

On a collection of Scaphidiinae (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae) from Nepal

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Abstract

Scaphisoma joachimschmidti sp. n. is described from Western Nepal. *Scaphidium arrowi* Achard is recorded from Nepal for the first time. New records are given for a number of scaphidiines, some extending the known distributional range of the respective species.

Zusammenfassung

Scaphisoma joachimschmidti sp. n. wird aus West-Nepal beschrieben. *Scaphidium arrowi* Achard wird neu für die Fauna Nepal gemeldet. Neue Funde von Arten der Scaphidiinae werden aufgeführt, von denen einige die Kenntnisse über das bisher bekannte Areal der Arten erweitern.

Key words: Staphylinidae, Scaphidiinae, Himalaya, Nepal, new species, new records

New species

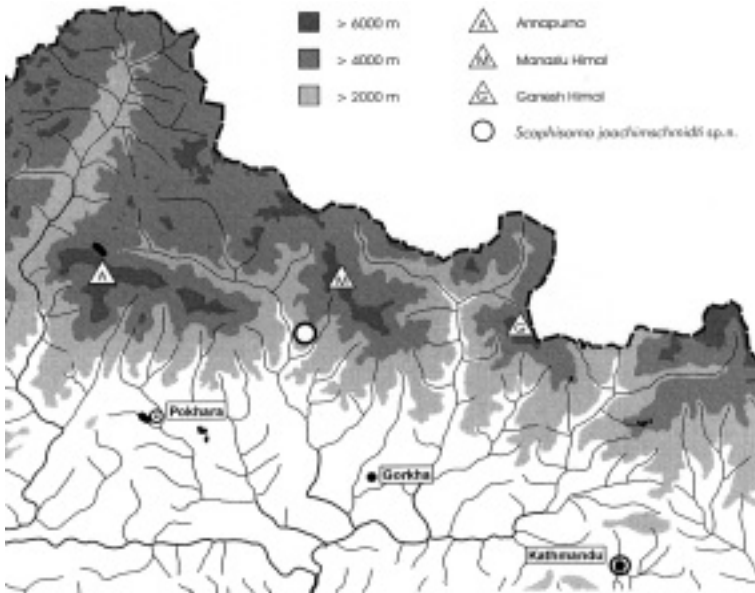
Scaphisoma joachimschmidti sp. n.

Holotype ♂: Western Nepal, Manaslu Mts., Bara Pokhari Lekh, Chhandi Khola valley, 2000-2200m, 11./12.IV.2003, J. Schmidt (in coll. Naturkundemuseum Erfurt = NME).

Paratypes 5 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀, with the same data as holotype (NME, MHNG = Museum histoire naturelle de Genève).

Description. Length 1.80-1.85 mm. Head, pronotum, mesepisterna, metasternum, metepisterna and most of abdomen very dark, blackish with reddish shine to black. Elytra, prohypomera and apices of abdominal sternites usually lighter than pronotum, very dark reddish-brown, or as dark as pronotum. Antennae light brown, legs light reddish-brown. Thorax and elytra lacking microsculpture. Antennae fairly long, reaching beyond pronotal base; antennomere 4 very small, following antennomeres wid-

ened. Length/width ratios of antennomeres as follows: III 3/3; IV 4/3; V 13/4; VI 17/4; VII 21/6; VIII 17/5; IX 20/6; X 18/6; XI 22/6 (holotype). Pronotum finely and densely punctate, with evenly arcuate lateral margins, lateral carinae exposed at dorsal view except near basal angles. Tip of scutellum visible. Elytra fairly narrowed apically, with lateral margins weakly rounded to oblique in middle, lateral margin keels entirely or almost entirely visible at dorsal view, apical margins weakly arcuate, inner apical angle finely serrate, lying in line with outer angles, suture not elevated. Sutural striae shallow, parallel to sutural margin, curved along margin of pronotal lobe, extended along base about to outer third of basal width. Adsutural areas weakly elevated, with dense row of fine punctures. Humeral areas very finely punctate. Remainder of elytral disc densely and fairly coarsely punctate, distinctly coarser punctate than pronotum. Hind wings fully developed. Prohypomera lacking microsculpture. Mesepimeral lines lightly longer than interval to mesocoxa. Metasternum very finely punctate laterally, not microsculptered, lacking impressions and antecoxal puncture rows, with median part weakly convex, very densely and distinctly punctate beyond middle, very finely punctate in middle and anteriorly. Mesocoxal lines arcuate, mesocoxal areas about 0.04 mm long. Metepisterna flat, lying slightly below plan if metasternum, distinctly narrowed anteriorly, with fine suture. Exposed abdominal tergites very finely punctate, with punctulate microsculpture. Abdominal sternite 1 with conspicuous punctulate microsculpture on median part and extended laterally along apical edge, lacking microsculpture on remainder of lateral surface, very finely punctate laterally and medio-apically, with distinct punctation on basal part of median area. Metacoxal lines arcuate, rather finely punctate, metacoxal areas 0.08-0.10mm long. Following sternites very finely punctate and with conspicuous punctulate microsculpture.



Map 1: Part of Nepal, with the site of *Scaphisoma joachimschmidti* sp.n.

Male. Protasomeres 1 to 3 weakly widened. Apical process of abdominal sternite 6 rounded, about 0.03 mm long. Aedeagus (Figs. 1 to 3) 0.33-0,35 mm long, symmetrical. Median lobe weakly sclerotized. Basal bulb comparatively large, suboval, with large ventral tubercles. Distal process inclined, oblique to axis of median lobe, narrow in lateral view, with obtuse tip. Dorsal valves long, overlapping mesally. Internal sac vesicular basally, with very fine scale-like structures and simple, flat flagellum. Parameres moderately long, almost straight, weakly inclined.

Comments. This species is a member of the *S. subalpinum* group. In my key to the Himalayan *Scaphisoma* (LÖBL 1992) it would fall under the couplet „18“, together with *S. inquinatum* Löbl. It may be easily distinguished from *S. inquinatum* by the much longer antennal segment VIII (in latter species only slightly longer than half of antennal segment XI). *Scaphisoma joachimschmidti* sp. n. is clearly distinguished from *S. inquinatum* and other members of the group by its aedeagal characters, in particular by the straight, simple flagellum, in combination with the strongly reduced scale-like structures of the internal sac.

The species is possibly endemic to Manaslu Himal. It was found on a single mountain ridge at the south slope of Himal Chuli known as „Bara Pokhari Lekh“, located between the Myagdi Khola Valley in the west and the Dordi Khola Valley in the east (see Map 1).

The specimens were taken from sifted heaps of litter in an evergreen broad-leaf forest with dominant *Alnus nepalensis*, close to a small stream. The litter heaps were deposited after very heavy rainfalls three days before samples were taken.

Etymology. The species is named in honour of Joachim Schmidt, Rostock (Germany).

New records and comments

All specimens are deposited in the collection of NME, excepted *S. arrowi*. For description and distribution see also LÖBL (1992, 2001, 2003).

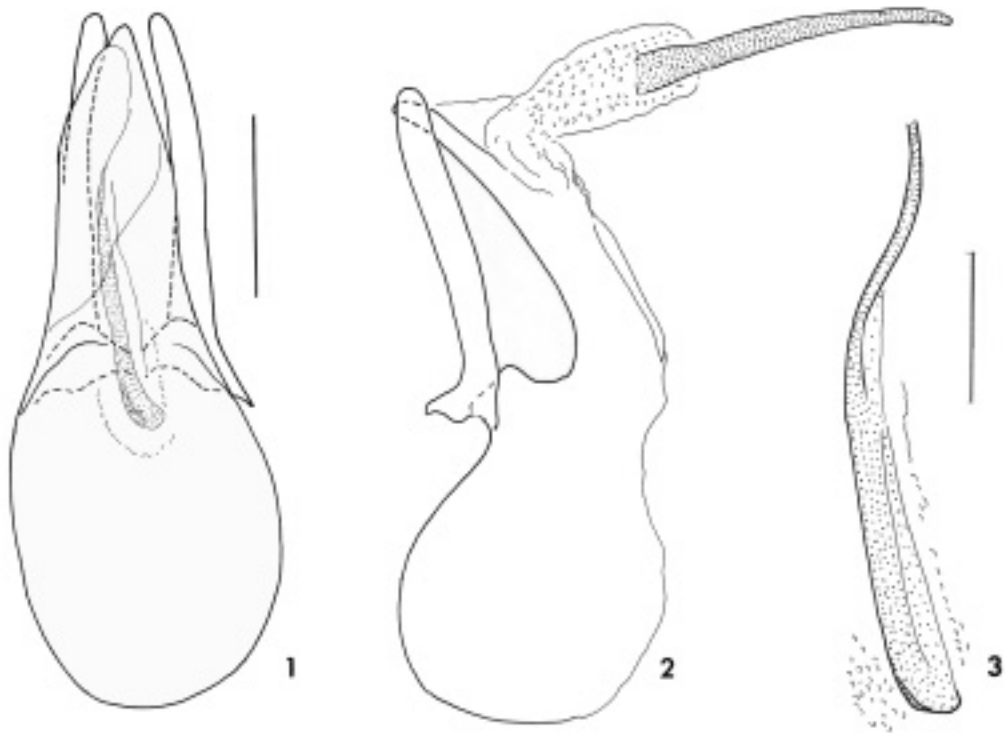
Scaphidium arrowi Achard, 1920

Material: Prov. Koshi, Tashigaon to Kongma, 2200-3400m, 8.X.2002, J. Weipert, 1 ex. (in coll. J. Weipert, Plaue)

Comments. This species is well characterized by its large body size and colour pattern. It was so far known only by specimens from „Bhotan Padong“ (or „British Bootan Padong“) and „Assam“. New record for Nepal.

Scaphidium gurung Löbl, 1992

Material: Manaslu Mts., below Helam Pokhari 2000-2100m, 22.IV.2003, J. Schmidt, 3 exx.; Ma-



Figs. 1-3: *Scaphisoma joachimschmidti* sp. n., aedeagus in dorsal and lateral views. Fig. 2: Aedeagus with the internal sac extruded. Fig. 3: Internal sac, in detail. Scale bars = 0.1mm (Figs.1 and 2), and 0.05 mm (Fig. 3).

naslu Mts., Dudh Pokhari Lekh bei Helam Pokhari 2000m, 22.IV.2003, J. Schmidt, 3 exx.;

Manaslu Mts., Dudh Pokhari Lekh, 2100-2500m, upper Phulinggiri Madi, 19.-21.IV.2003, J. Schmidt, 12 exx.; Manaslu Mts., Dudh Pokhari Lekh, 2600-2800m NN, 15.-17.IV.2003, J. Schmidt, 1 ex.

Comments: This species appears to be restricted to Western Nepal. It is known from altitudes ranging from 1500 to 310 m.

***Scaphidium harmandi* Achard, 1920**

Material: Manaslu Mts., Dudh Pokhari Lekh, 2100-2500m, upper Phulinggiri Madi, 19.-21.IV.2003, J. Schmidt, 20 exx.; Manaslu Mts., below Helam Pokhari 2000-2100m, 22.IV.2003, J. Schmidt, 4 exx.; Manaslu Mts., Dudh Pokhari Lekh bei Helam Pokhari 2000m, 22.IV.2003, J. Schmidt, 5 exx.; Manaslu Mts., Dudh Pokhari Lekh, 2600-2800m NN, 15.-17.IV.2003, J. Schmidt, 1 ex.

Comments: *Scaphidium harmandi* is similar and obviously related to *S. gurun* Löbl and *S. nepalense*

Löbl. These species shares many characteres, including the body form, dark body colour with light elytral fasciae, wide frons, distinct prosternal carina, high mesosternal process, interrupted mesocoxal lines and they have similar aedeagi. The species differs from *S. gurun* Löbl and *S. nepalense* Löbl by the light head and antennal segment 11, the shape of the elytral fasciae, the form of the male legs and the shape of the sclerites of the internal sac of the aedeagus. In particular, *S. gurun* differs in having the male protibiae strongly widened and angulate subapically, the meso- and metatibiae distinctly arcuate, and the apical sclerite of the internal sac subtriangular. In male *S. nepalense* the setose patch is restricted on to the apical half of the metasternum, the profemora lack a distinct carina and are flattened ventrally, the protibiae are less thickened subapically, and the shape of the aedeagal sclerites is distinctive.

Specimens with bicolour pronotum fit in my key to the Himalayan *Scaphidium* (LÖBL 1992), while specimens having uniformly black pronotum would fall un-

der the couplet „14“, together with *S. guring* and *S. nepalense*. They may be easily separated, see above, in particular by their light head and apical antennal segment.

***Baeocera mustangensis* Löbl, 1992**

Material: Manaslu Mts., Bara Pokhari Lekh, 2000m, 7.IV.2003, J. Schmidt, 2 exx.; Manaslu Mts., below Helam Pokhari 2000m, 22.IV.2003, J. Schmidt, 1 ex.; Comments: This species is known only from higher altitudes in central and north part of Western Nepal.

***Pseudobironium almorani* Champion, 1927**

Material: Manaslu Mts., Bara Pokhari Lekh, Chhandi Khola valley, 2000-2200m, 11./12.IV.2003, J. Schmidt, 1 ex.
Comments: The species is widely distributed in the Himalaya, from Himachal Pradesh to Eastern Nepal.

***Scaphobaeocera difficilis* Löbl, 1979**

Material: Manaslu Mts., S of Bara Pokhari, 2000m, 1.IV.1999, H. Lau & J. Schmidt, 2 exx.
Comments: This species is widely distributed throughout India, Nepal and known also from Thailand and northern Pakistan.

***Scaphobaeocera timida* Löbl, 1984**

Material: Manaslu Mts., Dudh Pokhari Lekh below Helam Pokhari 2000m, 22.IV.2003, J. Schmidt, 1 ex.
Comments: This species is widely distributed in the Himalaya, from Himachal Pradesh to Bhutan.

***Scaphisoma alacre* Löbl, 1992**

Material: Manaslu Mts., Dudh Pokhari Lekh, 2100-2500m, upper Phulinggiri Madi, 19.-21.IV.2003, J. Schmidt, 3 exx.; Manaslu Mts., Dudh Pokhari Lekh below Helam Pokhari 2000m, 22.IV.2003, J. Schmidt, 5 exx.; Manaslu Mts., S of Bara Pokhari, 2000m, 1.IV.1999, H. Lau & J. Schmidt, 2 exx.
Comments: This species is known so far only from Western and Central Nepal.

***Scaphisoma bhareko* Löbl, 1992**

Material: Manaslu Mts., Dudh Pokhari Lekh bei Helam Pokhari 2000m, 22.IV.2003, J. Schmidt, 1 ex.; Manaslu Mts., Dudh Pokhari Lekh, 2100-2500m, upper Phulinggiri Madi, 19.-21.IV.2003, J. Schmidt,

3 exx.; Manaslu Mts., Bara Pokhari Lekh, Chhandi Khola valley, 2000-2200m, 11./12.IV.2003, J. Schmidt, 3 exx.; Manaslu Mts., S of Bara Pokhari, 2000m, 7.IV.2003, J. Schmidt, 5 exx.; Annapurna Mts., Chitre (Goropani to Tatapani) 1900-2300m, 10.-12.IX.2003, J. Schmidt, 3 exx.

Comments: This species appears to be rather common in forest sites above 2000m altitude. It is widely distributed in Nepal but unknown from neighbouring countries.

***Scaphisoma fraterculum* Löbl, 1986**

Material: Manaslu Mts., Bara Pokhari Lekh, Chhandi Khola valley, 2000-2200m, 11./12.IV.2003, J. Schmidt, 7 exx.; Manaslu Mts., Dudh Pokhari Lekh, 2100-2500m, upper Phulinggiri Madi, 19.-21.IV.2003, J. Schmidt, 1 ex.;
Comments: The species was described from Meghalaya and Darjeeling District, India, and later reported from Central and Eastern Nepal. The present records extend the known range westward.

***Scaphisoma kaszabianum* Löbl, 1986**

Material: Manaslu Mts., Dudh Pokhari Lekh below Helam Pokhari 2000m, 22.IV.2003, J. Schmidt, 2 exx.; Manaslu Mts., Dudh Pokhari Lekh, 2100-2500m, upper Phulinggiri Madi, 19.-21.IV.2003, J. Schmidt, 1 ex.; Annapurna Mts., W-Madi Himal, Khare to Pothana 1950-2000m, 10.V.2001, J. Schmidt, 2 exx.,
Comments: This species is common in oak forest of Central Nepal. Its range extends from Western Nepal to the Darjeeling District, India.

***Scaphisoma minax* Löbl, 1986**

Material: Manaslu Mts., S of Bara Pokhari, 2000m, 1.IV.1999, H. Lau & J. Schmidt, 8 exx.; Manaslu Mts., S of Bara Pokhari, 2000m, 7.IV.2003, J. Schmidt, 2 exx.; Manaslu Mts., Bara Pokhari Lekh, Chhandi Khola valley, 2000-2200m, 11./12.IV.2003, J. Schmidt, 1 ex.; Manaslu Mts., Dudh Pokhari Lekh below Helam Pokhari 2000m, 22.IV.2003, J. Schmidt, 6 exx.;
Comments: The range of this species extends from Western Nepal to the Darjeeling District, and to Meghalaya, India.

***Scaphisoma nepalense* Löbl, 1992**

Material: Manaslu Mts., S of Bara Pokhari, 2000m,

1.IV.1999, H. Lau & J. Schmidt, 3 exx.; Manaslu Mts., S of Bara Pokhari, 2000m, 7.IV.2003, J. Schmidt, 7 exx.; Manaslu Mts., Bara Pokhari Lekh, Chhandi Khola valley, 2000-2200m, 11./12.IV.2003, J. Schmidt, 1 ex. Comments: This species was reported only from Central Nepal. The present data extend its range westward.

***Scaphisoma nima* Löbl, 1992**

Material: Annapurna Mts., Chitre (Goropani to Tatapani) 1900-2300m, 10.-12.IX.2003, J. Schmidt, 3 exx. Comments: Only few specimens of this species were so far collected, all come from Western Nepal.

***Scaphisoma simplicipenis* Löbl, 1992**

Material: Manaslu Mts., Dudh Pokhari Lekh, 2100-2500m, upper Phulinggiri Madi, 19.-21.IV.2003, J. Schmidt, 3 exx.; Comments: This species appears to be a Nepalese endemic thought widely distributed from Western to Eastern Nepal.

Acknowledgements

Joachim Schmidt (Rostock) checked the locality data and provided information about the habitat of *Scaphisoma joachimschmidti* sp.n., and the map of the collecting sites in the Manaslu area. My thanks are due to my colleague Matthias Hartmann (Erfurt) for making the material available for study.

References

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ARTNER, H. & E. MEIER (Hrsg.) (2000): Schildkröten – Symposiumsband. – Natur und Tier Verlag Münster. 184 S., 206 Abbildungen, ISBN 3-931587-42-8, Preis: 39,80 €.

Der terraristisch ambitionierte Natur und Tier - Verlag legt hier einen mit herrlichen Farbaufnahmen üppig ausgestalteten Band zum „Großen Schildkrötensymposium“ in Salzburg (Januar 1997) vor. Darin berichten vor allem engagierte „Laien“ von ihren gründlichen und systematischen Beobachtungen ihrer Lieblinge in Natur und Gefangenschaft. Erste beziehen sich hauptsächlich auf den mediterranen Raum, hinzu kommen – leider recht erschreckende – „Freilandbeobachtungen“ von asiatischen Märkten. Die Erhaltungszucht insbesondere der zahlreichen hochgradig gefährdeten Arten zieht sich dann auch wie ein roter Faden durch die zahlreichen Berichte zur Haltung und Vermehrung von Schildkröten. Hier berichten die Praktiker von ihren jahrelangen Erfahrungen und Erfolgen. Zweifellos ist dies die besondere Stärke des Bandes, denn obwohl Schildkröten gern und oft gehalten werden, ist ihre Zucht alles andere als ein „Kinderspiel“. Der Versuch, zumindest einige asiatische Arten durch Haltung und permanente Nachzucht eines ausreichend großen Bestandes vor dem endgültigen Verschwinden zu bewahren, ist wohl die einzig verbliebene Möglichkeit und jegliche Unterstützung wert. Ob dieses hehre Ziel aber erreicht werden kann, ist derzeit kaum abzuschätzen. Eine wichtige Etappe ist das im Symposiumsband vorgestellte Projekt einer Erhaltungszuchtstation im Allwetterzoo Münster, welches inzwischen gestartet werden konnte.

Für Freunde dieser urtümlichen Tiere ist der vorliegende Band auf jeden Fall eine willkommene Informationsquelle, die auch Dank der zahlreichen prächtigen Farbaufnahmen immer wieder einmal zum Schmökern animiert.

Ulrich Scheidt

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