A revision of Palaearctic *Medon*. VIII. A new species from Nepal and additional records
(Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Paederinae)

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Abstract:
*Medon manasluensis* nov.sp. (Nepal: Manaslu) is described and distinguished from the similar *M. deharvengi* COIFFAIT 1982. The external and male sexual characters of both species are illustrated; their distributions are mapped. Additional records of 16 species and subspecies are reported.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Paederinae, *Medon*, Palaearctic region, Nepal, taxonomy, new species, new records.

Introduction

According to recent revisions, the genus *Medon* STEPHENS 1833 is represented in the Western Palaearctic region by 58 species and subspecies, plus five nomina dubia (ASSING 2004a-b, 2005, 2006, 2007a-c, 2009). A catalogue was provided by ASSING (2005).

In the Eastern Palaearctic region, the genus is represented by 35 species, 25 of which have been recorded from the Himalaya and adjacent regions (Smetana 2004). However, these species have not been revised in recent times and, in view of the unclarified phylogenetic and systematic affiliations within Medonina, it seems likely that a considerable proportion of them refers to other medonine genera.


Since the latest supplement, more material has been examined from various collections, including a new species from Nepal and additional records of sixteen described species and subspecies.
Material, methods, and measurements

The material referred to in this study is deposited in the following public institutions and private collections:

MNHUB............. Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität, Berlin (J. Frisch)
NHMD ............. Natural History Museum Denmark/ University of Copenhagen Zoological Museum (A. Solodovnikov)
NME ................ Naturkundemuseum Erfurt (M. Hartmann, W. Apfel)
cAss................. author`s private collection
cLen ................. private collection José Luis Lencina (Jumilla)
cPüt .................. private collection Andreas Pütz, Eisenhüttenstadt
cWun................ private collection Paul Wunderle, Münchenladbach

The morphological studies were carried out using a Stemi SV 11 microscope (Zeiss Germany) and a Jenalab compound microscope (Carl Zeiss Jena). For the photographs a digital camera (Nikon Coolpix 995) was used.

Head length was measured from the anterior margin of the frons to the posterior margin of the head, elytral length at the suture from the apex of the scutellum to the posterior margin of the elytra.

The map was generated using the online generic mapping tool (GMT) of the Geomar website at www.aquarius.ifm-geomar.de/omc.

Species description and additional records

Medon apicalis (KRAATZ 1857)

Material examined: Spain: 1 ex., Murcia, Jumilla, Peña Rubia, 852 m, flight intercept trap, leg. Gallego [date not specified] (cAss).

Comment: For a map illustrating the expansive Atlanto-Mediterranean distribution of M. apicalis see ASSING (2006).

Medon perniger COIFFAIT 1978

Comment: The distribution of this species is of the Adriato-Mediterranean type and ranges from Sicily in the south to southern Switzerland in the north. For a map see Assing (2006).

**Medon dilutus dilutus** (Erichson 1839)

Material examined: Italy: 1 δ, Puglia, Francavilla Fontana (BR), bosco Bottari, 200 m, olive grove, 2.IX.1995, leg. Angelini (cAss). 1 δ, Calabria, Roseto Capo Spulico (CS), 20 m, pasture, 25.II.1998, leg. Angelini (NHMD).

Comment: This rare subspecies apparently has an Adriato-Mediterranean distribution and has been reported from Italy, Central Europe, and Hungary (Assing 2006, 2009).

**Medon dilutus cephalus** Koch 1938

Material examined: Spain: Murcia: 2 exs., Calasparra, Cueva de la Sierra del Puerto, 27.III.1986, leg. Lencina (cAss, cLen); 3 exs., same data, but 16.II.1987, leg. Lencina & Díaz (cAss); 17 exs., Ábarrán, Cueva de la Maraña - Yeso, 11. & 18.III.1994, leg. Lencina (cLen, cAss); 1 ex., Lorca, Zarcilla, 903 m, flight intercept trap, V.2009, leg. Gallego (cAss); 1 ex., Jumilla, Sierra del Carche, flight intercept trap, 9.VIII.-13.IX. 2008, leg. Lencina (cAss); 1 ex., Caravaca, El Gavilán, 864 m, flight intercept trap, V.2009, leg. Gallego (cAss).

Comment: Previously examined material of this Atlanto-Mediterranean subspecies was mainly sifted from deep layers of leaf litter, with few records also from caves or subterranean traps (Assing 2006, 2007c, 2009). The above records suggest that it is apparently a regular in caves. Three specimens were collected on the wing in flight intercept traps in May and August/September.

**Medon dilutus pythonissa** (Saulcy 1865)

Material examined: Turkey: Nevşehir: 2 exs., road Ürgüp-Develi, 1550 m, 6.V.1993, leg. Martin (NHMD, cAss).

Comment: Medon dilutus pythonissa is widespread and common in the Eastern Mediterranean region. For a map illustrating its Ponto-Mediterranean distribution see Assing (2006).

**Medon rufiventris** (Nordmann 1837)

Material examined: Greece: 1 ex., Fthiotida, Parnassos, ski resort, 1700 m, 5.VI.2005, leg. Angelini (cAss); 2 exs., Pelopónnisos, Taygetos, Gozani, Gole del Monaco, 800-1200 m, 10.V.2004, leg. Angelini (NHMD).

Comment: Medon rufiventris has an expansive Ponto-Mediterranean distribution. For a map see Assing (2006).

**Medon africanus** (Fauvel 1872)


Comment: Medon africanus has become known only from Tunisia and Algeria (Assing 2006, 2009).
**Medon brunneus** (ERICHSON 1839)


**Comment:** Medon brunneus is an expansive Adriatic-Mediterranean element and by far the most common species in southeastern Europe. For a map see Assing (2006).

**Medon piceus** (KRAATZ 1858)

**Material examined:** Spain: Andalucía: 1 ex., Cádiz, 25 km NW Ubrique, Puerto de Galis, 36°34'N, 5°36'W, 400 m, W-exposed oak forest with Rhododendron, sifted, 28.XII.2009, leg. Wunderle (cWun); 1 ex., Cádiz, 15 km NE Ubrique, Sierra de Grazalema, 36°45'N, 5°27'W, 770 m, calcareous oak forest, sifted, 28.XII.2009, leg. Wunderle (cWun).

**Comment:** For a map illustrating the expansive Atlanto-Mediterranean distribution of this species see Assing (2006).

**Medon semiobscurus** (FAUVEL 1875)


**Comment:** Medon semiobscurus, a close relative of M. brunneus, is common in the eastern Mediterranean from Turkey to Israel (Assing 2006, 2009).
**Medon cauchoisi** (JARRIGE S1949)

**Material examined:** Spain: Andalucía: 23 exs., Cádiz, 25 km NNW Ubrique, Puerto de Galis, 36°34'N, 5°36'W, 400 m, W-exposed oak forest with *Rhododendron*, sifted, 28.XII.2009, leg. Assing & Wunderle (cAss, cWun); 21 exs., Cádiz, 15 km NE Ubrique, Sierra de Grazalema, 36°45'N, 5°27'W, 770 m, calcareous oak forest, sifted, 28.XII.2009, leg. Assing & Wunderle (MNHUB, cAss, cWun); 1 ex. [teneral], Cádiz, 3 km E Ubrique, Sierra de Grazalema, 36°42'N, 5°26'W, 650 m, calcareous N-slope, sifted, 28.XII.2009, leg. Assing (cAss).

**Comment:** The distribution of this species ranges from Morocco across the Iberian Peninsula to southwestern France; for a map see ASSING (2006). One specimen collected at the end of December is teneral.

**Medon fusculus** (MANNERHEIM 1830)

**Material examined:** Greece: 1 ex., Ioannina, Kalivia, 20.V.2007, leg. Angelini (NHMD); 4 exs., Makedhonia, Rodopi, Kéhros, 800 m, beech forest, 30.V.2007, leg. Angelini (NHMD); 1 ex., Drama, Prasinada, 2.VI.2007, leg. Angelini (NHMD); 1 ex., Attica, road Ano Fanari-Kalloni, Kalloni, 5.III.1995, leg. Sabella (NHMD); 1 ex., Lakonia, 7 km SW Monemvasia, 150 m, 2.VII.1982, leg. Skule & Langemark (NHMD).

**Comment:** Unlike most other species of the *M. fusculus* group *M. fusculus* is widespread, its distribution ranging from the Middle East to France and the British Isles. For a map see ASSING (2006).

**Medon lindbergi** SCHEERPELTZ 1858

**Material examined:** Israel: 4 exs. [teneral], Mt. Carmel, Mahal Zehora, 2 km NNE ‘En haShofet, 4.VI.2003, leg. Orbach (NHMD); 2 exs. [1 ex. teneral], Carmel, Bet Oren env., 11.VI.2003, leg. Orbach (NHMD, cAss); 5 exs., Upper Galilee, Nahal Kziv, 1 km SE Avdon, at light, 27.VII.2000, leg. Orbach (NHMD, cAss); 1 ex., Upper Galilee, Nahal Kziv, 1 km SE Avdon, 15.V.2003, leg. Orbach (cAss); 1 ex., Mt. Hermon, Man Valley, 1430 m, 4.IV.1991, leg. Orbach (NHMD).

**Comment:** The distribution of *M. lindbergi* is confined to the Middle East from Israel northwards to central southern Anatolia (ASSING 2004a, 2007b, 2009). For a map see ASSING (2004a).

**Medon sparsiventris** EPPELSHHEIM 1889

**Material examined:** Iran: Mazandaran: 3 exs., Chalus county, 10 km SE Abbassabad, 36°39'N, 51°11'E, 280 m, leaf litter, 4.VI.2008, leg. Pütz (cPüt, cAss). Azarbayjan-e Gharbi: 2♀, 14 km S Ziveh, 37°09'N, 44°53'E, 2320 m, 1.IX.2008, leg. Frisch & Serri (MNHUB).

**Comment:** This species is distributed in the southern Caspian Sea region from Azerbaijan to northeastern Iran. For a map see ASSING (2009).
Figs 1-7: Medon deharvengi COIFFAIT: (1) habitus; (2) forebody; (3) male sternite VII; (4) medio-apical portion of male sternite VII; (5) male sternite VIII; (6-7) aedeagus in lateral and in ventral view. Scale bars: 1-2: 1.0 mm; 3-7: 0.2 mm.

Medon fusculoides COIFFAIT 1970

Material examined: Iran: Kordestan: 20 exs., 27 km SW Saqeez, 2 km SW Mir Deh, 36°08'N, 36°02'E, 1600 m, 3.IX.2008, leg. Frisch & Serri (MNHub, cAss); 2 exs., 15 km NW Divandarreh, 5 km NE Ebrahim Abad, 35°59'N; 46°52'E, 1980 m, 4.IX.2008, leg. Frisch & Serri (MNHub, cAss); 2 exs., 5 km S Qorveh, Veihaj, 35°07'N, 47°46'E, 2060 m, 5.IX.2008, leg. Frisch & Serri (MNHub). Azarbayjane Gharbi: 17 exs. [partly teneral], Shot-Siyah Chesmeh road, pass SW Shot, 39°08'N, 44°38'E, 1760 m, 28.VIII.2008, leg. Frisch & Serri (MNHub, cAss); 7 exs., NW Piranshahr, 7 km road to Hashkan, 36°48'N; 45°05'E, 1600 m, 2.IX.2008, leg. Frisch & Serri (MNHub, cAss); 1 ex., pass 25 km W Mahabad, 36°45'N, 45°32'E,
Comment: An updated map illustrating the distribution of this species, which ranges from eastern Anatolia to southeastern Iran, is provided by Assing (2009).

Medon deharvengi Coiffait 1982 (Figs 1-7, Map 1)

Material examined: Nepal: 11 exs., Annapurna range, above Temang, 28°32'N, 84°19'E, 2550 m, 5.V.2007, leg. J. Schmidt (NME, cAss).

Comment: The type locality of this species ("Népal, entre Chame et Pisang") is situated in the Annapurna range. The type specimens were not examined, but based on the illustrations of the distinctive morphology of the aedeagus and of the male sternite VII in the original description (Coiffait 1982), as well as on the locality, there is no doubt that the above specimens are conspecific with the types. For illustrations of the external and male sexual characters see Figs 1-7. The known distribution is illustrated in Map 1.

Medon manasluensis nov.sp. (Figs 8-14, Map 1)


Description: Body length 4.0-4.5 mm. Habitus as in Fig. 8. Coloration: body blackish, with indistinctly paler elytra and brownish abdominal apex; legs and antennae brown.

Head weakly transverse, across eyes approximately 1.05 times as wide as long; punctuation very dense and rather coarse; interstices very narrow, much narrower than diameter of punctures, without microsculpture; eyes distinctly bulging and rather large, approximately as long as postocular region in dorsal view (Fig. 9). Antenna with antennomere III approximately as long as II; X very weakly transverse.

Pronotum approximately as wide as long and as wide as head, weakly tapering posteriad (Fig. 9); punctuation very dense and rather coarse; midline narrowly impunctate at least in posterior 1/2-2/3; interstices much narrower than diameter of punctures and without microsculpture.

Elytra short, 0.70-0.75 times as long, and at posterior margin slightly wider than pronotum, weakly widened posteriad; humeral angles weakly pronounced; punctuation fine, dense, and shallow (Fig. 9). Hind wings reduced.

Abdomen approximately as wide as elytra; punctuation very fine and dense; interstices with shallow microsculpture; posterior margin of tergite VII without palisade fringe.

♂: posterior margin of sternite VII produced in the middle, in the middle of this projection shallowly V-shaped, margin of this V-shaped excision with few blackish setae on either side (Figs 10-11); posterior margin of sternite VIII with moderately deep excision, its depth approximately 1/4 the length of sternite (Fig. 12); aedeagus as in Figs 13-14, apex in ventral view weakly concave.

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Comparative notes: With one exception (M. deharvengi), the new species is separated from all other congeners known from Nepal by the short elytra, the reduced hind wings, and the absence of a palisade fringe at the posterior margin of the abdominal tergite VII alone. Based on the extremely similar external appearance, as well as on the derived male sexual characters (shape and chaetotaxy of the male sternite VII, shape of aedeagus), *M. manasluensis* is closely related to, and quite possibly the adelphotaxon of *M. deharvengi*, a hypothesis also supported by the fact that the Manaslu range is adjacent to the Annapurna range. The eyes are slightly smaller (somewhat shorter than postocular region) in *M. deharvengi* than in *M. manasluensis*, but otherwise both species are reliably distinguished only based on the male sexual characters. In *M. deharvengi*, the male ster-
nite VII is more strongly produced in the middle, this projection is more deeply and more narrowly incised in the middle, and the blackish setae are stouter, longer, and situated nearer to the apex. Also, the aedeagus is apically distinctly bifid in ventral view. For illustrations of the male sexual characters of *M. deharvengi* see Figs 3-7.

**Etymology:** The specific epithet (Latin, adjective) is derived from the name of the mountain range where the type locality is situated.

**Distribution and bionomics:** The type locality is situated on the southeastern slope of the Manaslu range, in the north of central Nepal (Map 1). The type specimens were collected at an altitude of 2500-2800 m.

![Map 1](image_url)

**Map 1:** Distributions of *Medon deharvengi* COIFFAIT (open circles) and *M. manasluensis* nov.sp. (filled circle) in Nepal. The territory of Nepal is highlighted to facilitate recognition.

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**Zusammenfassung**

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