

On *Himascelis* Sen Gupta, 1978 (Insecta: Coleoptera: Cryptophagidae) from South Asia

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Zusammenfassung

Die vorliegende Arbeit ist das Ergebnis der Untersuchung zahlreicher Exemplare der Gattung *Himascelis* Sen Gupta, 1978 aus verschiedenen Museumssammlungen. Als ein Ergebnis erhöht sich die Anzahl der Arten von sechs auf vierzehn. Das Verbreitungsgebiet erweitert sich dadurch von bisher China, Indien und Nepal nach Malaysia, Taiwan und Thailand und damit aus der Paläarktis in die Orientalische Region.

Summary

The present paper deals with several specimens of *Himascelis* Sen Gupta, 1978 from the collections of various institutions. The current number of six species increases up to fourteen. The distribution of the genus is no longer limited on China, India and Nepal and contains also parts of the Oriental Region and countries like Malaysia, Thailand and Taiwan.

Key words: Cryptophagidae, Caenoscelini, *Himascelis*, Palaearctic Region, Oriental Region, China, India, Malaysia, Nepal, Taiwan, Thailand, new species.

Introduction

SEN GUPTA (1978) established the genus *Himascelis* for two species from India described in the same paper. SEN GUPTA & PAL (1980) added one species from Kashmir. Later NIKITSKY (1996) described two further species from China (in *Sternodea* Reitter, 1875). LYUBARSKY (1999) transferred these two species from *Sternodea* to *Himascelis* and described three further species. Two were synonymized by JOHNSON et al. (2007). With the present paper the genus now contains 14 species from Asian mountain ranges but not only from the Himalayas: China, India, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Taiwan, Thailand. *Himascelis* Sen Gupta is a member of the Caenoscelini tribe of Cryptophagidae which is forming a group of six

genera: *Caenoscelis* C. G. Thomson, 1863, *Dernostea* Sasaji, 1984, *Himascelis* Sen Gupta, 1978, *Meybohmia* Esser, 2006, *Renodesta* Caterino, Leschen & Johnson, 2008 and *Sternodea* Reitter, 1875.

The diagnosis of *Himascelis* was pointed out by LYUBARSKY (1999): *Himascelis* has a more or less well developed antennal grooves besides the prosternal process. *Sternodea* Reitter, 1875 is lacking antennal grooves, *Caenoscelis* Thomson, 1863 and *Meybohmia* Esser, 2006 are more elongated and parallel sided species. *Dernostea* Sasaji, 1984 and *Renodesta* Caterino et al., 2008 have also antennal grooves like *Himascelis* but 10-segmented antennae with a 1-segmented club (*Himascelis* with 11-segmented antennae and 2-segmented club). Both are short elongated species like *Himascelis*. So far known the species were found in forests by sifting litter and decaying wood (like the most remaining Caenoscelini). The species live in higher altitudes up to nearly 3000 meters.

Material and methods

The material examined is deposited in the following collections:

MFNB	Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, Germany
MHNG	Muséum d'histoire naturelle Geneva, Switzerland
MNHM	Hungarian National Natural History Museum Budapest, Hungary
SMNS	Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde Stuttgart, Germany
cES	author's private collection, Berlin, Germany
cPÜ	Andreas Pütz private collection, Eisenhüttenstadt, Germany

The morphological studies were conducted using a Euromex DZ–1605 and Euromex BB.1153.PLI. Photographs were created with a ToupCam 14MP (ToupTek). Body length was measured from the head to the apex of the elytra, length of pronotum in the middle, broadness on the broadest part.

***Himascelis formosanus* sp. nov.** (fig. 1, 9)

Material: Holotype: „Taiwan; Nantou, Maimu, litter, 1600 m, 30.III.2002, Hiroshi Sugava“ [MFNB].

Etymology: Named after the ancient name Formosa for Taiwan.

Description: Unknown sex, oval (fig. 1), surface convex (fig. 9), reddish-brown, 1,3 mm, covered with long, semi-erected hairs, membranous wings absent. Eyes small, hemispherical, with only a few ommatidia. Head with triangular boss between the insertion of antennae, puncture strong and dense. Pronotum with puncture strong and dense, only on posterior part (behind transverse line) of more sparse and distance between puncture equal to the diameter. Sides of pronotum slightly rounded, nearly parallel in the posterior half, strong but nearly straight narrowed in the anterior half. Pronotum with a transverse line in the beginning of the posterior third, line carinate, slightly curved forwards in the middle. Basal margin without features, slightly rounded backwards, concave besides the middle, posterior angles nearly rectangular. Elytra (basal third) with puncture strong and dense (like on anterior part of pronotum), suture not developed. Antennae stout with a two-segmented club. Antennomeres IV to IX strongly (IX) or moderately (IV) transverse. Antennomere I short and barrel-shaped, II longer and smaller, curved, III hardly longer than II, also curved. Antennomere X transverse, XI rounded. Legs without features, anterior tibiae slightly curved outside.

Comment: First species from Taiwan with relatively enlarged antenno-mer XI.

***Himascelis johnsoni* sp. nov.** (fig. 2, 10)

Material: Holotype ♂: „India, Meghalaya; Khasi Hills, 25.X.78, Shillong, 1850–1950 m, Besuchet-Löbl“ [MHNG].

Paratypes: 3 ex. with the same data as the holotype [cES, MHNG]; 1 ex. „India, Meghalaya; Khasi Hills, 27.X.78, Weloi, 1700 m, Besuchet-Löbl“ [MHNG]; 1 ex. „India, Meghalaya; Khasi Hills, 28.X.78, Maphlang, 1800 m, Besuchet-Löbl“ [MHNG].

Etymology: To the honour of Colin Johnson, who did a lot of research on Cryptophagidae and discovered these species as new.

Description: Male, oval (fig. 2), surface moderately convex (fig. 10), reddish-brown, 1,2 mm, covered with

long, semi-erected hairs, membranous wings absent. Head with triangular boss between the insertion of antennae, puncture strong and dense, somewhat finer than on pronotum. Eyes small, hemispherical, with only a few ommatidia. Sides of pronotum slightly rounded, nearly parallel in the posterior third, strong but nearly straight narrowed in the two anterior thirds. Pronotum with a transverse line in the beginning of the posterior third, line carinate, slightly curved forwards in the middle. Puncture strong and dense, distance somewhat smaller than the diameter. Basal margin without features, slightly rounded backwards. Elytra with puncture strong and dense (basal third), the distance equal to the diameter, slightly finer than on pronotum, suture short. Antennae stout with a two-segmented club. Antennomeres I barrel-shaped, II elongated with rounded sides, longer than broad. Antennomere III smaller and longer than II and I. Antennomeres IV to IX short, broad, more or less transverse, IX the broadest, could be seen as part of the club. Antennomere X moderately transverse, broader than IX, XI rounded triangular, asymmetric. Legs slender and without features.

Comment: Similar to *H. brunneus* Sen Gupta, 1978 but more stout, pubescence longer, puncture stronger, antennal less loose segmented.

***Himascelis loebli* sp. nov.** (fig. 3, 11)

Material: Holotype ♂: „W.Malaysia: Pahang, Fraser's Hill, 1300 m, Tiong-Layang trail #11, Löbl & Calame, 18.3.93“ [MHNG].

Paratypes: 2 ex. „W.Malaysia: Pahang, Genting Highlands, 1650 m, 5.IV.93, Löbl & Calame #29“ [cES, MHNG]; 1 ex. „W.Malaysia: Pahang #18b, Cameron Highls., 1550 m, Gunung Jasar, trail 11, Löbl & Calame, 24.3.93“ [MHNG]; 1 ex. „W.Malaysia: Pahang, Fraser's Hill, 1050 m, Jeriau Waterfalls #12a, Löbl & Calame, 19.3.93“ [MHNG].

Etymology: Named to the honour of Ivan Löbl who collected this species and a lot of interesting species.

Description: Male, oval (fig. 3), surface flattened (fig. 11), reddish-brown, 1,2 mm, covered with long and decumbent hairs, membranous wings absent. Head with obtuse triangular boss between the insertion of antennae, puncture moderately strong and dense, somewhat finer and denser than on pronotum. Eyes small and with

only few ommatidia. Puncture on pronotum strong but sparse in the the anterior part (before the transverse line), fine and sparse in the posterior part. Sides of pronotum strongly and equal rounded, posterior angles rectangular, basis without features, rounded backwards. Pronotum with a transverse line, carinate, feebly rounded backwards in the middle and forwards besides the middle. Antennae very stout, antennomers I and II short and oval, II somewhat smaller. Elytra (basal third) with puncture strong but sparse (as on anterior part of pronotum), suture short. Antennomere III also short but longer than II. Antennomeres IV to IX transverse, IV smaller than IX. Antennomere X moderately transverse, XI rounded and nearly symmetric. Legs without features, anterior tibiae slightly rounded interior and widened apically. Posterior tarsi (only in male) four-segmented.

Comment: Well characterized by its stout antennae (literally antennomers I to III) and sparse puncture. Southernmost species together with *H. rotundatus* sp. nov. from the same area.

***Himascelis longicornis* sp. nov.** (fig. 4)

Material: Holotype ♂: „China: Yunnan [CH07–28A], Nujiang Lisu Aut. Pref., Gaoligong Shan, side valley 19 km NW Liuku, 25°59'02"N, 98°42'23"E, 2730 m, devast. prim. for., litter sifted, 10.VI.2007, M. Schülke“ [MFNB]. Paratypes: 2 ex. with the same data as the holotype [cES, MFNB]; 1 ex. „China: Yunnan [CH07–28A], Nujiang Lisu Aut. Pref., Gaoligong Shan, side valley 19 km NW Liuku, 25°59'02"N, 98°42'23"E, 2730 m, devast. prim. for., litter sifted, 9.VI.2007, M. Schülke“ [MFNB].

Etymology: Longicornis, the Latin word for long antennae.

Description: Male, elongate, reddish-brown, 1,6 mm, covered with medium sized, appressed hairs, membranous wings absent. Head with an obtuse triangular boss between the insertion of antennae, strongly punctate. Eyes small, hemispherical, with only a few ommatidia. Puncture on pronotum very strong and dense and partly wrinkled in the anterior part, less strong and dense in the posterior part. Sides of pronotum slightly rounded from the basis to the anterior angles, somewhat before the middle more narrowed than behind. Pronotum with a transverse line in the behind the middle, carinate,

rounded forwards in the middle, backwards besides the middle. Basal margin without features, slightly rounded backwards, posterior angles nearly rectangular. Elytra elongated, puncture (basal third) somewhat finer as on the anterior part of pronotum but feebly denser. Suture indistinct developed in the posterior part. Antennae moderately slender with a two-segmented club. Antennomere I oval, II elongated, III more than two times longer than broad, curved. Antennomeres IV to IX moderately transverse, IX the broadest. Antennomere X transverse, XI triangular and asymmetric. Legs slender and without features except anterior tibiae, which are apically widened interior. Posterior tarsi four-segmented (only in male).

Comment: Similar to *H. kashmirensis* Sen Gupta & Pal, 1980 but antennae more slender, antennomer III curved, IV to IX less transverse.

***Himascelis pumilus* sp. nov.** (fig. 5)

Material: Holotype ♂: „China: Yunnan [CH07–13], Baoshan Pref. Gaoligong Shan, E pass, 36 km SE Tengchong, 2200 m, 24°49'32"N, 98°46'06"E, decid. forest, litter, wood, fungi sifted, 31.V.2007, M. Schülke“ [MFNB].

Paratypes: 3 ex. with the same data as the holotype [cES, MFNB]; 1 ex. „China: Yunnan [CH07–35], Dali Bai Auton. Pref., Wuliang Shan, 9 km SW Weishan, 2450–2500 m, 25°10'14"N, 100°14'22"E, W slope, oaks and pines, sifted, 13.VI.2007, M. Schülke“ [MFNB]; 1 ex. „China: Yunnan, Baoshan Pref., Gaoligong Shan, 33 km SE Tengchong, 2150 m, 24°51'22"N, 98°45'36"E, devast. primary deciduous forest, litter, wood, mushrooms sifted, 28.VIII.2009, leg. M. Schülke [CH09–08a]“ [MFNB].

Etymology: Pumilus, the Latin word for dwarf.

Description: Male, elongate, reddish-brown, 1,4 mm, covered with long, semi-erected hairs, membranous wings absent. Head with strong puncture and a triangular boss between the insertion of antennae. Eyes small, hemispherical, with only a few ommatidia. Puncture on pronotum strong and dense, on elytra (basal third) less strong and the distance somewhat wider than the diameter. Sides of pronotum slightly rounded, nearly parallel in the posterior half, strong but nearly straight narrowed in the anterior half. Pronotum with a transverse line in

the beginning of the posterior third, line carinate, slightly curved forwards in the middle. Basal margin without features, slightly rounded backwards, posterior angles oriented backwards, between angles and middle concave. Elytra short elongated, suture well developed in the posterior part. Antennae stout with an two-segmented club. Antennomeres I barrel-shaped, II more elongated and widened posterior, longer than broad. Antennomere III smaller and longer than II and I, slightly curved. Antennomeres IV to IX short, broad, more or less transverse, IX the broadest. Antennomere X transverse, broader than IX, XI rounded, slightly asymmetric. Legs slender and without features except anterior tibiae, which are slightly curved outside and apically widened interior. Posterior tarsi four-segmented (only in male).

Comment: Similar to *H. johnsoni* sp. nov. (see above) but more elongated, sides of elytra more straight, sides of pronotum nearly straight in the posterior half (posterior third in *H. johnsoni* sp. nov.). Last antennomer more rounded (in *H. johnsoni* rounded triangular). puncture on elytra somewhat finer.

***Himascelis rotundatus* sp. nov.** (fig. 6)

Material: Holotype: „Malaisie, Pahang, Berinchang, Cameron Highlands, T. Jaccoud 26.III.77“ [MHNG].

Etymology: Rotundatus, the Latin word for rounded.

Description: Male, short oval, rounded, reddish-brown, 1,1 mm, covered with long and semi-erected hairs, membranous wings absent. Head with a triangular boss between insertion of antennae, puncture moderately and dense. Eyes small, hemispherical, with only a few ommatidia. Puncture on pronotum moderately strong and dense, somewhat sparse in the posterior part (behind the transverse line). Sides of pronotum even rounded, near the basis more parallel. Basis without features, slightly rounded backwards. Posterior angles rounded, more arcuate-angled. Pronotum with a transverse line, curved anterior in the middle, curved posterior besides the middle. Elytra (basal third) with puncture moderately strong and dense (as on anterior part of pronotum), suture indistinct. Antennae stout, antennomer I short barrel-shaped, II oviform, III elongated, widened apically, slightly curved. Antennomeres IV to IX more (IX) or less (IV) transverse, X moderately transverse, XI rounded with an obtuse tip. Antennomeres X and

XI paler than remaining. Legs slender without features, tarsi stout, anterior tibiae widened apically, posterior tarsi four-segmented (only in male).

Comment: Unique species so far due its rounded habitus. Southernmost known species together with *H. loebli* sp. nov. from the same area.

***Himascelis schwendingeri* sp. nov.** (fig. 7, 12)

Material: Holotype ♂: „Thailand, 16.II/18.IV.87, prov. Chiang Mai, Doi Inthanon, 2530 m, P. Schwendinger, BF“ [MHNG].

Paratypes: 5 ex. with the same data as the holotype [cES, MHNG]; 4 ex.: „Thailand, 18.IV./23.V.87, prov. Chiang Mai, Doi Inthanon, 2500 m, P. Schwendinger, BF“ [MHNG]; 3 ex. „Thailand – Chiang Mai, Doi Inthanon, 2300 m, Barber F., VI.87, P. Schwendinger“ [MHNG]; 4 ex. „Thailand – Chiang Mai, Doi Inthanon, 2500 m, Barber F., VI.87, P. Schwendinger“ [cES, MHNG]; 2 ex. „Thailand – Chiang Mai, Doi Inthanon, 2530 m, Barber F., XI.86, P. Schwendinger“ [MHNG]; 2 ex. „Thailand – Chiang Mai, Doi Inthanon, 2530 m, VII.87, P. Schwendinger“ [MHNG]; 1 ex. „Thailand, 17.XII.86/16.II.87, prov. Chiang Mai, Doi Inthanon, 2000 m, P. Schwendinger BF“ [MHNG]; 14 ex. „Thailand, 17.II.86, prov. Chiang Mai, Doi Inthanon, 1780 m, P. Schwendinger“ [cES, MHNG]; 1 ex. „Thailand: Doi Phu Nan Prov., 500 m, Kha Nat. Park, 1700 m, Schwendinger 6.10.91“ [MHNG]; 1 ex. „Thailand: Mae Hong Son – Doi Chang, 20 km E Pai, 10.IV.87, P. Schwendinger 1950 m“ [MHNG]; 2 ex. „Thailand: Chiang Mai, Doi Inthanon, 1650 m, 7.XI.1985, Burckhardt-Löbl“ [MHNG]; 5 ex. „Thailand: Chiang Mai, Doi Inthanon, 1650 m, 7.XI.1985, Burckhardt-Löbl“ [cES, MHNG]; 2 ex. „Thailand: Chiang Mai, Doi Inthanon, 2450 m, 9.XI.1985, Burckhardt-Löbl“ [MHNG]; 1 ex. „Thailand: Chiang Mai, Doi Inthanon, 2500 m, 9.XI.1985, Burckhardt-Löbl“ [MHNG].

Etymology: Named to the honour of Peter J. Schwendinger who collected a lot of interesting Cryptophagidae in Thailand.

Description: Male, elongated oval (fig. 7), surface flattened (fig. 12), pale reddish-brown, 1,0 mm, covered with medium long and decumbent hairs, membranous wings absent. Head with a triangular boss between insertion of antennae, puncture strong and dense. Eyes very small with only a few ommatidia. Puncture on

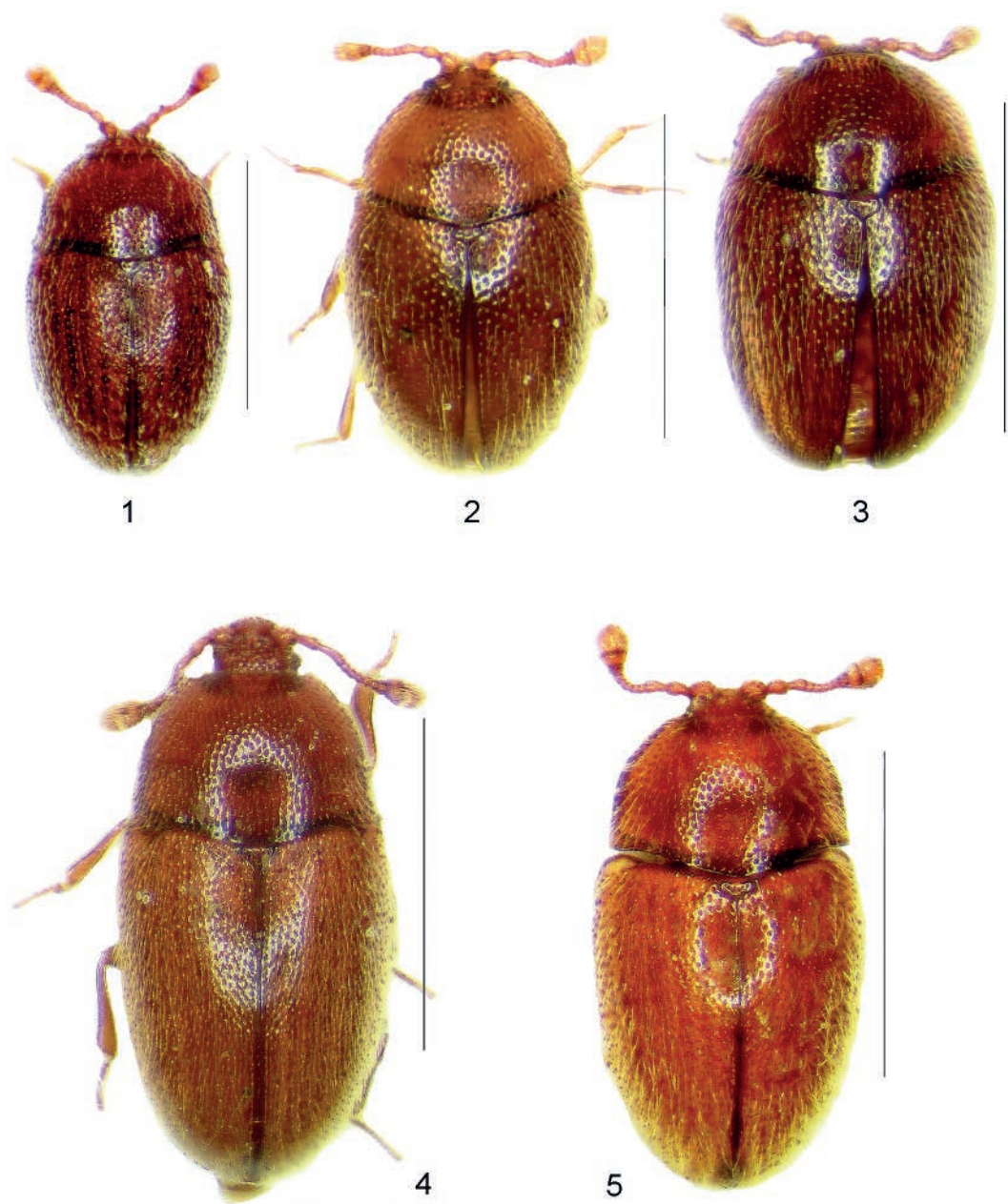


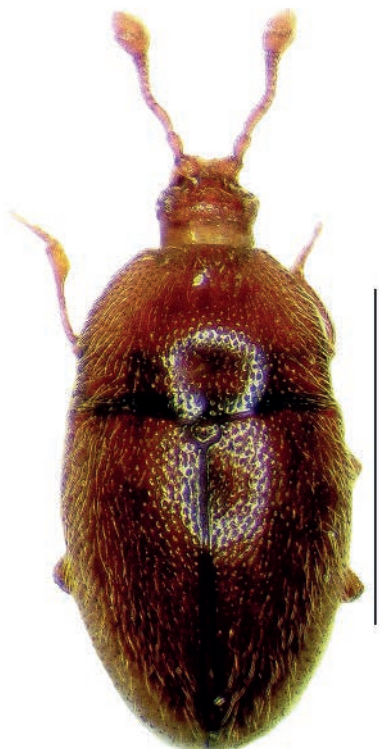
Fig. 1-5: Habits of the new species: 1 - *Himascelis formosanus* sp. nov., 2 - *Himascelis johnsoni* sp. nov., 3 - *Himascelis loebli* sp. nov., 4 - *Himascelis longicornis* sp. nov., 5 - *Himascelis pumilus* sp. nov., Scale bar: 1 mm.



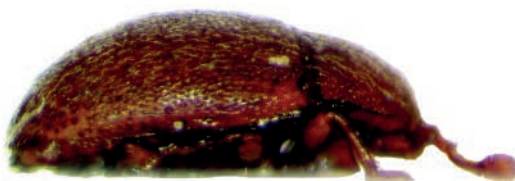
6



7



8



9



10

Fig. 6-8: Habits of the new species: **6** - *Himascelis rotundatus* sp. nov., **7** - *Himascelis schwendingeri* sp. nov., **8** - *Himascelis tibialis* sp. nov., Scale bar: 1 mm. **Fig. 9-10:** Lateral view of: **9** - *Himascelis formosanus* sp. nov., **10** - *H. johnsoni* sp. nov.

pronotum moderately strong and dense, somewhat more strong and dense on the anterior part of pronotum (before the transverse line). Sides of pronotum even rounded, basal margin without features, slightly rounded backwards, posterior angles nearly rectangular. Pronotum with a transverse line in the beginning of the posterior third, line carinate, curved forwards in the middle. Elytra with puncture (basal third) moderately strong and dense (as on pronotum), suture indistinct. Antennae stout with a two segmented club, but with antennomere IX strongly transverse and like a part of the club. Antennomeres IV to VIII also transverse, I short and hardly longer than broad, II equal in length but smaller, III moderately elongated and curved. Antennomere X moderately transverse, XI rounded. Legs slender, anterior tarsi widened apically and curved outside. Posterior tarsi four-segmented (only in male).

Comment: First species from Thailand and smallest species known. Distinguishable by its sparse puncture and antennal grooves less deep than in other known species.

***Himascelis tibialis* sp. nov.** (fig. 8, 13)

Material: Holotype ♂: „China: Yunnan, SE Pingbian, 22°54'31"N, 103°41'44"E, 2100 m, primary subtropical broadleaved forest, litter sifted, 27.VIII.2014, leg. M. Schülke [CH14-22]“ [MFNB].

Paratypes: 4 ex. with the same data as the holotype [cES, MFNB].

Etymology: Named after its anterior tibiae widened abruptly in male.

Description: Male, elongated oval (fig. 8), surface convex (fig 13), reddish-brown, 1,5 mm, covered with long, more erected hairs, membranous wings absent. Head with strong puncture and an obtuse triangular boss between the insertion of antennae. Eyes small, hemispherical, with only a few ommatidia. Puncture on pronotum strong and dense in the anterior part, less dense and somewhat more gently in the posterior part. On elytra with puncture denser as on the posterior part of pronotum. Sides of pronotum slightly rounded, nearly parallel in the posterior half, strong but nearly straight narrowed in the anterior half. Pronotum with a transverse line in the beginning of the posterior third, line carinate, slightly curved forwards in the middle. Basal margin without features, slightly rounded backwards, posterior angles

nearly rectangular. Elytra moderately elongated, puncture fine and sparse, suture short. Antennae elongated with a two-segmented club. Antennomeres IV to IX more (IX) or less (IV) transverse, IX broadest. Antennomere I barrel-shaped, II nearly two times longer than broad and slightly curved, III strongly elongated and curved. Antennomere X moderately transverse, apically skewed, XI triangular but asymmetrical and also skewed. Legs slender, anterior tibiae interior apically abruptly widened. Posterior tarsi four-segmented (only in male).

Comment: Similar to *H. pumilus* sp. nov. which is described also from Yunnan. Distinguishable by more slender antennae with long and curved antennomers II and III. *H. chinensis* (NIKITSKY, 1996) and *H. similis* (NIKITSKY, 1996) have also stouter antennae with antennomers II and III shorter and less curved. Frons with boss (between antennae) obtuse in *H. tibialis* sp. nov., rounded in *H. chinensis* (NIKITSKY, 1996) and triangular in *H. similis* (NIKITSKY, 1996). From the Nepalese *H. turgidus* LYUBARSKY, 1999 well distinguished by its longer and curved antennomers II and III.



Fig. 11–13: Lateral view of: **11** – *H. loebli* sp. nov., **12** – *Himascelis schwendingeri* sp. nov., **13** – *H. tibialis* sp. nov.

Catalogue

brunneus Sen Gupta, 1978
gracilis Lyubarsky, 1999
chinensis (Nikitsky, 1996)
formosanus **sp. nov.**
johnsoni **sp. nov.**
kashmirensis Sen Gupta & Pal, 1980
loeblis **sp. nov.**
longicornis **sp. nov.**
nigratus Sen Gupta, 1978
nepalensis Lyubarsky, 1999
pumilus **sp. nov.**
rotundatus **sp. nov.**
schwendingeri **sp. nov.**
similis (Nikitsky, 1996)
tibialis **sp. nov.**
turgidus Lyubarsky, 1999

India: Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim (Darjeeling District), Kashmir, Nepal
China: Shanxi, Yunnan
Taiwan: Nantou
India: Meghalaya
India: Kashmir, Pakistan
Malaysia: Pahang
China: Yunnan (West)
India: Sikkim (Darjeeling District), Nepal

China: Yunnan (West)
Malaysia: Pahang
Thailand: Chiang Mai
China: Sichuan, Yunnan
China: Yunnan (South East)
Nepal, India

New records

H. chinensis (Nikitsky, 1996)
China: Yunnan: Dali Bai Aut. Pref. [MFNB, cES].

H. kashmirensis Sen Gupta & Pal, 1980
Pakistan: Chitral, Lawarai Pass [MHNG].

H. similis (Nikitsky, 1996)
China: Sichuan: Ganzi Tibetan Aut. Pref. [cPÜ]; Yunnan: Lincang Pref. [MFNB, cES].

H. turgidus Lyubarsky, 1999
India: Darjeeling Distr. [MNHM].

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