A new *Litargus* species from Laos (Insecta: Coleoptera: Mycetophagidae)

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Abstract

Litargus (*Alitargus*) *laosensis* sp. nov. from Laos is described, illustrated and compared with similar species.

Zusammenfassung

Litargus (*Alitargus*) *laosensis* sp. nov. aus Laos wird neu für die Wissenschaft beschrieben, abgebildet und mit ähnlichen Arten verglichen.

Key words: taxonomy, new species, description, Coleoptera, Mycetophagidae, *Litargus*, Laos

Introduction

The cosmopolitan genus *Litargus* Erichson, 1846 is divided into 4 subgenera: *Alitargus* Casey 1900, including 2 species, *Litargosomus* Motschulsky, 1858 including 10 species, *Litargus* s. str. including 3 species, and *Tilargus* Casey 1900, including 8 species; 31 names remain as *incertae sedis* (Hetschko 1930; Nikitsky 1992, 1993, 2008, 2020; Háva 2020). Grouvelle (1900, 1908, 1914) described four *Litargus* species from Indonesia with maculate elytra (without subgeneric status): *Litargus rugulosus* Grouvelle, 1908 (Java), *Litargus adumbratus* Grouvelle, 1914 (Tanimbar), *Litargus weyersi* Grouvelle, 1900 (Sumatra) and *Litargus latus* Grouvelle, 1900 (Sumatra). Háva (2021) described a unicolorous species *Litargus timorensis* Háva, 2021 from Timor. In the present article, a new species is described from Laos.

Material and Methods

The material is deposited in the following collections:

JHAC Jiří Háva, Private Entomological Laboratory & Collection, Únětice u Prahy, Prague-West, Czech Republic.

NMED Naturkundemuseum Erfurt, Germany.

The size of the beetles or of their body parts can be useful in species recognition and thus, the following measurements were made:

total length (TL) – linear distance from anterior margin of head to apex of elytra.

elytral width (EW) – maximum linear transverse distance.

Specimens of the presently described species are provided with red, printed label with the text as follows: "HOLOTYPE [or PARATYPE] *Litargus* (*Alitargus*) *laosensis* sp. nov. Jiří Háva det. 2021".

Taxonomy

Litargus (*Alitargus*) *laosensis* sp. nov.

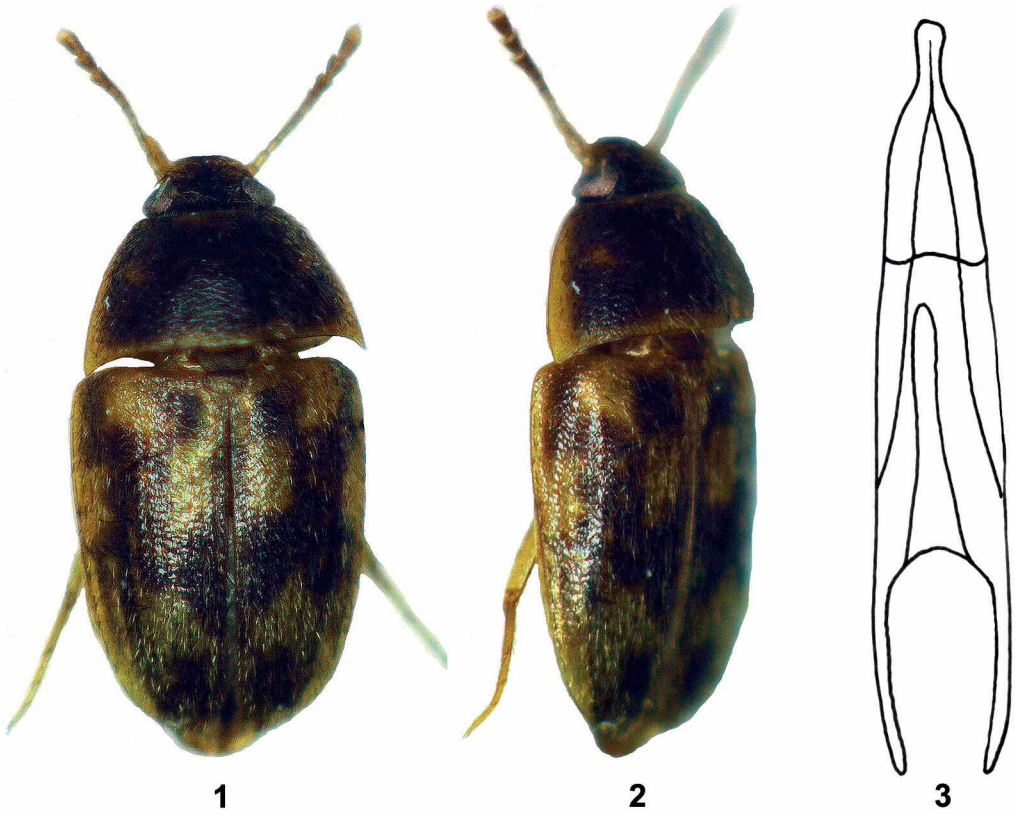
(Figs. 1–4)

Type material. Holotype (♂) labelled: "NW LAOS, Louang Namtha Provinz, 10–30 km NW Louang Namtha, 800 m, 14–22.vi.1996, C. Holzschuh leg.", (NMED). Paratype (1 ♀): same data as holotype (JHAC).

Description

Male. Body measurements TL 2.6 mm, EW 1.3 mm; oblong-oval, subparallel-sided; weakly convex dorsally, weakly glossy; brown, covered with yellow and intermixed individual black, recumbent setation; elytra brown with yellowish patterns (Figs. 1–2). Head brown, with dense and coarse punctures; covered by intermixed yellow and black, recumbent setation; labrum brown; eyes prominent laterally in dorsal view, coarsely faceted and slightly emarginate near antennal insertions; antennae with 11 antennomeres, antennomeres I–VIII light brown, antennal club dark brown consisting of three antennomeres (Fig. 4); palpi dark brown, apical maxillary palpomere large, cylindrical.

Pronotum brown with yellowish latero-apical parts covered by yellow, recumbent setae, convex dorsally,



Figs. 1–3. ***Litargus* (*Alitargus*) *laosensis* sp. nov.: 1** – habitus, dorsal view; **2** – habitus, dorsolateral view; **3** – male genitalia, schematic drawing.

rugose, with large and dense punctures, widest posteriorly, gradually narrowed anteriad and posteriad; anterior margin slightly arcuate; lateral sides roundly arcuate; basal margin sinuate, without short and circular grooves on subbasal parts.

Scutellum yellowish, triangular, with short recumbent yellow setation.

Elytra brown with small yellowish patterns, covered with yellow and intermixed individual black, recumbent setation (Figs. 1–2). Epipleuron brown, covered with yellow recumbent setation.

Meta-meso ventrite brown, with yellow recumbent setation, finely punctate.

Legs entirely light brown with light brown spines, covered with brown recumbent setation. Tibiae with very long brown spines apically.

Abdominal visible ventrites light brown, finely punctate, covered with yellow, short, recumbent setation. Pygidium brown, covered with yellow, recumbent setation. Male genitalia as in fig. 3.

Female. Externally similar to male. Body measurements TL 2.6 mm, EW 1.3 mm.

Fig. 4 – antenna of *L. laosensis* sp. nov.

Diagnosis. Based on the structure of antennae and long tibia spines, the new species belongs to the subgenus *Alitargus* Casey 1900; the subgenus contains only two species, including a cosmopolitan species and one species known from the Nearctic Region (United States); the new species differs from them and other known species by the structure of the antennae, the male genitalia and the colour of the elytral spots.

Etymology. Toponymic, named after the country of origin.

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