

REICHENBACHIA

Staatliches Museum für Tierkunde Dresden

Band 34

Ausgegeben: 30. März 2001

Nr. 17

Pseudethas jaegeri sp. n. from Tibet (Insecta: Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Stenosini)

With 4 figures

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A b s t r a c t. *Pseudethas jaegeri* sp. n. (Tenebrionidae: Stenosini) from high altitudes (5150 m) in Tibet is described. The new species possesses all characters of the genus and of the subgenus *Pseudethas* s. str. and can be separated mainly by the absolutely flat elytral intervals without any keels, by relatively small punctures of the elytral rows and by the lacking of a distinct setation on the dorsal surface including the elytral intervals.

K e y w o r d s Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, Stenosini, *Pseudethas*, new species, Tibet.

Introduction

The Coleoptera fauna of Tibet is nearly unknown, only very few records are published till now. The hard ecological conditions in mostly high altitudes with high insolation, dry winds, extreme daily and seasonal temperature differences and short vegetation periods surely allow only few beetles to exist. Particularly Tenebrionidae are adapted to those arid conditions and are probably more speciose in Tibet than other beetle families.

Thus it seems not surprising, that a small tenebrionid collection from southern Tibet by O. JÄGER (Dresden) contains among other genera (*Ascelosodis*, *Blaps*, *Gnaptorina*, *Laena*, *Platynoscelis*) also a small stenosine series from high altitudes above 5000 m, collected under stones, which turned out to be a new species of *Pseudethas* FAIRMAIRE, 1896, described herein.

A b b r e v i a t i o n s SMTD: Staatliches Museum für Tierkunde Dresden,
SMNS: Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde Stuttgart.

Pseudethas jaegeri sp. n. (figs 1–4)

H o l o t y p e (male): TIBET, 44 km SW Tingri, La-Lung La (Tong La), N 28°30'59.9 / E 86°10'2.1, 5150 m, 5.VIII.1998 leg. O. JÄGER (SMTD).

P a r a t y p e s Same data as holotype, 4 specimens SMTD, 1 specimen SMNS.

¹⁾ Contributions to Tenebrionidae, no. 32. – For no. 31 see: Stuttg. Beitr. Naturkde. (A) 615 (2000).

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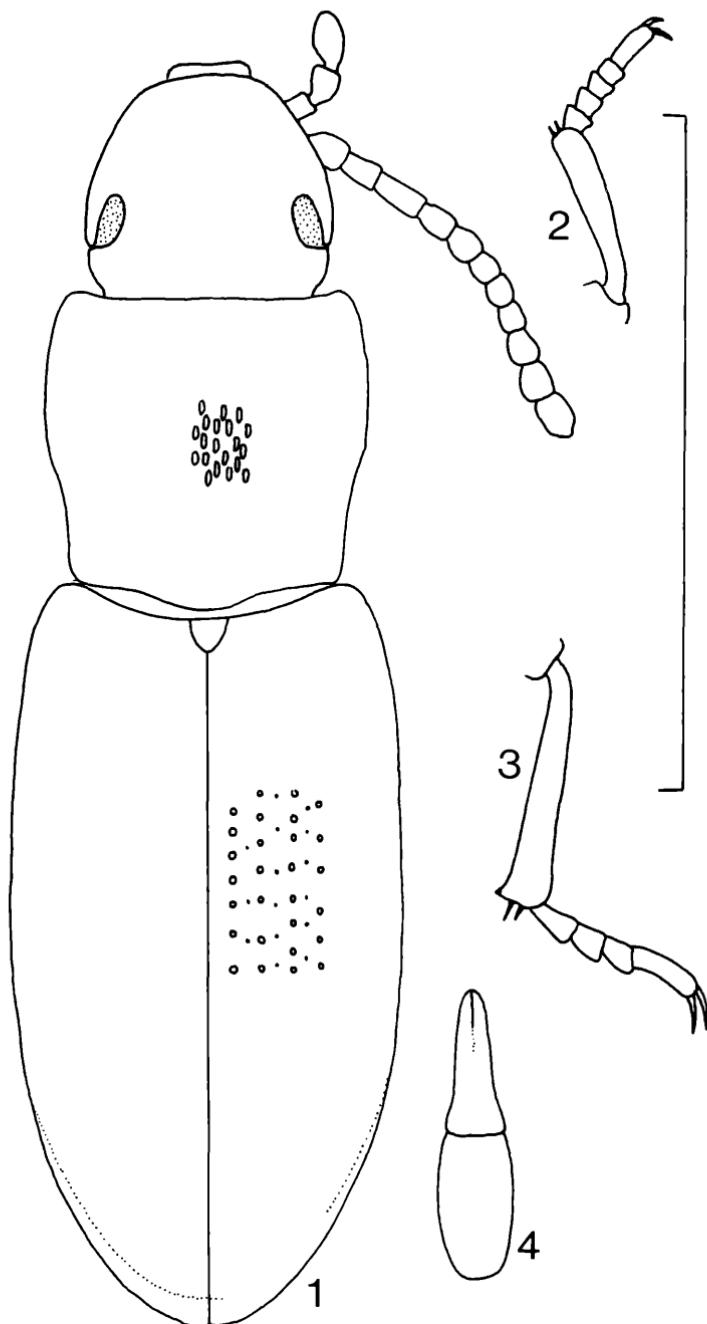
E t y m o l o g y Named after OLAF JÄGER (Dresden), who collected the type series under hard conditions in high altitudes and who offered me this valuable material for study.

D e s c r i p t i o n Body, legs and antennae black, body shape see fig. 1, body length 3.9–4.1 mm. Dorsal side without any setation, only some punctures of pronotum and of the elytral intervals with very short setae not longer than the diameter of the punctures. Head with feebly excavated clypeus but without tooth or granules, clypeal suture not distinct, eyes completely divided by the cheeks, dorsal part of eyes longitudinally oval, dorsal surface of head with rough punctation, punctures distally separate, besides eyes confluent in longitudinal wrinkles, labrum free and to be seen from dorsally, proportions of antennomeres see fig. 1, antennomere 3 prolonged and about twice as long as adjacent antennomeres 2 and 4, ventral side of head without gular impression. Pronotum widest near anterior corners, as wide as medially long, lateral margins excavated before posterior corners, anterior corners not protruding, lateral und basal margin bordered, dorsal surface of pronotum flat and with dense, oval and longitudinal confluent punctation, propleures with round but separate punctures, without distinct propleural apophysis. Wingless. Elytra 1.8 times as long as wide, shape see fig. 1, each elytron with 10 rows of distinct punctures, row 3 with about 30 punctures, these punctures distinctly smaller than those on the pronotum, rows distally somewhat extinguished, medial intervals flat, lateral intervals convex but not keel-like, each interval with a single row of fine punctures sometimes bearing a very short seta, epipleurae without erect setae and with a row of punctures of same size as punctures of the elytral rows. Abdominal sternites with separated punctuation, punctures finer than on pronotum, last visible sternite unbordered. Femur claviform and without teeth, tibiae (figs 2–3) externally smooth and without spines, male middle and posterior tibiae medially with finely hooked apex. Aedeagus see fig. 4.

D i s c u s s i o n MEDVEDEV (1996) presented a key to the genera and subgenera of the tribe Stenosini of the world fauna and according to this key the above described new species possesses all characters of the genus *Pseudethas*: particularly eyes completely divided by the cheeks, antennomere 3 prolonged, pronotum with distinct and smooth lateral margin, dorsal surface without keels on head and pronotum, epipleura without erect setae and with a row of big punctures and elytra at the base distinctly wider than pronotum, and male tibiae medially with finely hooked apex. BLAIR (1927) described the genus *Stenillus* from Tibet, which was downranked to a subgenus of *Pseudethas* by KASZAB (1973). *Pseudethas jaegeri* sp. n. belongs to the subgenus *Pseudethas* s. str. because of the distinctly narrowed cervical constriction and can be separated from the other congeners (see key in KASZAB 1981) particularly by the absolutely flat elytral intervals without any keels, by relatively small punctures of the elytral rows and by the lacking of a distinct setation on the dorsal surface including the elytral intervals. The aedeagus can not be compared because it is unknown in nearly all congeners.

Check-list of the species of *Pseudethas* FAIRMAIRE, 1896

- afghanicus* KASZAB, 1960 (Afghanistan)
- antennalis* KASZAB, 1981 (India: Kumaon)
- costatus* KASZAB, 1981 (India: Uttar Pradesh)
- incostatus* KASZAB, 1981 (Pakistan: Swat, Chitral)
- jaegeri* sp. n. (Tibet)
- ladakhensis* KASZAB, 1978 (India: Ladakh)
- monticola* (BLAIR, 1927) (Tibet) (type species of the subgenus *Stenillus*)
- nepalicus* KASZAB, 1981 (Nepal)
- pakistanus* KASZAB, 1981 (Pakistan: Hazara)
- quadraticeps* FAIRMAIRE, 1896 (India: Simla) (type species of the genus)
- rogersi* (WASMANN, 1899) (India: Simla, Mussorie, Punjab)

Figs 1-4: *Pseudethas jaegeri* sp. n.

1: dorsal view of male holotype – 2: male protibia and protarsus – 3: male metatibia and metatarsus – 4: aedeagus. – Scale line 2.0 mm.

Acknowledgements

I greatly thank OLAF JÄGER (Dresden), who loaned his interesting tenebrionids from Tibet for study and who allowed to keep some duplicates for the Stuttgart Museum. Martin BRENDELL helped with the loan of the type of *Pseudethas (Stenillus) monticola* BLAIR, 1927, from the Natural History Museum in London.

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(Received on October 23, 2000)

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Zeitschrift/Journal: [Reichenbachia](#)

Jahr/Year: 2001

Band/Volume: [34](#)

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Artikel/Article: [Pseudethas jaegeri sp. n. from Tibet \(Insecta: Coleóptera: Tenebrionidae: Stenosini\) 143-146](#)