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A new species of *Orphnebius* MOTSCHULSKY from Nepal (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Aleocharinae: Lomechusini)

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A b s t r a c t : *Orphnebius ancorarius* nov.sp. (eastern Nepal), the 29th representative of the genus in the Palaearctic region, is described and illustrated. A recent key to the Himalayan *Orphnebius* species is modified.

K e y w o r d s : Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae, Lomechusini, *Orphnebius*, Palaearctic region, Nepal, taxonomy, new species, key to species.

Introduction

The genus *Orphnebius* MOTSCHULSKY 1858 of the tribe Lomechusini was previously represented in the Palaearctic region by 28 described species, eleven from China and seventeen from the Himalaya (ASSING 2006a-b, 2009, 2010). Thirteen species were recorded from Nepal. Keys to the Himalayan and Chinese species were presented by ASSING (2006a, 2010).

Most Palaearctic *Orphnebius* species are known only from a single locality, in many cases only from a single specimen. For a compilation of data on the natural history of the genus see ASSING (2006a).

On the occasion of a recent visit to the natural history museum in Stuttgart a male *Orphnebius* was discovered in the Nepal collection. A subsequent examination of the genitalia revealed that it represented an undescribed species.

Material and methods

The holotype is deposited in the Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart.

The morphological studies were conducted 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 clypeus (without anteclypeus) to neck, elytral length at the suture from the apex of the scutellum to the posterior elytral margin, and aedeagus length from the apex of the ventral process to the base of the capsule.

***Orphnebius ancorarius* nov.sp.** (Figs 1-7)

Type material: Holotype ♂: "Nepal 321 Ilam Dist., Gitang Khola Valley, 11.-13.IV.1988, 1750 m, leg. W. Schawaller / Holotypus ♂ *Orphnebius ancorarius* sp.n. det. V. Assing 2009".

Description: Body length 3.9 mm. Habitus as in Fig. 1. Coloration: head and pronotum black; elytra blackish-brown, with the suture and the posterior margins diffusely paler; abdomen bright reddish; legs reddish; antennae dark-brown, with the basal four antennomeres reddish.

Head approximately 1.4 times as broad as long (Fig. 3); median dorsal portion glossy and impunctate; sparse long setae suberect, directed mediad, and present only in lateral and in posterior portion. Eyes enormous and strongly bulging, extending to the broadly convex posterior margin; dorsal and posterior surface not meeting at a distinct angle. Antenna (Fig. 4) almost symmetric; antennomeres IV-XI somewhat flattened; IV weakly transverse; V-X of increasing width and increasingly transverse; X approximately twice as wide as long; XI slightly shorter than the combined length of VIII-X.

Pronotum (Fig. 2) rather strongly convex in cross-section, moderately transverse, approximately 1.3 times as wide as long and 1.05 times as wide as head, widest posteriorly; posterior angles weakly marked; disc impunctate, punctation present only at margins; lateral margins each with four long black setae of approximately 1/4 the length of pronotum, one in anterior angle, one in posterior angle, and two in the middle between them.

Elytra (Fig. 2) posteriorly approximately 1.55 times as wide, and at suture approximately 0.85 times as long as pronotum, distinctly widened posteriad; punctation very sparse and fine; microsculpture absent; pubescence suberect, long, and whitish. Hind wings fully developed. Legs long and slender; metatarsomere I approximately as long as combined length of II-III.

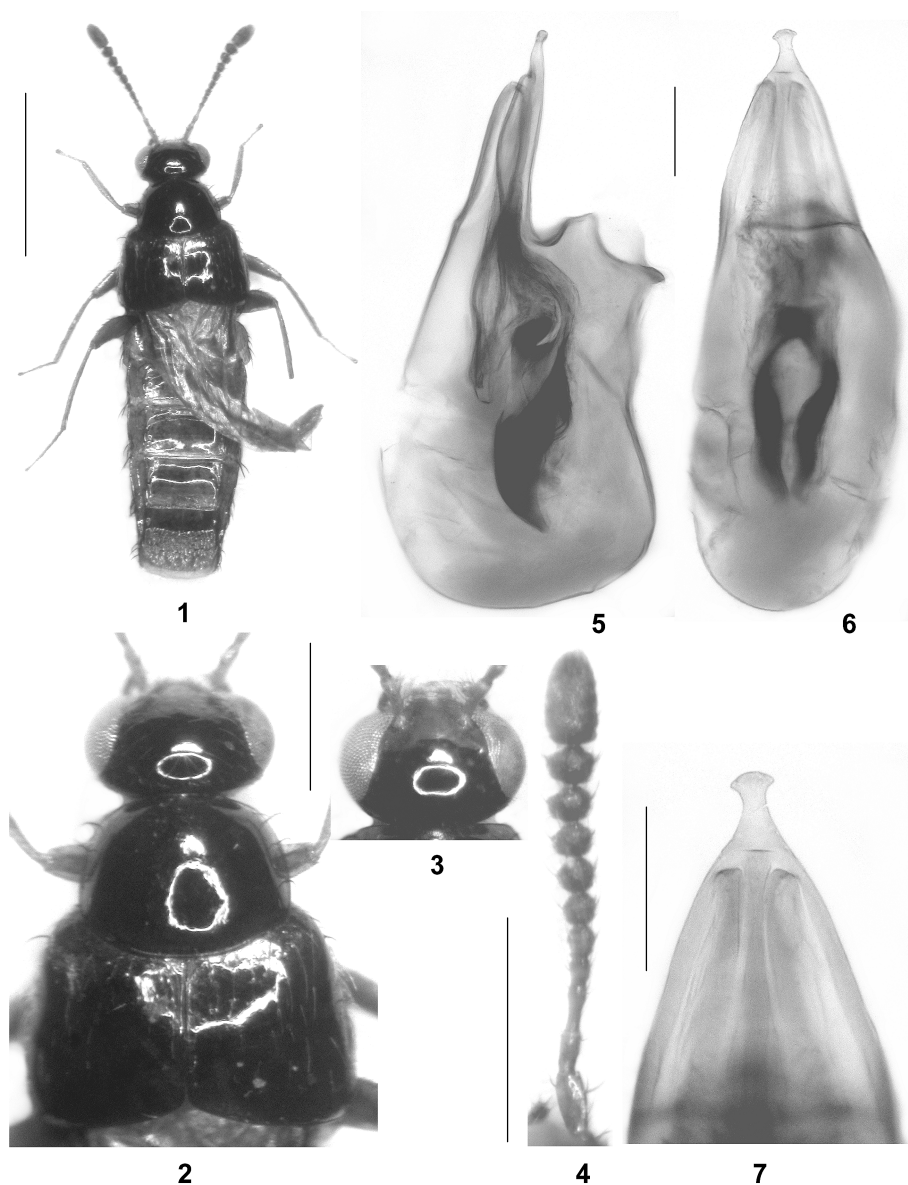
Abdomen wedge-shaped, widest at segment III, gradually and distinctly tapering posteriad; integument without microsculpture; paratergites of segments III-VI sharply edged and strongly elevated; tergites III-VI impunctate except for four setiferous punctures at posterior margins of tergites; posterior 2/3 of tergite VII with oblong puncture-like sculpture, near posterior margin with few short setae; posterior margin of tergite VII with distinct palisade fringe; tergite VIII impunctate, except for two rows of (eight each) submarginal and marginal punctures bearing black setae.

♂: sternite VIII with broadly convex posterior margin, with two transverse rows of eight black submarginal setae; segments IX-X modified, with dense and long black pubescence; median lobe of aedeagus (Figs 5-7) approximately 0.65 mm long, apex of ventral process of conspicuous shape, somewhat anchor-shaped; paramere (somewhat malformed in the holotype) with the condylite approximately as long as the paramerite.

♀: unknown.

Comment: The paramere, which is of considerable taxonomic significance in *Orphnebius*, is unfortunately malformed, probably as a result of post-mortem treatment. However, the characteristic morphology of the median lobe of the aedeagus provides sufficient characters for a reliable identification of the species.

Etymology: The specific epithet (Latin, adjective, derived from the noun ancora = anchor) alludes to the conspicuous shape of the apex of the ventral process of the aedeagus.



Figs 1-7: *Orphnebius ancorarius* nov.sp.: (1) habitus; (2) forebody; (3) head; (4) antenna; (5-6) median lobe of aedeagus in lateral and in ventral view; (7) ventral process of aedeagus in ventral view. Scale bars: 1: 1.0 mm; 2-4: 0.5 mm; 5-7: 0.1 mm.

Comparative notes: Based on the external and the sexual characters, the new species undoubtedly belongs to the *O. hauseri* subgroup as defined by ASSING (2006a). It is readily distinguished from other Palearctic *Orphnebius* species particularly by the conspicuous shape of the apex of the ventral process of the aedeagus. For

illustrations of the external and sexual characters of the *Orphnebius* species previously known from the Himalaya see ASSING (2006a, 2009).

In order to account for *O. ancorarius*, as well as the recently described *O. paucisetosus* ASSING 2009, the key to the Himalayan representatives of *Orphnebius* in ASSING (2006a) is modified as follows:

- 9 Lateral margins of the pronotum without long black setae. ♂: ventral process of aedeagus long and slender, apically bent dorsad in lateral view and somewhat truncate in ventral view (ASSING 2009: Figs 43-45); paramere as in ASSING (2009: Fig. 46). Eastern Nepal *O. paucisetosus* ASSING
- Lateral margins of pronotum with long black setae. ♂: primary sexual characters different.....9a
- 9a ♂: ventral process of aedeagus relatively short, its apex dilated on either side in ventral view and distinctively shaped in lateral view (Figs 5-7). Eyes very large (Fig. 3). Antennae symmetric (Fig. 4). Eastern Nepal *O. ancorarius* ASSING
- ♂: ventral process of aedeagus in ventral view acutely narrowed apically in ventral view and differently shaped also in lateral view. Eyes often less large and antennae often more or less distinctly asymmetric.....9b
- 9b ♂: paramerite of paramere apically with conspicuous long styliform or dagger-shaped process (Assing 2006a: Figs 6, 43)10
- ♂: paramerite of paramere apically without process or with process of different shape11

Distribution and bionomics: The type locality is situated in Ilam district, eastern Nepal. The holotype was collected at an altitude of 1750 m. Additional bionomic data are not available.

Zusammenfassung

Orphnebius ancorarius nov.sp. (Ost-Nepal), die 29. Art der Gattung in der Paläarktis, wird beschrieben und abgebildet. Eine kürzlich publizierte Bestimmungstabelle der *Orphnebius*-Arten des Himalaja wird ergänzt.

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