New distributional and morphometric data for

*Achaetomalachius clarus* MAJER, 1996 (Coleoptera: Dasytidae)

Isidor S. PLONSKI & Zubair Ahmed

**Abstract**

*Achaetomalachius clarus* MAJER, 1996 is recorded from Pakistan for the first time and from Afghanistan for a second time. Additional details on chromatic features and morphometric data from the two population samples are communicated.

**Key words:** Melyridae s.l., new record, Afghanistan, Pakistan.

**Zusammenfassung**


**Introduction**

Twentyfour species of *Achaetomalachius* MAJER, 1989 (Dasytidae: Chaetomalachiinae) are described from Iran (one species), the Himalayan region (22 species) and Myanmar (one species) (MAJER 1996a, 1996b, CONSTANTIN 2015, PLONSKI 2017). Heretofore, two species, viz. *A. bengalensis* (PIC, 1907) and *A. vagus* MAJER, 1996, were known to occur in Pakistan (MAJER 1996a, 1996c).

In this study we report on new material of *A. clarus* MAJER, 1996 from Pakistan and Afghanistan, and provide descriptive notes on chromatic features and morphometric data as a supplement to the original description.

**Material and methods**

Thirtytwo specimens of *A. clarus* were examined. They are dry preserved and housed in the beetle collections of the authors or their affiliated institutions.

The species was identified with help of the revision by MAJER (1996a). A Leica MZ6 stereomicroscope with an ocular micrometer was used as optical tool. Some male specimens were softened and dissected with the procedure and equipment described in PLONSKI (2014).

The distribution map was made with help of the free online tool by SHORTHOUSE (2010).

**Acronyms of measurements:**

- **HL**  Head length. Maximum length of head capsule, measured in dorsal view.
- **HW**  Head width. Maximum width of head including eyes, measured in dorsal view.
IOW  Intercocular width. Minimum width of interspace between eyes, measured in dorsal view.

PL  Pronotal length. Maximum length of pronotum, measured in dorsal view.

PW  Pronotal width. Maximum width of pronotum, measured in dorsal view.

EL  Elytral length. Maximum length of elytra, including the scutellum, measured along the suture in dorsal view.

EW  Elytral width. Maximum width of elytra, measured in dorsal view.

M  Arithmetic mean.

SD  Standard deviation.

Results

*Achaetomalachius clarus* MAJER, 1996 (Figs. 1–3)


Type locality: Panjshir valley environment (2200 m a.s.l.) next to Bazarak urban village, viz. „Endpunkt der Auto-Landstraße“ (t. KLAPPERICH 1954: 116) [= endpoint of road; today continuous as the Saricha road], Panjshir Province, Afghanistan.


Collecting circumstances: The population sample from Ziarat was collected with a beating net from a stand of *Lycium depressum* STOCKS (Solanaceae), which was past flowering.

Notes on colouration: The abdominal segments have the same dark colour as the cranium and the thorax (this feature was not clearly stated in the original description). Furthermore, the apices of the last tarsomeres and the tarsal claws are blackish darkened, and the apices of the last maxillary palpomeres and the ultimate antennomeres are more brownish darkened than the remaining light coloured body parts.

Note on morphometrics: MAJER (1996a) reports only the length (viz. total length of specimens, most likely measured from clypeus to elytral apex in dorsal view) and width (viz. EW) of two males and one female. Here, the present authors provide as a supplement to the original description following measurements, which are based upon the population sample from Afghanistan:

Males (n = 8): HL: 0.52 – 0.72 mm (M: 0.62 mm; SD: 0.06); HW: 0.72 – 0.77 mm (M: 0.74 mm; SD: 0.03); IOW: 0.49 – 0.56 mm (M: 0.52 mm; SD: 0.03); PL: 0.62 – 0.82 mm (M: 0.72 mm; SD: 0.06); PW: 0.74 – 0.90 mm (M: 0.84 mm; SD: 0.06); EL: 1.79 – 2.21 mm (M: 2.01 mm; SD: 0.12); EW: 1.10 – 1.31 mm (M: 1.19 mm; SD: 0.06).

Females (n = 16): HL: 0.56 – 0.74 mm (M: 0.65 mm; SD: 0.05); HW: 0.72 – 0.85 mm (M: 0.80 mm; SD: 0.05); IOW: 0.46 – 0.64 mm (M: 0.58 mm; SD: 0.05); PL: 0.69 – 0.95 mm (M: 0.86 mm; SD: 0.08); PW: 0.79 – 1.10 mm (M: 1.03 mm; SD: 0.08); EL: 2.00 – 2.87 mm (M: 2.47 mm; SD: 0.26); EW: 1.26 – 1.59 mm (M: 1.49 mm; SD: 0.09).
Distribution (Fig. 3): *Achaetomalachius clarus*, which was described after three specimens retrieved on 26–27.VI.1952 (KLAPPERICH 1954, MAJER 1996a), was heretofore only known from the type locality, Panjshir valley. The above reported material represents the second distributional record for Afghanistan (Kabul Province), and the first country record for Pakistan.

Acknowledgements

We are thankful to Dr. Harald Schillhammer (Natural History Museum Vienna) for making the superb habitus photographs, to Dr. Gianfranco Liberti (Uboldo, Italy) for the review
of the submitted manuscript, and to Dr. Imran Khatri (Sindh Agriculture University, Tando Jam, Pakistan) who facilitated the study of the Pakistani material with his kind help.

References


Shorthouse D.P., 2010: SimpleMappr, an online tool to produce publication-quality point maps. – <http://www.simplemappr.net>, accessed on February 2nd 2018.

Authors’ addresses: Isidor S. Plonski, 2nd Zoological Department, Natural History Museum Vienna, Burgring 7, 1010 Vienna, Austria. E-mail: isidor.plonski@gmx.at

Dr. Zubair Ahmed, Department of Zoology, Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science & Technology, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, 75300 Karachi, Pakistan. E-mail: zbrahmed36@gmail.com
ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: Zeitschrift der Arbeitsgemeinschaft Österreichischer Entomologen

Jahr/Year: 2018

Band/Volume: 70

Autor(en)/Author(s): Plonski Isidor S., Ahmed Zubair

Artikel/Article: New distributional and morphometric data for Achaetomalachius clarus Majer, 1996 (Coleoptera: Dasytidae) 71-74