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New Palaearctic *Smicronyx* and *Tychius* species (Insecta: Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Erirrhininae et Tychiinae)

With 18 Figures

VLADIMIR P. KARASYOV & TATJANA V. OKRAJKO

Abstract. Two species of the genus *Smicronyx* SCHÖNHERR from Arabia and one species of the genus *Tychius* GERMAR from East Kazakhstan are described as new for science: *Sm. helenae* spec. nov., by the habitus it very resembles to *Sharpia heydeni* TOURN.; *Sm. leonardii* spec. nov., it is closely related to the African species *Sm. umbrinus* HUST.; *T. sauricus* spec. nov., it belongs to the *T. afflatus* FST. group. For the last group, a key to the species is given.

Among numerous specimens of *Smicronyx* and *Tychius* received by numerous colleagues for determination, we found three species which we consider as new to science and describe them as follows.

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List of abbreviations:

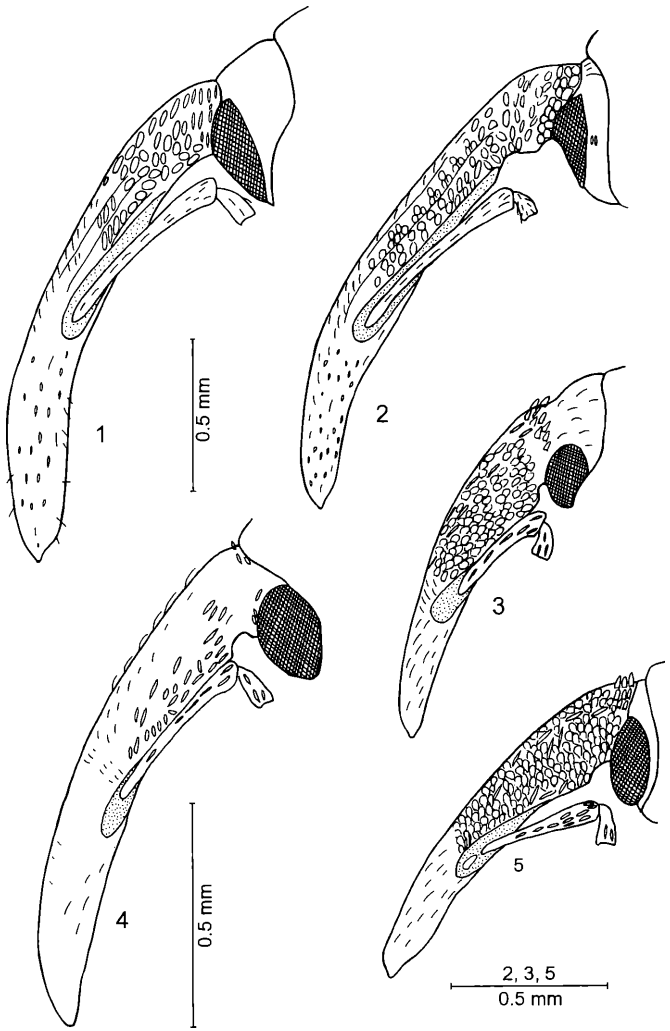
MLo = The Natural History Museum, London	IZMi = Institute of Zoology, Minsk
MMi = Museo di Storia Naturale, Milano	l = length
MMo = Museum of Lomonosov University, Moscow	w = width

Smicronyx helenae spec. nov.

Type-material. Holotype: male, „Saudi Arabia, Shagi Yamani, 40 m. S. of Lith, 28.3.1948, B.P. Uvarov leg." (MLo). Paratypes: 1 male and 3 females with the same data (MLo and IZMi). 1 male, „Arabia Saugita, Wagi Jizan, 30.11.1978, Filipponi leg." (IZMi).

Description. Integument reddish and fully densely covered with recumbent golden yellow and white scales. Moreover, the whole body scarcely covered with thick recumbent brown, white and yellow hair-like scales. Scaling of this species very like to that of *Sharpia heydeni* TOURN.
Head. Eyes completely flat. Frons not narrower than rostrum at base. Rostrum (Figs. 3, 5) in lateral view slightly curved and feebly narrowing from base to apex, with dense scaling before antennal insertions.

Address of the authors:
Dr. Vladimir P Karasyov & Tatjana V. Okrajko, Institute of Zoology, Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Skoryna ul. 27, 220072 Minsk (Byelorussia)



Figs. 1–5: Rostrum of Smicronychini species: 1 – *Sharpia heydeni* TOURN. (female); 2 – *Sharpia heydeni* TOURN. (male); 3 – *Smicronyx helenae* spec. nov. (male); 4 – *Smicronyx leonardii* spec. nov. (male); 5 – *Smicronyx helenae* spec. nov. (female).

Prothorax: Narrower than the elytra, broadly rounded at sides, distinctly narrowed near apex and basis, widest in middle, convex on dorsum.

Elytra (l/w: 1,65) with prominent humeri moderately convex, very feebly and widely rounded at sides and gradually, conjointly rounded at apex. Scaling arranged in irregular pattern consisting of white spots and transverse white bands. Scales of elytral interstriae unevenly arranged in 2–3 rows, striae distinct. Moreover, all interstriae has a row of thick hairlike scales.

Legs: Stout, with strongly clavate femora. Every femur with tiny teeth. Tibiae short, more slender than femora. Structure of tarsus like on *Smicronyx* species (Fig. 16), with short claw articles.

Genitalia: Median lobe see Figs. 11, 12.

Length: 2,8–4,0 mm.

Sexual dimorphism: Female differs from male by more elongate rostrum and larger body size.

Variability: The degree of the development of white pattern on the elytra is changing.

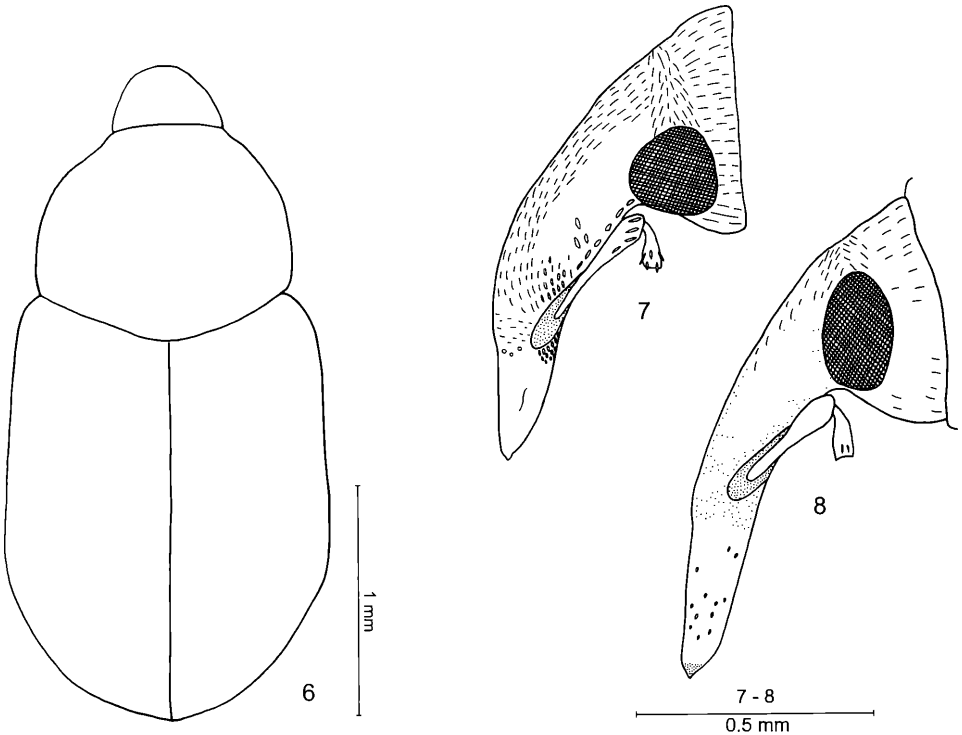


Fig. 6: Body outline of *Tychius sauricus* spec. nov. – Figs. 7–8: Rostrum of *Tychius sauricus* spec. nov., 7 – male, 8 – female.

Biology. Months of collecting: March and November. Host plant unknown.

Distribution. Saudi Arabia.

Comparative notes. *Sm. helenae* is unlike to the other *Smicronyx* species. Moreover, by habitus and vestiture of body this species very resembles to the species of other genus *Sharpia heydeni* TOURN., but easily differs from last by the form of the rostrum (Figs. 1, 2, 3, 5), structure of the tarsus (Figs. 15, 16) and by the form of the apex of the median lobe (Figs. 9, 10, 11, 12).

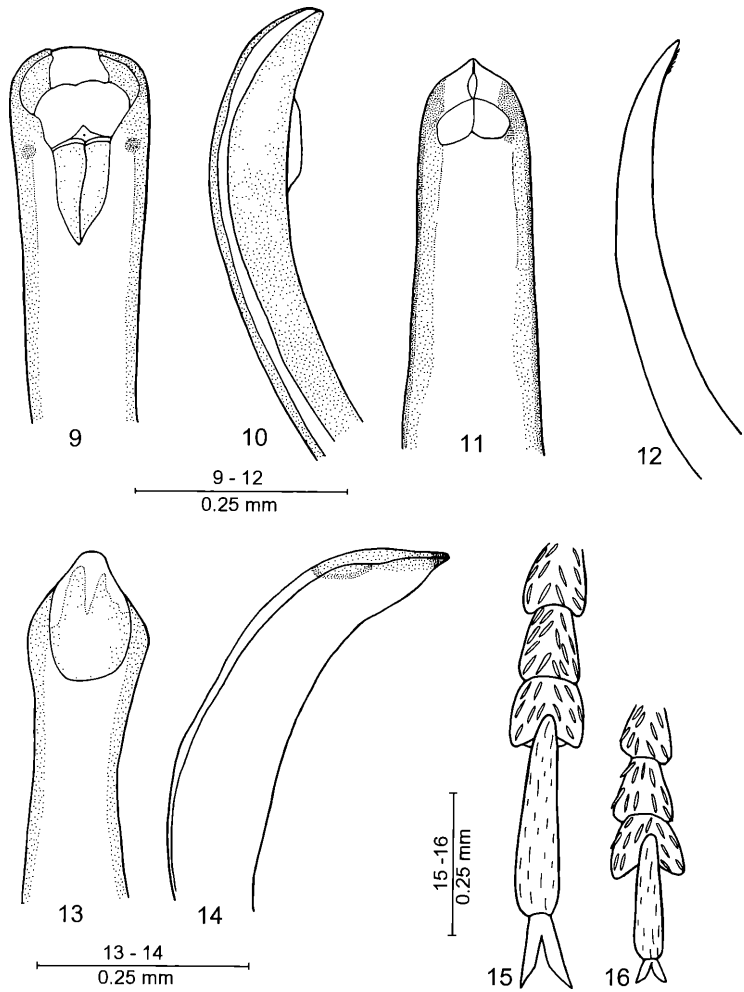
Etymology. *Sm. helenae* is named in honour the wife of the first author.

Smicronyx leonardii spec. nov.

Type-material. Holotype: male, "Arabia Merid., Yemen, Mafhak, m 1550, 29. 8. 1965, leg. G. Scortecci " (MMi). Paratype: 1 male with the same data (IZMi).

Description. Integument of the body and appendage are fully black. Vestiture of both specimens is strongly destroyed but it is possible to say that scaling consists of densely covered scales with recumbent grey and golden yellow rounded scales.

Head Eyes completely flat. Frons not narrower than rostrum at base. Rostrum (Fig. 4) in lateral view slightly curved and feebly narrowing from base to apex. Dorsum of rostrum bears one median and two lateral carinae, covered with grey subelliptical scales before antennal insertions.



Figs. 9–14: Median lobe: 9–10 – *Sharpia heydeni* TOURN.; 11–12 – *Smicronyx helenae* spec. nov.; 13–14 – *Smicronyx leonardii* spec. nov. – Figs. 15–16: Structure of the tarsus: 15 – *Sharpia heydeni* TOURN.; 16 – *Smicronyx helenae* spec. nov.

Prothorax: Rounded at sides and slowly narrowed at the apex and base. Apex with moderately long constriction. Surface of the integument closely and coarsely punctulated and covered with grey scales. Elytra (l/w: 1,58), with prominent humeri, moderately convex, with parallel sides before $^1/_4$ from apex. Scales of elytral interstriae arranged in 2–3 rows, striae distinct. All interstriae have a row of thick hair-like scales.

Legs with moderately clavate femora, each from them has tiny teeth. Tibiae and tarsi of common structure.

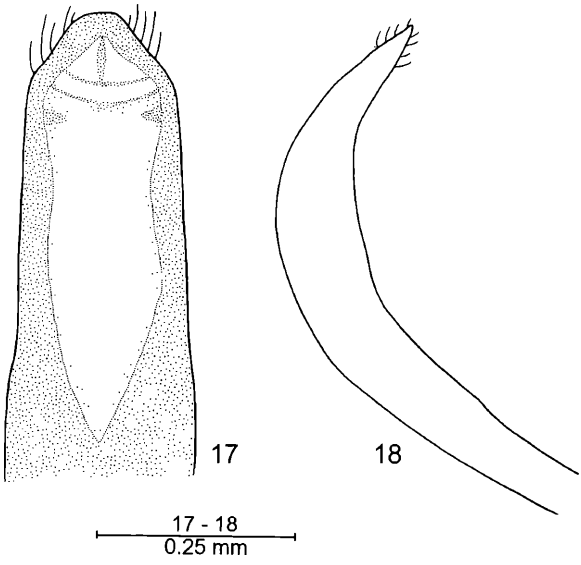
Genitalia: Median lobe see Figs. 13, 14.

Length: 2,7–2,9 mm.

Sexual dimorphism: Female unknown.

Biology. Month of collecting: August. Host plant unknown.

Distribution. Arabia Meridionale.



Figs. 17–18: Median lobe of *Tychius sauricus* spec. nov.

Comparative notes. By the similar habitus and pattern and form of the scales of the dorsal vestiture, the new species is closely related to the African species *Sm. umbrinus* HUST., from which it differs by the smaller size of the body, the shorter rostrum and by the absence of the teeth on protibiae.

Etymology. We take the pleasure in naming the species for our friend and colleague Dr. CARLO LEONARDI.

Tychius sauricus spec. nov.

Type-material. Holotype: male, "East Kazakhstan, Saur range, Sajkan, 25. 6. 1965, Ponomorenko leg." (MMo). Paratypes: 1 female, "East Kazakhstan, Saur range, Sajkan, 9. 7. 1965, Ponomorenko leg." (MMo); 1 female, "Saur range, Sajkan, 25. 6.–9. 7. 1965, Ponomorenko leg." (IZMi); 1 female, "East Kazakhstan, Saur range, Akkolka river, 7–15. 6. 1990, Szcherbakov leg." (IZMi).

Description. Integument black, except legs, apex of rostrum and apex of elytra dark brown. Scales on dorsum rather thickened, mostly elongate and yellow-greyish.
Head: Eyes completely flat. Rostrum (Figs. 7, 8) in lateral view very stout before antennal insertion, then sharply tapered. Antennal funicle of 6 segments.
Prothorax: Slightly narrower than elytra, sides slightly curved, distinctly narrowed near apex, very convex on dorsum, regularly covered with elongate yellow-greyish scales.
Elytra (l/w: 1,38), subovate, rounded at sides and slowly narroved at apex and base, with feebly prominent humeri, widest at last $^1/_3$ (Fig. 6). Scales of elytral interstriae unevenly arranged in 2–3 rows, striae well visible with a row of short hair-like scales.
Legs: Stout, with strongly clavate femora, without teeths. Tibiae short, more slender than femora. Protibiae of males without teeth. Tarsal articles of common structure, tarsal article 3 bilobate and distinctly wider than article 2, claw with processes.
Genitalia: Median lobe see Figs. 17, 18.
Length: 2,6–3,0 mm.
Sexual dimorphism: Female differs from male by the more elongate rostrum (Figs. 7, 8) and larger size of body.

Biology. Months of collecting: June and July. Host plant unknown.

Distribution. East Kazakhstan, Saur range.

Comparative notes. The new species is closely related to *T. alhagi* FST. and *T. afflatus* FST. and can be separated from them by the following key:

1. Integument completely reddish. Body and legs more slender. *T. alhagi* FST.
– Integument of prothorax black. Body and legs more stout. 2
2. Protibiae of males with teeth. Eyes prominent. Length 3,4-3,5 mm. *T. afflatus* FST.
– Protibiae of males without teeth. Eyes flat. Length 2,6-3,0 mm. *T. sauricus* spec. nov.

Etymology. The name refers to the mountain range where the species was collected.

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