

New distributional and morphometric data for *Achaetomalachius clarus* MAJER, 1996 (Coleoptera: Dasytidae)

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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

Achaetomalachius clarus MAJER, 1996 wird das erste Mal aus Pakistan und zum zweiten Mal aus Afghanistan gemeldet. Zusätzliche Details zur Körperfärbung und morphometrische Daten zu den beiden Aufsammlungen werden mitgeteilt.

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 Interocular 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)

Achaetomalachius clarus MAJER, 1996a: 16 (original description). – MAYOR 2007: 388 (catalogue).

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.

Examined material: Afghanistan: Kabul Province: Kabul, 8♂♂, 16♀♀, 3 ex. (sex unknown, damaged by dermestids), det. I. Plonski, coll. Naturhistorisches Museum Wien (6♂♂, 12♀♀, 3 ex.) and coll. I. Plonski (2♂♂, 4♀♀). – Pakistan: Balochistan Province: Ziarat, 30.3810°N / 67.7270°E, 2.543 m a.s.l., 2.VI.2017, 5♀♀, leg. Z. Ahmed, det. I. Plonski, coll. Z. Ahmed (4♀♀) and coll. I. Plonski (1♀).

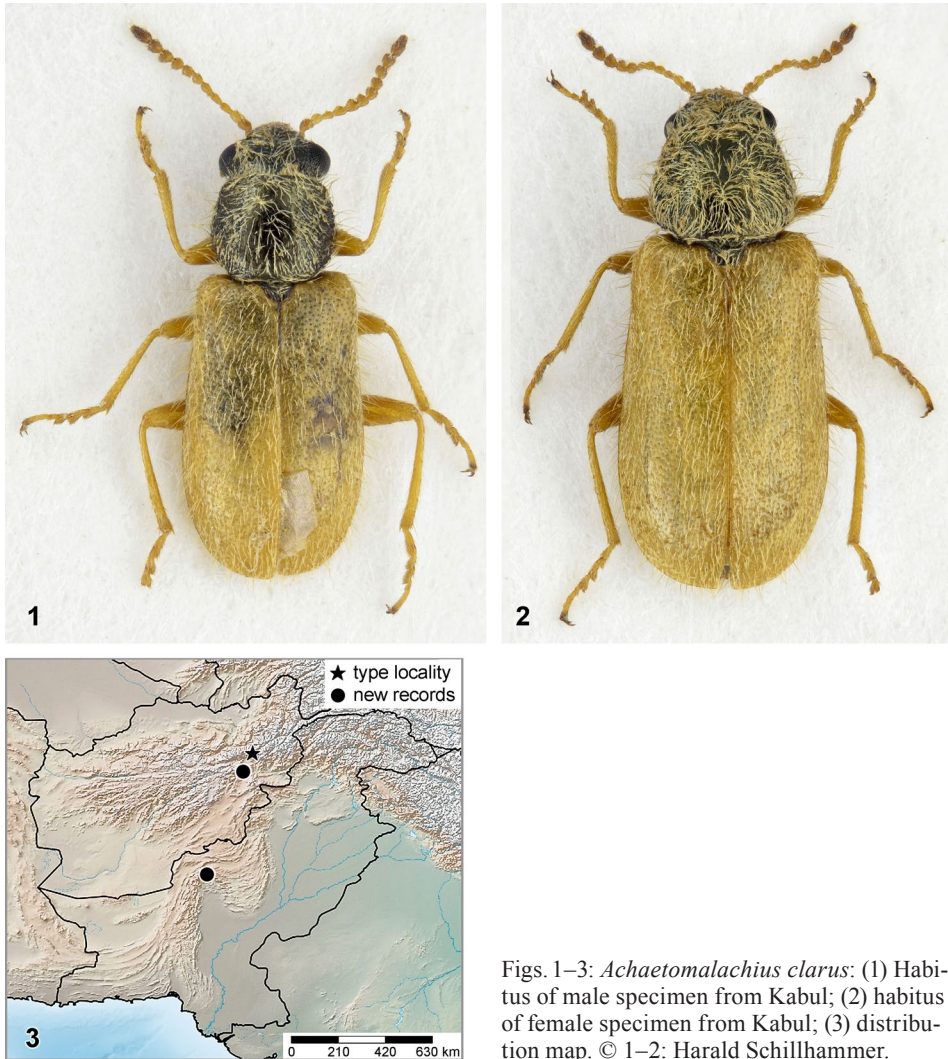
Collecting circumstances: The population sample from Ziarat was collected with a beating net from a stand of *Lycium depressum* STOCKS (Solanaceae), which was past flowering.

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).



Figs. 1–3: *Achaetomalachius clarus*: (1) Habitus of male specimen from Kabul; (2) habitus of female specimen from Kabul; (3) distribution map. © 1–2: Harald Schillhammer.

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.

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