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The second species of *Himalagria* (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Aleocharinae: Falagriini)

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A b s t r a c t : *Himalagria utriculata* nov.sp. (central Nepal: Kali Gandaki valley) is described, illustrated, and distinguished from *H. hetzeli* ASSING 2005, the type species of *Himalagria* ASSING 2005. An additional undescribed species is reported from the Annapurna range.

K e y w o r d s : Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae, Falagriini, *Himalagria*, Himalaya, Nepal, new species.

Introduction

The recently described falagriine genus *Himalagria* ASSING 2005 previously included only a single species, the type species *H. hetzeli* ASSING 2005 from the Dhaulagiri range in central Nepal, which was subsequently reported also from the Annapurna range (ASSING 2006).

On the occasion of a visit to the Senckenberg Naturhistorische Sammlungen Dresden in spring 2012, Staphylinidae from Nepal were browsed in the collection and partly taken on loan. This material included four specimens of *Himalagria* from the Kali Gandaki valley, which proved to belong to an undescribed species.

Material and methods

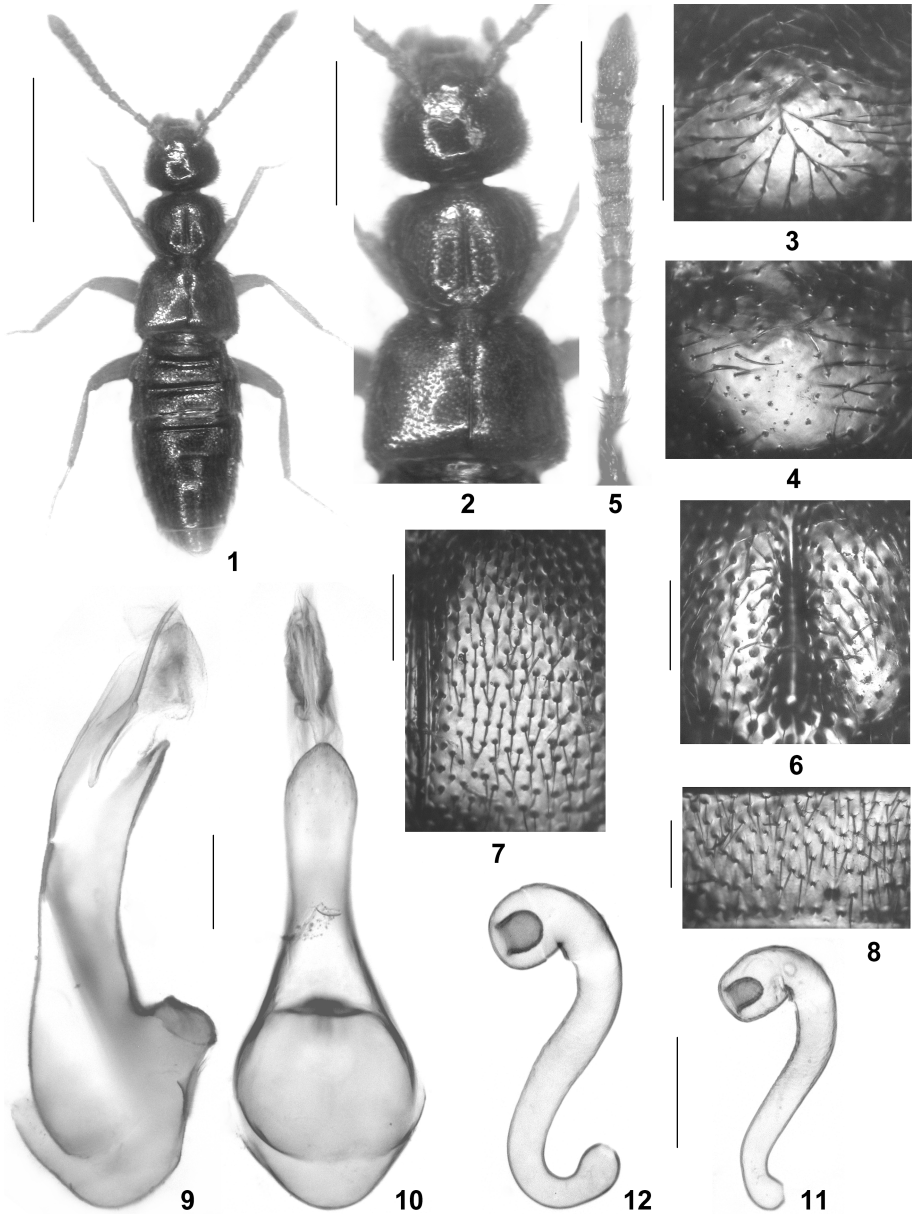
The material treated in this paper is deposited in the following collections:

SNSD..... Senckenberg Naturhistorische Sammlungen Dresden (O. Jäger)

cAss..... author's private collection

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

Head length was measured from the anterior margin of the clypeus 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, and the length of the aedeagus from the apex of the ventral process to the base of the median lobe. The parameral side (i.e., the side where the sperm duct enters) of the median lobe of the aedeagus is termed the ventral, the opposite side the dorsal aspect.



Figs 1-12: *Himalagria utriculata* nov.sp. (1-11) and *H.* sp. from the Annapurna range (12): (1) habitus; (2) forebody; (3) median portion of male head; (4) median portion of female head; (5) antenna; (6) median portion of male pronotum; (7) disc of right elytron; (8) median portion of tergite V; (9-10) median lobe of aedeagus in lateral and in ventral view; (11-12) spermatheca. Scale bars: 1: 1.0 mm; 2: 0.5 mm; 3: 0.2 mm; 4-12: 0.1 mm.

***Himalagria utriculata* nov.sp. (Figs 1-11)**

Type material: Holotype ♂: "Nepal, Kali Gandaki Tal, Ufer des Sirkung Khola an Mndg. [=Mündung] in K[ali]. Gand., 2520 m, N28°40'20" E83°35'36", 27.V.2002, leg. O. Jäger / Holotypus ♂ *Himalagria utriculata* sp.n. det. V. Assing 2012" (SNSD). Paratypes: 2♂♂, 1♀: same data as holotype (SNSD, cAss).

Etymology: The specific epithet is an adjective derived from the diminutive (utriculus) of the Latin noun uter (hose) and refers to the thin proximal portion of the spermathecal capsule, one of the characters separating this species from *H. hetzeli*.

Description: Body length 3.0-3.5 mm; length of forebody 1.5-1.6 mm. Habitus as in Fig. 1. Coloration: body brown to dark-brown, with the elytra sometimes indistinctly paler; legs and antennae pale-reddish to reddish-yellow.

Head (Figs 2-4) transverse; neck little more than 0.25 times as broad as head; punctuation very fine and sparse; pubescence pale and suberect; interstices without microreticulation and glossy. Eyes weakly convex and small, shorter than postocular region in dorsal view. Antenna approximately 1.2 mm long, shaped as in Fig. 5.

Pronotum (Figs 2, 6) approximately 1.25 times as broad as long and 1.05 times as broad as head, widest anteriorly; midline with furrow, this furrow deep and clear-cut in posterior 2/3, but not reaching posterior margin of pronotum, and very fine anteriorly; punctuation fine but distinct and rather dense; interstices without microreticulation.

Elytra (Figs 2, 7) approximately 0.8 times as long as pronotum, of trapezoid shape, distinctly widened posteriad; punctuation fine, but distinct; interstices without microreticulation. Hind wings present and apparently fully developed. Legs slender; tibiae somewhat flattened; metatarsus almost as long as metatibia; metatarsomere I approximately as long as the combined length of II-IV.

Abdomen (Figs 1, 8) widest at segment V, as broad as, or slightly broader than elytra at posterior margin; punctuation fine but distinct, dense on anterior and somewhat sparser on posterior tergites; interstices without microsculpture; posterior margin of tergite VII with palisade fringe; posterior margin of tergite VIII convex and with fringe of modified, short and yellowish marginal setae.

♂: posterior margin of sternite VIII strongly convex; median lobe of aedeagus 0.5 mm long and shaped as in Figs 9-10.

♀: posterior margin of sternite VIII weakly concave; spermatheca as in Fig. 11.

Intraspecific variation: The punctuation of the forebody and the abdomen is subject to some intraspecific variation.

Comparative notes: The new species is distinguished from *H. hetzeli* by the noticeably more distinct and denser punctuation of the whole body, by the absence of an impression on the elytra (*H. hetzeli*: elytra shallowly impressed near postero-lateral angles), by the absence of microsculpture on the abdomen, as well as by the differently shaped median lobe of the aedeagus and spermatheca. For illustrations of *H. hetzeli* see ASSING (2005).

Distribution and natural history: The type locality is situated in the Kali Gandaki valley, which separates the Annapurna and Dhaulagiri ranges. As can

be inferred from the labels, the specimens were collected on a river bank at an altitude of 2520 m.

C o m m e n t : *Himalagria* species appear to have restricted distributions. At least one more undescribed species, which was erroneously reported as *H. hetzeli* by ASSING (2006), is present in the Annapurna range. The spermatheca (Fig. 12) clearly differs from those of *H. hetzeli* and *H. utriculata*. The species will be described as soon as males are available.

Acknowledgements

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Zusammenfassung

Himalagria utriculata nov.sp. (Zentral-Nepal: Kali Gandaki Tal) wird beschrieben, abgebildet und von *H. hetzeli* ASSING 2005, der Typusart der Gattung *Himalagria* ASSING 2005, unterschieden. Eine weitere, unbeschriebene Art wird aus dem Annapurna-Massiv gemeldet.

References

- ASSING V. (2005): A new genus and two new species of Falagriini from the Eastern Palaearctic region (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae). — *Entomologische Blätter* **100** (3) (2004): 209-215.
- ASSING V. (2006): A new species of *Taxicera* and additional records of Himalayan Aleocharinae (Insecta: Coleoptera: Staphylinidae). — *Linzer biologische Beiträge* **38** (2): 1138-1142.

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