

Linzer biol. Beitr.	30/2	463-468	31.12.1998
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**New taxonomic and faunistic data on the genus *Cneocnemis* GEBIEN  
(Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae)  
with descriptions of two new species from Nepal**

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**A b s t r a c t :** New taxonomic and faunistic data are given for the genus *Cneocnemis* (Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, Ulomini) and specific characters (body shape and size, shape of male protibia and shape of aedeagus) are figured. New species from Nepal are described: *C. chetri* spec. nova and *C. newar* spec. nova. *C. recticollis* (PIC 1923) from Borneo and *C. sumatrensis* MASUMOTO 1985 from Sumatra are considered as junior synonyms of *C. haemorrhoea* (FAIRMAIRE 1893), described from Borneo. The genus is newly recorded also from Saudi Arabia.

**Key words :** Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, *Cneocnemis*, taxonomy, Nepal, Oriental.

### Introduction

The genus *Cneocnemis* (GEBIEN 1914, type species *C. haemorrhoea* FAIRMAIRE 1893 from Borneo) within the tenebrionid tribe Ulomini contains a couple of species in New Guinea, Sunda Islands, Taiwan, Japan and Burma, as well as in Saudi Arabia (new record). KASZAB (1939) presented a key for the separation of 4 species, using colour, body size and the structure of the male protibia. Newly collected specimens of this genus in the tropical lowlands of Nepal prove to be 2 new species and are described herein. I take the chance and add also new taxonomic and faunistic data of most of the known species.

The following characters are considered as specific in this genus: the body shape and size, the shape of the modified male protibia, the shape of the aedeagus and the existence or lacking of setation on the male mentum. Colour is of less value in this genus and reflects only the grade of sclerotization.

The species of *Cneocnemis* are forest dwellers and probably live together with their larvae in rotten wood like the species of *Uloma* and other genera of the tribe Ulomini. The adults have fully developed wings and are often attracted by light. In the Himalayas they seem to be restricted to tropical lowland habitats.

### Abbreviations

CAO.....Collection Dr. K. Ando, Osaka

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\* Contribution to Tenebrionidae, no. 23. For no. 22 see: Stuttgarter Beitr. Naturk. (A) 575, 1998.

CBH ..... Collection Prof. Dr. H. J. Bremer, Heidelberg  
 CGT ..... Collection Dr. R. Grimm, Tübingen  
 HNHM ..... Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest  
 MHNG ..... Muséum d'histoire naturelle, Genève  
 NKME ..... Naturkundemuseum, Erfurt  
 SMNS ..... Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart

### Treated species

#### *Cneocnemis chetri* spec. nova (Figs 1-3)

**H o l o t y p e** (♂): Nepal, Terai, Rampur, without date (Pa 380) leg. H. Franz, HNHM.

**D e s c r i p t i o n**: Body light castaneous, body shape see Fig. 1, length 4.7 mm. Head with equal punctation, distances between punctures equal to 0.5-2 diameters; clypeus distinctly separated and without punctation; labrum punctured as head; antenna with antennomere 3 1.5x as long as antennomere 2; male mentum without setation. Pronotum 1.2x wider than long, distal margin in the middle unbordered, basal margin finely bordered, lateral margin broadly bordered; surface somewhat sparser punctured than head, basal part with 2 distinct impressions; propleures with dense confluent punctation; metasternum with distinct medial longitudinal ridge, surface laterally and medially with equal punctation. Elytra 1.6x longer than wide, with 9 rows of punctures; intervals with fine punctation, intervals dorsally flat but somewhat convex laterally and distally, intervals 4 and 6 joined before apex and enclosing interval 5 which is not reaching the apex. Male protarsus dilatated; male protibia broad and of triangular shape, for shape see Fig. 2, lateral margin with irregularly inserted spines. For shape of the aedeagus see Fig. 3, basal piece bent and parameres straight in lateral view, joint parameres forming a long triangle in dorsal view.

**D i s c u s s i o n**: The species cannot be confused with other congeners because of the broad triangular male protibia and the shape of the aedeagus.

**D e r i v a t i o n o m i n i s**: Named after the Nepalese ethnic group Chetri, settling in the lower midlands.

#### *Cneocnemis haemorrhoea* (FAIRMAIRE 1893) (Figs 4-9)

*Cneocnemis recticollis* (PIC 1923) nov. syn.

*Cneocnemis sumatrensis* MASUMOTO 1985 nov. syn.

**M a t e r i a l**: Borneo, Brunei, without date, 1 ex. CBH. Borneo, Kalimantan, Air Putih river, 5 km below Gunung Palung NP, 1°13'S/110°6'E, at light on clearing in lowland forest, 17.VII.1993 leg. O. Merkl, 12 ex. HNHM, 3 ex. SMNS. Borneo, Sabah, Batu Punggul Resort, 24.VI.-I.VII.1996 leg. J. Kodada, 1 ex. SMNS. Borneo, Sabah, Mt. Kinabalu NP, Poring Hot Springs, 485 m, 14.-31.VIII.1988 leg. A. Smetana, 1 ex. MHNG. Borneo, Sabah, Tambunan, 15.-20.V.1987 leg. D. Burckhardt & I. Löbl, 1♂ MHNG. Borneo, Sabah, Sepilok, 5.-11.VIII.1983 leg. Y. Notsu & N Ohbayashi, 16 ex. CAO, 2 ex. SMNS. Borneo, Sabah, Tenomu, 26.IV.1984 leg. M. Nishikawa, 4 ex. CAO, 1 ex. SMNS. Borneo, Sabah, Crocker Range, NW Keningau, 1400 m, 2.-26.IV.1984 leg. S. Nagai, 1 ex. CAO. Sumatra, Bengkulu, 20 km S Muko Muko, 20 m, 16.VIII.1991 leg. D. Erber, 10 ex. SMNS. Thailand, Chumphon prov., Pha To, 9°48'N/98°47'E, 1.-20.III.1996 leg. K. Majer, 3♀ SMNS. S Thailand, Narativath, V.1983 leg. T. Pongpaew, 3 ex. CBH. Malaysia, Johor Rompin river, Kuala Rompin, 7.-8.V.1993 leg. Jenis & Strba, 15 ex. CBH.

**R e m a r k s :** Body proportions see Fig. 4 and 7, male protibia see Fig. 5 and 8, aedeagus see Fig. 6 and 9, body length 5.5-7.2 mm.

**S y n o n y m y :** *Cneocnemis recticollis* (PIC 1923) was described as *Alphitobius* and ascribed to *Cneocnemis* by KASZAB (1983) after study of the types. Materials in the HNHM identified by KASZAB either as *C. haemorrhoea* (larger specimens) or as *C. recticollis* (smaller specimens) show no distinct specific differences. The available longer series from Malaysia/Kuala Rompin and Malaysia/Sepilok show a certain infraspecific variability of the aedeagus connected with the body size: in larger specimens the parameres are somewhat broader (Fig. 6) than in smaller specimens (Fig. 9). Thus, *C. recticollis* (PIC 1923) is considered as junior synonym of *C. haemorrhoea* (FAIRMAIRE 1893).

When describing *C. sumatrensis*, MASUMOTO (1985) figured the male protibia and the aedeagus, and described the male mentum with dense setation. These characters, as well as the body proportions and the body length, are fully identical with those in *C. haemorrhoea*, described from Borneo. Additionally, my material from Sumatra at hands shows not a single distinct difference to material from Borneo. Thus, *C. sumatrensis* MASUMOTO 1985 is considered also as junior synonym of *C. haemorrhoea* (FAIRMAIRE 1893). MASUMOTO & MAKIHARA (1997) published photographs of both *C. haemorrhoea* and *C. sumatrensis*, showing also no specific differences.

**D i s t r i b u t i o n :** Borneo (type locality of both *C. haemorrhoea* and *C. recticollis*), Sumatra (MASUMOTO 1985 sub *C. sumatrensis*), Thailand (new record), Malaysia (new record), Vietnam (KASZAB 1980).

#### ***Cneocnemis indica* KASZAB 1939 (Figs 10-12)**

**M a t e r i a l :** Burma, Mandalay, 20.IX.1984 leg. D. Grohmann, 3 ex. SMNS. Thailand, Chiang Mai, 250 m, 13.I.1989 leg. J. Trautner & K. Geigenmüller, 1 ex. SMNS. Thailand, Chumphon prov., Pha To, 9°48'N/98°47'E, 1.-20.III.1996 leg. K. Majer, 3 ex. SMNS. Thailand, 170 km NW Bangkok, 3 km W Ban-Rai, 1.1992 leg. W. Thielen, 1 ex. CGT. NE Thailand, Khon Kaen, 25.V.1980 leg. S. Saowakontha, 1 ex. CBH. W Thailand, Kanchanaburi, 31.III.-1.IV.1994 leg. J. Horák, 1 ex. CBH. S Vietnam, Nam Cat Tien NP, 4.-11.V.1994 leg. J. Zacharda, 3 ex. CBH.

**R e m a r k s :** Body proportions see Fig. 10, male protibia see Fig. 11, aedeagus see Fig. 12, body length 4.0-5.0 mm.

**D i s t r i b u t i o n :** Burma (type locality), Thailand (new record), Vietnam (KASZAB 1980).

#### ***Cneocnemis laminipes* GEBIEN 1913**

**M a t e r i a l :** Taiwan, Kaohsiung, Shanping, 640 m, 1.-10.V.1988 leg. R. Davidson, C. Young & J. Rawlins, 1 ex. SMNS.

**R e m a r k s :** For the shape of the male protibia see GEBIEN (1913: Fig. 8).

**D i s t r i b u t i o n :** Taiwan, Japan (both type localities), Ryukyu Isl.

#### ***Cneocnemis newar* spec. nova (Figs 13-15)**

**H o l o t y p e (♂):** Nepal, Bheri zone, Nepalgunj, 200 m, 17.-20.VI.1995 leg. D. Ahrens & A. Pommerantz, NKME.

**P a r a t y p e :** Same data as holotype, 1♂ SMNS.

**D e s c r i p t i o n :** Body castaneous, body shape see Fig. 13, length 2.3-2.4 mm. Head with equal punctation, distances between punctures equal to 1-3 diameters; clypeus not separated; labrum punctured as head; antenna with antennomere 3 only shortly longer than antennomere 2; male mentum without setation. Pronotum 1.25x wider than long, basal margin totally and distal margin in the middle unbordered, lateral margin broadly bordered; surface somewhat sparser punctured as head, basal part without distinct impressions; propleures with dense punctation; metasternum with distinct medial longitudinal ridge, equally punctured as pronotum. Elytra 1.6x longer than wide, with 8 rows of punctures; intervals with few punctures forming an irregular row, intervals dorsally flat but somewhat convex laterally and distally, intervals 4 and 6 joined before apex and enclosing interval 5 which is not reaching the apex. Male protarsus not dilatated; male protibia narrow, for shape see Fig. 14, lateral margin with irregularly inserted spines. For shape of the aedeagus see Fig. 15, basal piece somewhat bent, parameres feebly sinuated in lateral view, joint parameres triangular in dorsal view and nearly as long as basal piece.

**D i s c u s s i o n :** This species can be recognized within the genus immediately by its relatively small body size (below 3 mm), by the shape of the male protibia and by the shape of the aedeagus with the joint triangular parameres nearly as long as the basal piece.

**D e r i v a t i o n o m i n i s :** Named after the Nepalese ethnic group Newar settling in the Kathmandu valley.

#### ***Cneocnemis tenuipes* GEBIEN 1922**

**M a t e r i a l :** Irian Jaya, Fakfak, Kaijuni, 10.VII.1996 leg. P. Schüle & E. Stüben, 2♀ ♀ SMNS.

**R e m a r k s :** The identification is not quite sure because both specimens represent only females. For the shape of the male protibia see GEBIEN (1922: Fig. 33).

**D i s t r i b u t i o n :** New Guinea (type locality).

#### ***Cneocnemis* sp.**

**M a t e r i a l :** Saudi Arabia, W Turabah, 1430 m, 15.-16.IX.1980 leg. W. Büttiker, 2♀ ♀ SMNS.

**R e m a r k s :** Unfortunately, both specimens represent females, thus the identification of this zoogeographically interesting record remains open. Both specimens (body length 4.0 mm) are similar to *C. indica*, but the body shape of these females is distinctly narrower than in females of *C. indica*.

#### **Acknowledgments**

For the loan of material I thank Dr. K. Ando (Osaka), Prof. Dr. H. J. Bremer (Heidelberg), Dr. R. Grimm (Tübingen), M. Hartmann (Erfurt), Dr. I. Löbl (Geneve) and Dr. O. Merkl (Budapest).

#### **Zusammenfassung**

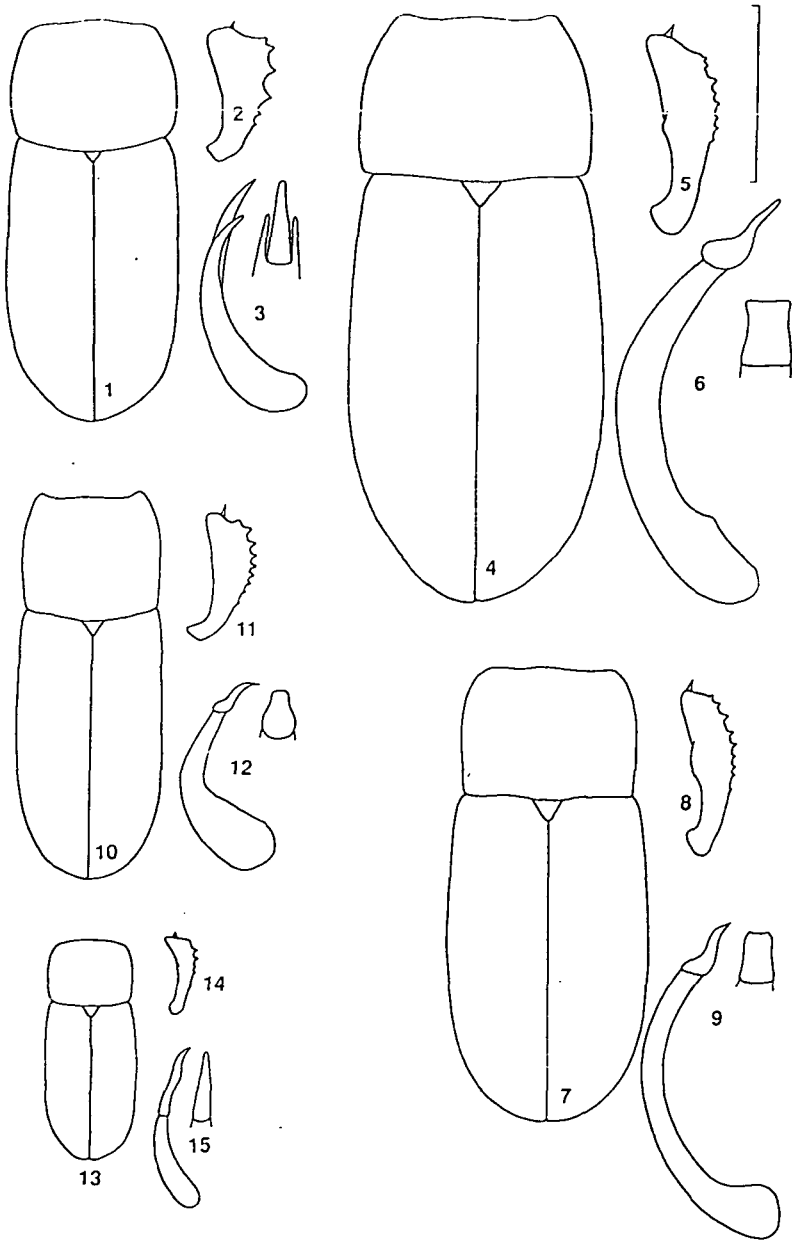
Neue taxonomische und faunistische Daten für die Gattung *Cneocnemis* (Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, Ulomini) werden präsentiert, Artkennzeichen (Körperumriß und Körpergröße, Form der männlichen Vordertibia, Form des Aedoeagus) werden abgebildet. Neue Arten aus Nepal

werden beschrieben: *C. chetri* spec. nova und *C. newar* spec. nova. *C. recticollis* (PIC 1923) von Borneo und *C. sumatrensis* MASUMOTO 1985 von Sumatra werden als jüngere Synonyme von *C. haemorrhoea* (FAIRMAIRE 1893), beschrieben von Borneo, betrachtet. Die Gattung wird auch aus Saudi Arabien neu gemeldet.

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**Figs 1-15:** *Cneocnemis* sp., body proportions (scale line 2.0 mm), protibia (1.0 mm), aedeagus (lateral) and parameres (dorsal) (1.0 mm) of males. 1-3 - *C. chetri* spec. nova. 4-6 - *C. haemorrhhoa* (larger specimen). 7-9 - *C. haemorrhhoa* (smaller specimen). 10-12 - *C. indica*. 13-15 - *C. newar* spec. nova.

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Zeitschrift/Journal: [Linzer biologische Beiträge](#)

Jahr/Year: 1998

Band/Volume: [0030\\_2](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Schawaller Wolfgang

Artikel/Article: [New taxonomic and faunistic data on the genus \*Cneocnemis\* GEBIEN \(Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae\) with descriptions of two new species from Nepal. 463-468](#)