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A new species of *Algon* from Vietnam (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Staphylininae)

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Abstract: *Algon fansipanicus* nov.sp. (North Vietnam: environs of Sa Pa), a micropterous species of the *A. kaiserianus* group, is described and illustrated. The *A. kaiserianus* group is recorded from Vietnam for the first time.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Staphylininae, *Algon*, Oriental region, Vietnam, taxonomy, new species, additional record.

Introduction

According to a recent revision, the genus *Algon* SHARP, 1874, whose phylogenetic affiliations and systematic position are still somewhat unclear, included 58 species in seven species groups from Asia, plus two species of doubtful generic assignment from the Afrotropical region (SCHILLHAMMER 2006). Nine additional species from China, Burma, Laos, and Malaysia were subsequently described by SCHILLHAMMER (2008, 2011) and HAYASHI (2011). Most of the species are micropterous and locally endemic. Four species have been recorded from Vietnam: *A. atronitidus* SCHILLHAMMER, 2006, *A. nomurai* SCHILLHAMMER, 2006, *A. pergrandis* SCHEERPELTZ, 1974, and *A. viridis* BOHÁČ, 1992. The *A. kaiserianus* group previously included eight species from China: *A. kaiserianus* (BERNHAEUER, 1933) (Chongqing), *A. hubeiensis* SCHILLHAMMER, 2006 (Hubei), *A. tronqueti* SCHILLHAMMER, 2006 (Guangxi), *A. leigongshanus* SCHILLHAMMER, 2008 (Guizhou), *A. holzschuhi* SCHILLHAMMER, 2008 (Yunnan), *A. murzini* SCHILLHAMMER, 2008 (Yunnan), *A. reuteri* SCHILLHAMMER, 2011 (Guangxi), and *A. uenoi* HAYASHI, 2011 (Sichuan).

Material of Staphylinidae collected during a recent field trip to North Vietnam included a micropterous male of an *Algon* species of the *A. kaiserianus* group. An examination of this specimen and a comparison with the descriptions of other species of the *A. kaiserianus* group revealed that it represented an undescribed species.

Material and methods

The material treated in this study is deposited in the author's private collection (cAss). The morphological studies were conducted using a Stemi SV 11 microscope (Zeiss Germany) and a Jenalab compound microscope (Carl Zeiss Jena). The images of external

characters, except for the habitus (Fig. 6), were created using a photographing device constructed by Arved Lompe (Nienburg) and CombineZ software, the remaining photographs with a digital camera (Nikon Coolpix 995).

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, and the length of the aedeagus from the apex of the median lobe to the base of the aedeagal capsule. The "parameral" side (i.e., the side where the sperm duct enters) is referred to as the ventral, the opposite side as the dorsal aspect. The morphological terminology partly follows that proposed by SCHILLHAMMER (2006).

Description

Algon fansipanicus nov.sp. (Figs 1-14)

Type material: Holotype ♂ [slightly teneral]: "N-Vietnam - 7 km NW Sa Pa, 22°20'58"N, 103°46'47"E, 2000 m, primary forest, 29.VII. 2013, V. Assing [2+2] / Holotypus ♂ *Algon fansipanicus* sp.n. det. V. Assing 2015" (cAss).

E t y m o l o g y : The specific epithet (adjective) is derived from Fansipan, the highest mountain of Vietnam, at whose ascent the type locality is situated.

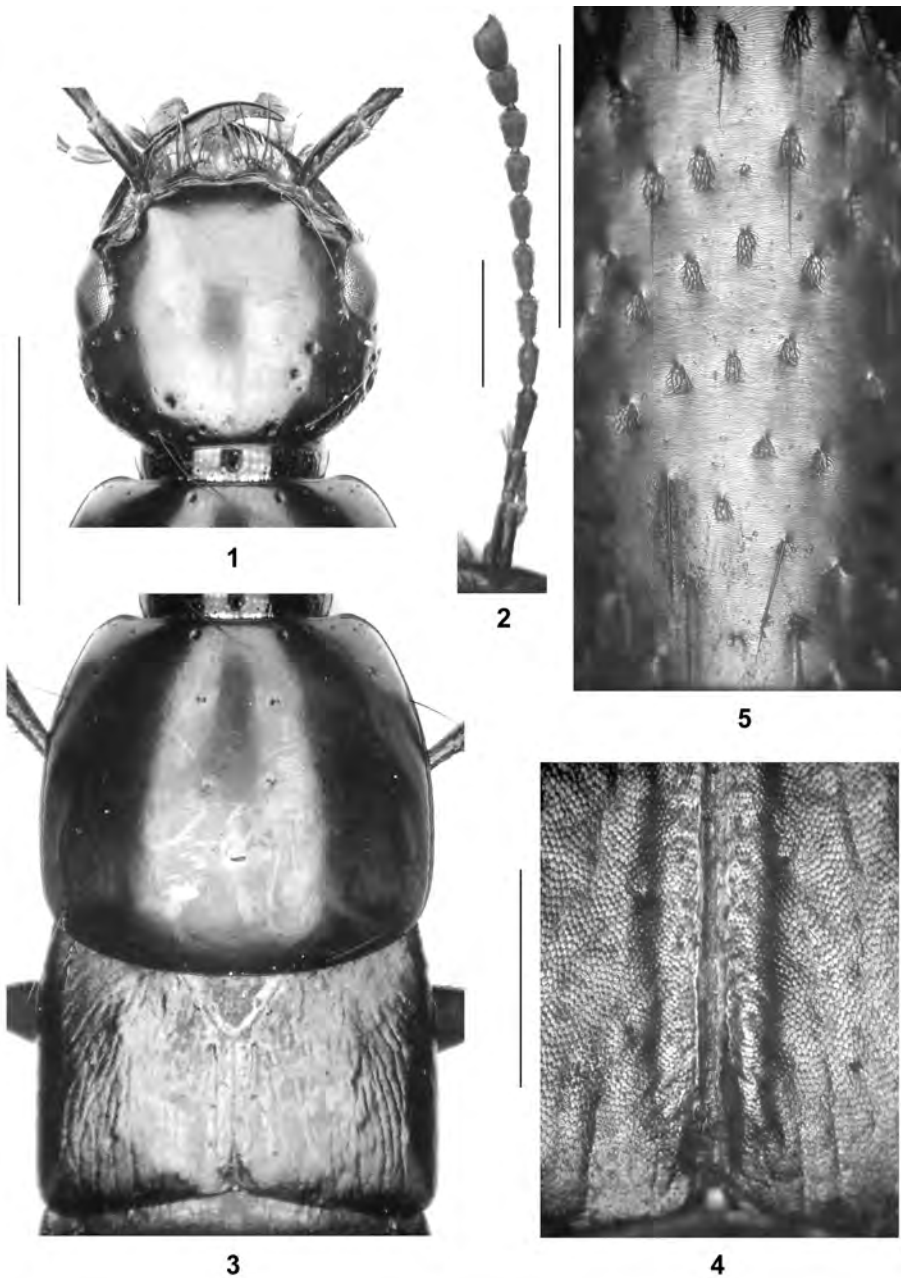
D e s c r i p t i o n : Body length 16.0 mm; length of forebody 7.2 mm. Habitus as in Fig. 6. Coloration: body black; legs blackish-brown with dark reddish-brown tarsi; antenna reddish-brown, with antennomere I blackish-brown, except for the apex; maxillary palpi pale-brown.

Head (Fig. 1) 1.18 times as broad as long, not distinctly dilated posteriorly; dorsal surface with fine, but distinct microreticulation composed of isodiametric meshes and with sparse interspersed micropunctuation visible only at high magnification (Fig. 7); few macropunctures present only in postero-lateral portion of dorsal surface; medial margin of eye not bordered and without punctate furrow; base of head with nuchal ridge and well developed nuchal constriction. Antenna 4.5 mm long and shaped as in Fig. 2.

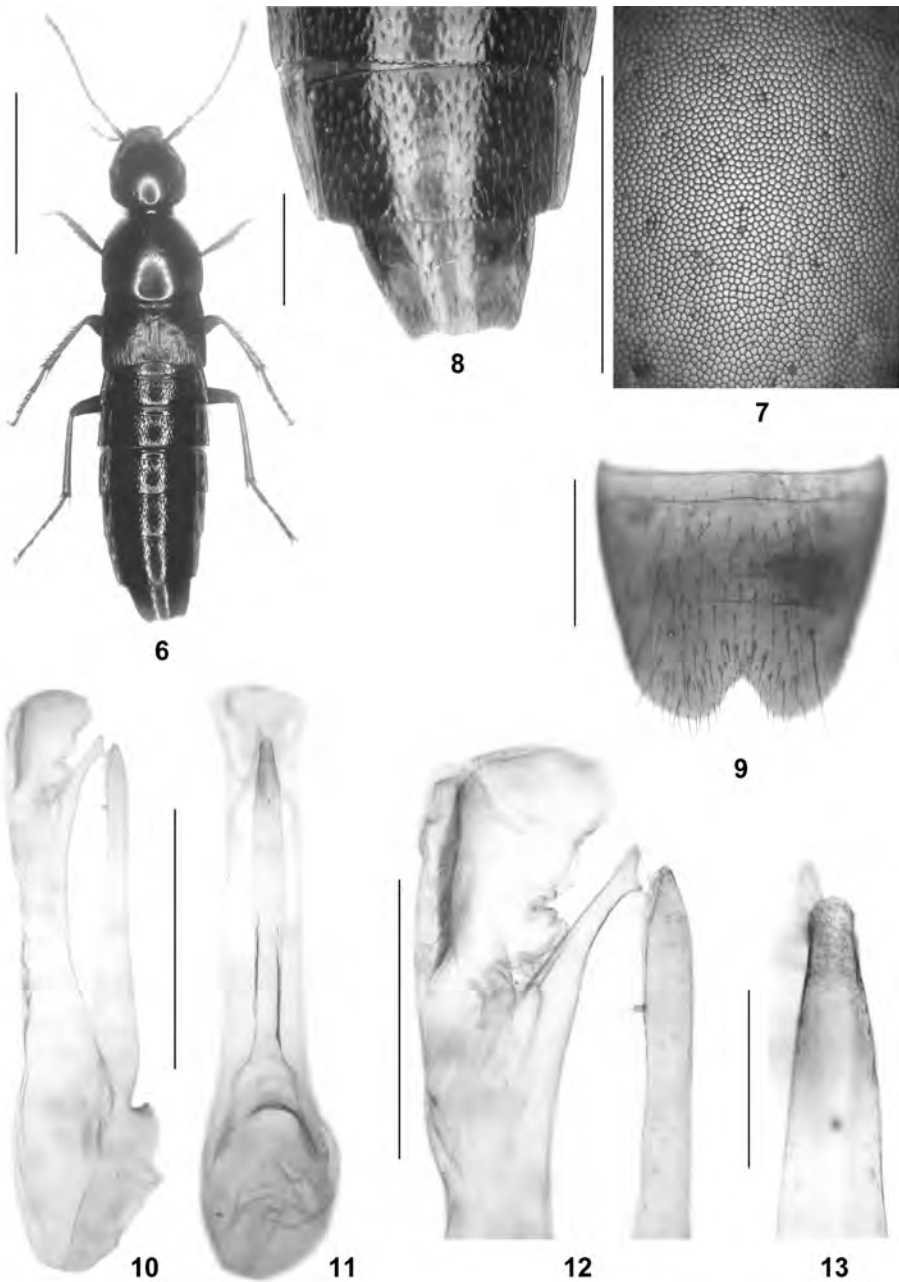
Pronotum (Fig. 3) 1.09 times as broad as long and 1.26 times as broad as head, weakly convex in cross-section; lateral margins subparallel in posterior third, distinctly converging in anterior two-thirds; in anterior half with a discal series of three macropunctures on either side of middle, the two posterior punctures distinctly coarser than the anterior puncture; microsculpture and micropunctuation similar to those of head, but micropunctures even sparser and finer.

Elytra (Fig. 3) short, 0.43 times as long as, and slightly broader than pronotum; disc with numerous irregular longitudinal striae, slightly elevated along suture, and with distinct scale-shaped microsculpture (Fig. 4). Hind wings completely reduced. Protarsomeres I-IV distinctly dilated.

Abdomen approximately as broad as elytra; punctures rather coarse and distinct (Fig. 8), and with conspicuous microsculpture (Fig. 5); interstices with very fine transverse microsculpture; posterior margin of tergite VII without palisade fringe; posterior margin of tergite VIII weakly bisinuate (Fig. 8).



Figs 1-5: *Algon fansipanicus* nov.sp.: (1) head; (2) antenna; (3) pronotum and elytra; (4) median portion of tergite VII; (5) postero-sutural portion of elytra. Scale bars: 1, 3: 2.0 mm; 2: 1.0 mm; 4-5: 0.5 mm.



Figs 6-13: *Algon fansipanicus* nov.sp.: (6) habitus; (7) median portion of head; (8) tergites VII-VIII; (9) male sternite VIII; (10-11) aedeagus in lateral and in ventral view; (12) apical portion of aedeagus in lateral view; (13) apical portion of paramere in ventral view. Scale bars: 6: 5.0 mm; 8-11: 1.0 mm; 7, 12: 0.5 mm; 13: 0.2 mm.



Fig. 14: Type locality of *Algon fansipanicus*. Photo: Paul Wunderle.

♂: sternite VIII (Fig. 9) with broadly V-shaped posterior excision; aedeagus (Figs 10-13) very long and slender, 2.1 mm long; median lobe apically bent and subapically dentate in lateral view, very acute in ventral view; paramere slender, apically not reaching apex of median lobe, much more slender than median lobe in ventral view, and with one peg-seta at some distance from the apex.

Comparative notes: *Algon fansipanicus* is distinguished from all its congeners by the shape of the aedeagus (more slender; median lobe apically more acute in ventral view; paramere only with one peg-seta). In addition, it differs from other representatives of the *A. kaiserianus* group as follows:

from *A. kaiserianus* by paler antennae, larger eyes, and the coarser macropunctures on the pronotum; from *A. tronqueti* by a more transverse pronotum with more distinct macropunctures, and slightly larger eyes; from *A. hubeiensis* by the subparallel lateral margins in the posterior third of the pronotum, the more distinct macropunctures on the pronotum, and the larger eyes; from *A. uenoi* by the different punctuation of the pronotum (see figure 3 in HAYASHI 2011) and the sparser and coarser punctuation of the abdomen;

from *A. leigongshanus* by the different punctation pattern of the elytra (*A. leigongshanus*: elytra broadly impunctate in sutural portions and punctate in lateral portions); from *A. holzschuhi* by the less transverse pronotum (*A. holzschuhi*: pronotum 1.13 times as broad as long), and the different punctation of the elytra (*A. holzschuhi*: similar to that of *A. leigongshanus*; see above); from *A. murzini* by the less transverse pronotum (*A. murzini*: pronotum 1.15 times as broad as long), and the different punctation of the elytra (*A. murzini*: similar to that of *A. leigongshanus*; see above); from *A. reuteri* by the different coloration of the antennae (*A. reuteri*: antenna black with the apical 2-4 antennomeres nearly whitish), different punctation pattern of the head, a smaller and less transverse pronotum (*A. reuteri*: 1.13-1.16 times as broad as long), the absence of a transverse anterior impression on the elytra, sparser punctation of the abdomen, and other characters. For illustrations of the aedeagi of the previously described species of the *A. kaiserianus* group see SCHILLHAMMER (2006, 2008, 2011) and HAYASHI (2011).

Distribution and bionomics: The slightly teneral holotype was collected to the northwest of Sa Pa, near the trail to the summit of Fansipan, North Vietnam, by sifting leaf litter in a primary forest at an altitude of 2000 m (Fig. 14).

Acknowledgement

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Zusammenfassung

Algon fansipanicus nov.sp. (Nord-Vietnam: Umgebung von Sa Pa), eine ungeflügelte Art der *A. kaiserianus*-Gruppe, wird beschrieben und abgebildet. Die *A. kaiserianus*-Gruppe wird erstmals aus Vietnam nachgewiesen.

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