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New Species of Sericinae and Melolonthinae from India (Insecta, Coleoptera, Scarabaeidae)

With 6 Figures

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Abstract. A species each of the genera *Serica*, *Apogonia*, *Articephala*, *Asactopholis*, and *Cyphonoxia* has been described as new from north-west India.

Systematic surveys conducted to study the scarabaeid fauna of north-west India, more particularly during the last five years (1982–1987), revealed new records and new species from the area. The new species belonging to two allied subfamilies, i. c., Sericinae and Melolonthinae, have been described here.

Serica khajiaris sp. n.

Body oblong, 10.0 mm long and 5.5 mm broad, rather depressed, brown-black above and dark brown underneath, upper surface smoky except clypeus.

Clypeus almost squarish, margins strongly reflexed, well sinuate in front, anterior angles round, sides straight and slightly converging anteriorly, surface uneven, strongly and closely punctate; forehead convex and finely punctate. Eyes large and canthi small.

Pronotum transverse, finely and sparsely punctate, anterior angles acute and posterior angles almost right-angles, lateral margins slightly curved in front and almost straight or very feebly sinuate behind, base bisinuate and slightly excised in middle in front of scutellum. Scutellum rather long, finely, rather closely and unevenly punctate.

Elytra with some scattered scales, punctate-striate, intervals convex and feebly punctate, apical angles almost right-angles, postero-lateral margins rounded.

Legs not very flat; fore tibiae strongly and sharply bidentate distally and with 3–4 minute dents proximally, posterior tibiae with some strong spines on their outer face; claws strongly cleft, with upper ramus thin and lower broader.

Holotype Female, Khajiar, Himachal Pradesh, India, 11. IX. 1983, Kailash Chandra, National Pusa Collection (IARI), New Delhi. — **Paratype** 1 ♀, data same as holotype, author's collection.

Remarks The species is near *Serica umbrinella* BRENSKE. Besides, varying in some minor morphological details, they mainly differ in colour pattern. While *S. umbrinella* is with small greyish patches on elytra, the present species is without such spots and is a little darker in colour.

Apogonia haryanavi sp. n. (Figs. 1–2)

Body oval, 6.0–7.0 mm long and 3.5–4.5 mm broad, brown-black to black in colour, lower surface sparsely covered with short greyish setae.

Clypeus small, front margin almost straight in front and rounded laterally, margins strongly reflexed, strongly, very closely and coarsely punctate; frons strongly but not closely punctate; canthi tapering backwards.

Pronotum closely, strongly and rather unevenly punctate, lateral margins almost straight in front and behind, and strongly rounded in middle, anterior angles slightly acute and posterior angles obtuse. Scutellum rather finely and sparsely punctate.

Elytra very strongly, closely and rather coarsely punctate, four striae visible margined by longitudinal rows of punctures, intervals broad on dorsal surface and narrow on sides.

Legs slender; fore tibiae strongly and rather sharply bidentate; claws strongly cleft.

Abdominal sternites and propygidium very strongly, closely and unevenly punctate; pygidium rather strongly but not very closely punctate.

Parameres asymmetrical, long, slender, pointed distally, fused together dorsally in basal half, right one dilated and projected towards left one in middle, left with a constriction in middle and dilated subapically fitting in a sinuation in the right one.

H o l o t y p e Male, Kurukshetra, Haryana, India, 2. VII. 1983, Kailash Chandra, National Pusa Collection (IARI), New Delhi. — **P a r a t y p e s** 4 ♂♂, data same as holotype, except three specimens 5. VII. 1983, author's collection.

R e m a r k s The species is near *A. ferruginea* (F.), but it is a little smaller in size and with scutellum well punctate. The main difference, however, is in male genitalia, which is markedly different in the two species.

Articephala himachali sp. n. (Fig. 3)

Body oblong, convex, 12.0–14.0 mm long and 6.0–7.0 mm broad, deep chocolate-brown in colour, upper surface shining and almost without hairs, lower surface clothed with pale hairs, and metasternum thickly set with long, soft and silky hairs.

Clypeus rectangular, with margins strongly reflexed, anterior margin truncate and sides nearly straight, anterior angles rounded, strongly but sparsely punctate; clypeo-frontal suture distinct and arcuate; frons strongly and unevenly punctate, sparsely anteriorly and closely posteriorly; vertex smooth. Eyes not very prominent above. Antennae 10-segmented, club 3-segmented.

Pronotum unevenly, rather closely and moderately strongly punctate, lateral sides moderately rounded, finely serrated and with a sparse row of long setae, base broadly rounded, anterior angles almost right-angles and hind angles very obtuse. Scutellum punctate only on sides, puncture mostly in rows.

Elytra strongly and closely punctate, costae indistinct, surface uneven, with alternate raised and shallow longitudinal areas, raised areas with few punctures and shallow densely punctate.

Legs long and slender; fore tibiae bidentate, apical tooth strongly and obliquely produced forward, hinder one very feeble; claws long, slender, moderately curved and rather minutely toothed near base.

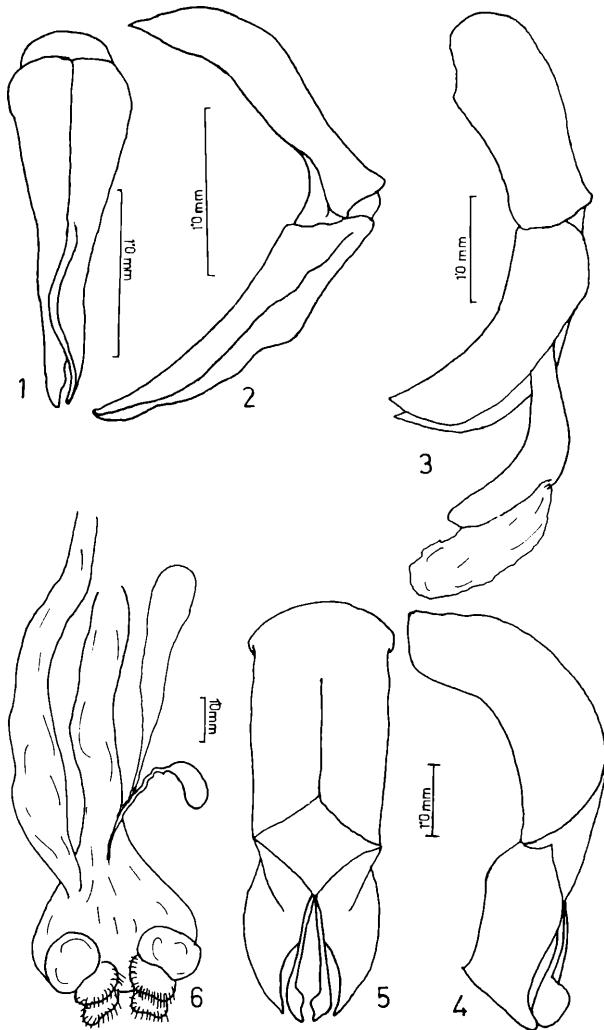
Abdominal sternites rather strongly and closely punctate, penultimate one with slight wrinkles on sides; pygidium strongly and very closely punctate, more densely towards base, tip without punctures, apical part margined with a row of long setae.

Male genitalia long and curved on ventral side; phallobase tubular; parameres a little longer than phallobase, consolidated together dorsally at base only, separate elsewhere and flap-like, acutely pointed at apex; aedeagus sclerotized, endophallus membranous, saccular and without any sclerotized armature.

F e m a l e Clypeus anterior angles more broadly rounded, margins less strongly reflexed, and more strongly punctate; fore tibiae broader and tridentate; claws more stout, strongly toothed in middle, and spurs more stout and curved.

H o l o t y p e Male, Dalhousie, Himachal Pradesh, India, 16. VIII. 1983, Kailash Chandra, National Pusa Collection (IARI), New Delhi. — **A l l o t y p e** Female, data same as holotype, except Banikhet (Himachal Pradesh), 24. VIII. 1982. — **P a r a t y p e s** 4 ♂♂, data same as allotype, except 1 ♂, 26. VIII. 1982; 1 ♀, data same as holotype, except 27 VIII. 1982; FRI Museum, Z.S.I. Museum and author's collection.

R e m a r k s Only one other species, *A. planifrons* MOSER, is known from India.



Figs. 1–2: *Apogonia haryanavi* sp. n., male genitalia; 1 dorsal view – 2: lateral view. – Fig. 3: *Articephala himachali* sp. n., male genitalia, lateral view – Figs. 4–5: *Asactopholis dehradunus* sp. n., male genitalia; 4 – lateral view, 5 – dorsal view. – Fig. 6: *Cyphonoxia gitashri* sp. n., female genitalia.

***Asactopholis dehradunus* sp. n. (Figs. 4–5)**

Body elongate, convex, 17.0–20.0 mm long and 8.0–11.0 mm broad, chocolate-brown in colour, dull, and a little more darker anteriorly, covered all over with minute pale scale, elytra with a few large white scale in rows, sternum covered with long, soft, silky hairs. Head small; clypeus broadly rounded and almost straight in front, margins reflexed; strongly, densely and rather subrugosely punctate; frons rather closely and finely punctate with setigerous punctures. Eyes prominent. Antennae 10-segmented, club 3-segmented and very long.

Pronotum closely, finely and uniformly punctate with scaly punctures except a small median longitudinal strip in posterior half, lateral margins broadly rounded, anterior angles almost right-angles and posterior ones slightly obtuse. Scutellum finely but not closely punctate especially in basal part, lateral margins arcuate.

Elytra uniformly and finely punctate with scaly punctures, costae not distinct except some indication of raised longitudinal lines with sparsely placed long, flat scales (5 rows).

Legs slender; fore tibiae tridentate, upper tooth slight; claws strongly toothed almost in middle.

Abdominal sternites closely scaly; pygidium elongate, rather sparsely punctate and margined apically with long hairs.

Male genitalia, phallobase strongly curved, dorsally with a median longitudinal line; parameres comparatively short, laterally flattened, broad, pointed dorso-posteriorly, with two long apically clubbed rods placed inbetween dorsally.

Female Antennal club shorter than males; fore tibiae with strong and more projected teeth; claws more stout and strongly curved.

Holotype Male, Dehradun, Uttar Pradesh, India, 18. VI. 1984, Kailash Chandra, National Pusa Collection (IARI), New Delhi. **Allotype** Female, data same as holotype, except 1974, I. C. Mittal. — **Paratypes** 2 ♂♂, data same as holotype, except 17 VI. 1984, author's collection.

Remarks Under the genus, only one other species, *A. bicolor* SHARP, is previously known from India (Bengal). The present species differs from *A. bicolor* mainly in the scale pattern and being almost of uniform colour.

***Cyphonoxia gitashri* sp. n. (Fig. 6)**

Body elongate, 24.0–27.0 mm long and 12.0–13.0 mm broad, reddish brown in colour, shining, covered all over with white, minute, decumbent scales, sternum thickly covered with very long soft and silky hairs.

Head small; clypeus rectangular, rather strongly and subrugosely punctate, margins strongly reflexed, front margin straight, front angles acutely projected, sides strongly sinuate in front and elevated behind; clypeo-frontal suture arcuate; frons finely, closely and subrugosely punctate, and raised behind in middle; canthi dividing eyes only half way and thickly set with long setae. Antennae 10-segmented, club 4-segmented, 2nd and 3rd segments large, 4th and 5th small and 6th forming a small lamina.

Pronotum moderately strongly and unevenly punctate with scaly punctures, densely and subrugosely punctate on sides, with a longitudinal depression in middle and a denuded shining spot on either side, lateral margins angularly rounded in middle, anterior and posterior angles very obtuse. Scutellum almost rounded at apex, very closely set with scaly punctures except a median longitudinal area.

Elytra coriaceous, unevenly, finely and asperately punctate with scaly punctures, covered only moderately closely with fine scales/setae, costae indistinct.

Legs stout; fore tibiae very strongly tridentate covering almost whole length, mid and hind tibiae with two thorn-like strong projections on outer sides; tarsi comparatively small; claws toothed before middle.

Abdominal sternites densely covered with white minute scales, except last one less closely; pygidium closely set with small scales, margin strongly reflexed except at apex.

Hemisternites and styli almost rectangular, transverse and bristled posteriorly; spermatheca saccular, curved; spermathecal gland rather broadly tubular.

Holotype Female, Kurukshetra, Haryana, India, 17 VIII. 1983, Kailash Chandra, National Pusa Collection (IARI), New Delhi. — **Paratypes** 4 ♀♀, data same as holotype, except 3 specimens 15. VII. 1983 and one 18. VII. 1983.

Remarks Only one other species, *C. zemindar* SHARP, is previously reported from India.

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