scutellum black. Legs pale brown. Ventral surface brown, abdomen brown with pale brown border laterally. Labrum (Fig. 2) as wide as long, front margin pointed and finely serrate; surface finely granular, without larger intermixed punctures; setae coarse, semi-erect with intermixed longer erect setae. Mandibles (Fig. 3) short and robust, lateral margin with series of stout spines, dorsal sub-apical

tooth short, rounded. Prostheca densely and finely bristled, with notch in lateral margin, shape as in Fig. 3. Clypeus with pair of anterior horns, anterior margin deeply emarginate, with dense short pale setae intermixed with long erect ones. Surface finely granular. Head finely granular, with long erect setae above eyes. Antennae 10-segmented, with 7-segmented apical club, antennomeres 1 and 2 with sparse long erect setae. Pronotum 1.65 times as wide as long, slightly wider than base of elytra; pronotal base completely rimmed. Surface of pronotum finely granular without longer punctures, setae sparse, longer. Scutellum triangular, with acute apex. Each elytron with longitudinal furrow near suture, and other shallow tree furrows reaching first third of elytron. Elytra with scutellar depressions, humeral depressions shallow, extending obliquely almost to the mid length of elytra. Surface of elytra very finely granular with intermixed coarse granules approximately 1.2 times as large as eye facets; setae short, semi erect, yellowish and sparse. Epipleural ridge absent. Metaventricle with inexpressive post-mesocoxal ridge. Mesoventricle with five prominent spines in front of each mesocoxa. Post-metacoxal line absent. Stridulatory arch marked with sparse striae. Protibia with 10 stout spines along the lateral margin and two small caudo-apical spines; meso- and metatibia with uncertain number of thin spines. Spiculum gastrale 1.00 mm long; V-shaped as in Fig. 7, arms connected by membrane apically. Aedeagus 0.85 mm long, well sclerotized, parameres short, rounded, completely fused with basal piece, supporting sheath long and narrow. Median lobe with internal sac, without processus accessorius. Shape as in Figs. 4–6.

Allotype ♀: Total length 4.70 mm (incl. labrum); elytra 2.95 mm long, 1.75 mm wide across shoulders. Clypeus without pair of horns. Pronotum as wide as base of elytra.

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS: Due to the shape of its aedeagus (basal piece and parameres attached to each other, median lobe without projectable processus accessorius) and presence of clypeal horns in male specimens *H. astoni* belongs to the *H. bredoi* group sensu PACHECO (1965). The new species is partly similar to the Australian *H. flindersi* BLACKBURN, 1888, from which it differs in colour and shape of the elytra and pronotal pattern, and in the morphology of the male genitalia (compare CHARPENTIER (1967: Figs. 8, 48) and Figs. 1–5 in the present paper).

VARIABILITY: Size: length 4.00–4.95 mm (both sexes). Pattern in some paratypes less expressive. No other substantial morphological variability observed in the type series.

ETYMOLOGY: Dedicated to Paul Aston (Llanelli, Wales, UK), a long time resident of Hong Kong, who collected the type specimens.

***Heterocerus maindroni* GROUVELLE, 1903**

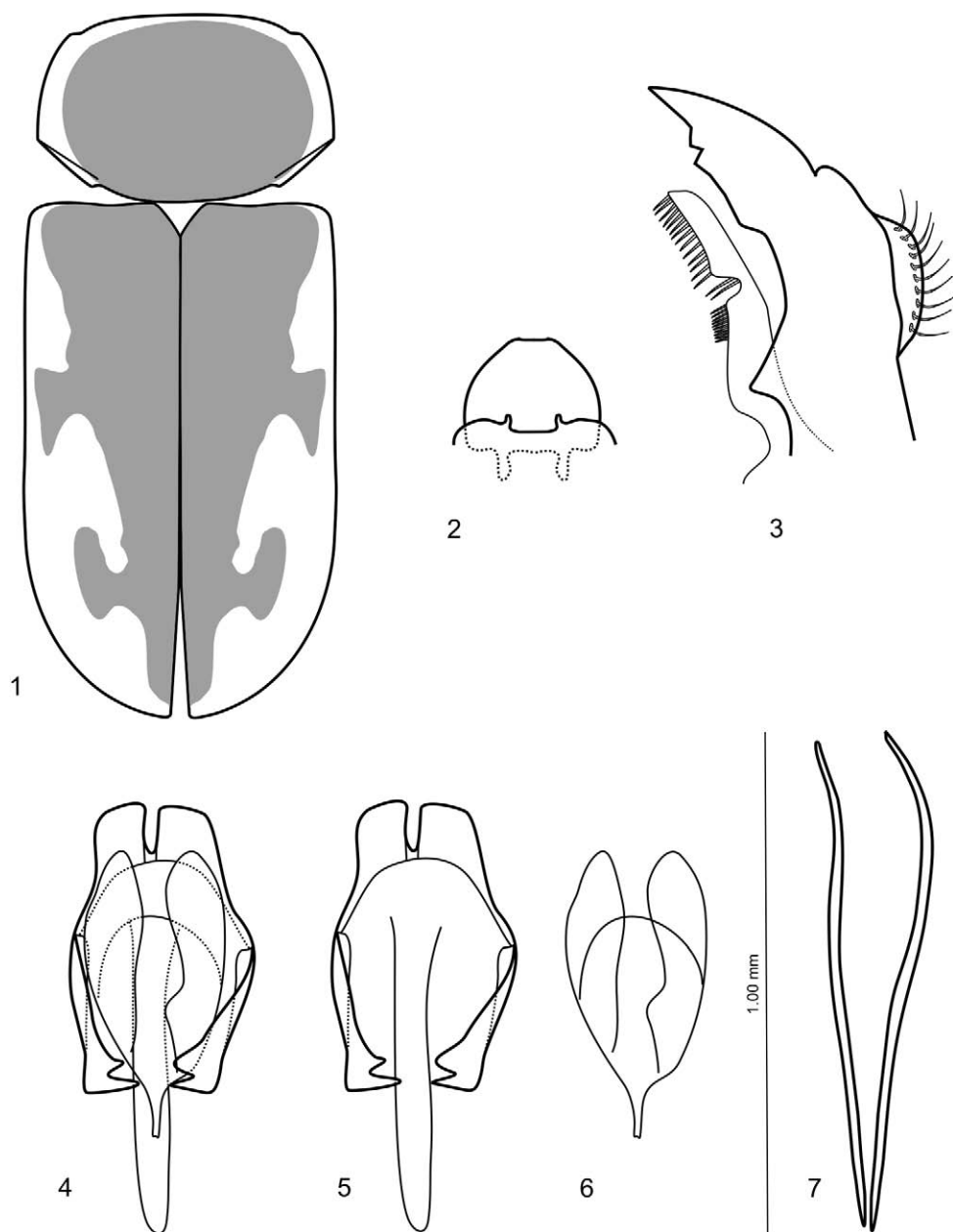
MATERIAL EXAMINED: 7 exs. (2 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀) labeled: “Hong Kong: New Ter. Fanling, Ma Wat, light trap 18.vi.2003 J. & M. Novak lgt” (CSU, ♂ NMW).

DISTRIBUTION: India, Sri Lanka (MASCAGNI & SFORZI 1999). Reported from Hong Kong for the first time.

***Heterocerus virgatus* MAMITZA, 1933**

MATERIAL EXAMINED: 11 exs. (6 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀) labeled: “Hong Kong: New Ter. Fanling, Ma Wat, light trap 18.vi.2003 J. & M. Novak lgt” (CSU, ♂, ♀ NMW).

DISTRIBUTION: China, India, Java, Myanmar, Nepal, Cambodia, Laos (SKALICKÝ 2005), Pakistan (SKALICKÝ 2008). Reported from Hong Kong for the first time.



Figs. 1–7: *Heterocerus astoni*, holotype: 1) pronotum and elytra, dorsal view; 2) labrum, dorsal view; 3) left mandible and prosthema, dorsal view; 4) aedeagus, dorsal view; 5) phallobase, dorsal view; 6) penis, dorsal view; 7) spiculum gastrale dorsal view. Figs. 1–3 not to scale.

***Heterocerus* sp. ♀**

MATERIAL EXAMINED: 1 ♀ labeled: "Hong Kong: New Ter. Fanling, Ma Wat, light trap 18.vi.2003 J. & M. Novak lgt" (CSU).

Most likely *H. fenestratus* THUNBERG, 1784, however without any male specimens not to be identified.

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