# New Species of the Alticinae (Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae) from Nepal and Adjacent Regions

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Abstract Sixteen new species of the subfamily Alticinae are described from Nepal, India, Thailand and Vietnam: Hespera flaviventris, Luperomorpha hirsuta, Aphthona furthi, A. brancuccii, Sphaeroderma minutissima, Asiorestia wittmeri, A. irrorata, Pseudodera laeta, Xuthea coerulea, X. pallida and Chaetocnema excavata spp. n. from Nepal, Sphaeroderma doeberli sp. n. from Nepal, India and Thailand, Sphaeroderma pseudapicale sp. n. from Nepal and Vietnam, Sphaeroderma bambusae sp. n. from Vietnam, Pseudodera nigripennis sp. n. from Thailand, and Podagricomela metallica sp. n. from India.

In the publication proposed, I am going to describe 16 new species of the Alticinae, mostly from Nepal, based on materials of the Naturhistorisches Museum, Basel, Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart and my collection. I am grateful to Dr. M. Brancucci (Basel) and Dr. W. Schawaller (Stuttgart) for the opportunity to study materials under their care.

The following abbreviations are used for the deposit places of types: NHMB-Naturhistorisches Museum, Basel; SMNS-Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart; IPEEM-Institute for Problems of Ecology and Evolution, Moscow; LM-author's collection.

# Hespera flaviventris sp. n.

Holotype (female): Nepal, Dhawalagiri, Mustang Distr., Kali-Khola, Gasa-Kalopani, 2,000–2,500 m, 20–VI–1986, С. Holzschuh, NHMB. Paratype: 1 female, same locality, LM.

Near *H. cavaleriei* CHEN, 1934, but differs distinctly in fulvous venter and entirely black legs and elytra.

Black; head, prothorax and venter except for last segment reddish fulvous, 2–3 basal segments of antennae and bases of femora more or less reddish. Clypeus smooth and shining, vertex microsculptured, punctate and sparsely pubescent. Antennae about half of body length, proportions of segments as 10-5-6-10-12-11-11-11-12-11-14. Prothorax 1.8 times as wide as long, with maximal width near base, lateral margin straight, anterior angles broadly rounded, posterior angles obtuse, surface shagreened

and impunctate, with pubescence moderately dense. Elytra densely shagreened, impunctate, with white pubescence directed backwards. Length 3.7–3.8 mm.

## Luperomorpha hirsuta sp. n.

(Fig. 1)

Holotype (male): Nepal, Langtang National Park, Syabra, 2,000 m, 10–VI–1990, S. Billy, NHMB. Paratypes: 2 males, 1 female, same locality and date as the holotype, NHMB, LM; 1 female, Langtang National Park, Ghora Tabela, 3,000 m, 3–V–1988, S. Billy, NHMB.

Near *L. birmanica* JACOBY, 1892, but upperside shining, prothorax dark, elytra entirely covered with erect hairs, and aedeagus different.

Dark pitchy to black, basal segments of antennae, apices of femora, tibiae, tarsi and often anterior part of head fulvous, elytra with moderately broad flavous longitudinal bands, narrowed behind middle and widened again in posterior part; apex remaining black; sometimes this stripe interrupted in middle or strongly reduced and distinct only near base.

Head smooth except for a few punctures near eyes, frontal tubercles sharp and obliquely placed. Antennae almost as long as body, proportions of segments as 12–6–6–8–10–9–9–10–10–11. Prothorax 1.1 times as wide as long, with sides arcuate and maximal width before middle, surface convex and shining, without any trace of microsculpture, distinctly punctate, punctures unequal. Elytra about 1.5–1.6 times as long as wide, shining, more strongly punctate than on prothorax, with white erect hairs throughout surface. Segment 1 of fore tarsi practically not widened in male. Aedeagus (Fig. 1) truncate at apex, with longitudinal groove in apical third of underside. Length 3.0–3.5 mm.

## Aphthona furthi sp. n.

Holotype (male): Nepal, Bagmati, Sindhupalchok, Sangjwal, 2,500 m, 6~7–VI–1989, M. Brancucci, NHMB. Paratype: 1 male, same locality as the holotype, LM.

Near A. nepalensis L. Medvedev, 1984, differs in smaller size, darkened legs and antennae, as well as evenly convex prothorax. From A. dohertii Jacoby, 1894, it differs in coloration of upperside and legs and larger size.

Black with metallic blue lustre, very shining, basal segments of antennae and legs except for hind femora dark brown or pitchy. Body narrow, widened behind middle. Head impunctate, interantennal ridge narrow, frontal tubercles triangular and very sharp. Antennal segments 2–4 subequal, 5th segment a little longer than 4th. Prothorax 1.15 times as wide as long, widest near anterior angles and narrowest near base, with lateral margins almost straight and anterior angles oblique and angulate; surface impunctate. Elytra ovate, without humeral tubercle and basal convexity, truncate at apex, with outer part vertical. Wings absent. Segment 1 of fore tarsi slightly widened in

male. Length 1.7-1.8 mm.

The species is dedicated to the well known specialist of the Alticinae Dr. D. FURTH.

## Aphthona brancuccii sp. n.

Holotype (female): Nepal, Dhawalagiri, Myagdi Distr., Kali-G. Khola, Tatopani, 1,100–1,400 m, 14~17–VI–1986, M. BRANCUCCI, NHMB.

Differs from practically all Indian species in having dull, densely microsculptured and finely punctate elytra. In *A. strigosa* BALY, 1874, microsculpture denser, punctures entirely absent and coloration different.

Upperside dark violaceous blue, underside practically black, basal segment of antennae, fore and mid legs and basal part of hind tibiae fulvous. Vertex distinctly punctate, interantennal ridge narrow and acute, frontal tubercles triangular and sharply delimited. Antennal segments 2–4 subequal, 5th segment distinctly longer than 4th. Prothorax 1.5 times as wide as long, with maximal width before middle, lateral margins feebly arcuate, anterior angles oblique and feebly angulate, surface very finely punctate, with traces of microsculpture, without distinct basal depression. Elytra with well-developed humeral tubercle, without basal convexity, densely microsculptured and finely punctate; punctures indistinct among microsculpture. Length 2.3 mm.

## Sphaeroderma minutissima sp. n.

Holotype: Nepal, Sankhua Sabha Distr., between Pahakhola and Karmarang, 1,500–1,800 m, cultivated land, bushes, 4–VI–1988, J. MARTENS, W. SCHAWALLER, SMNS.

Very near to *S. gressitti* SCHERER, 1969, but differs in having almost smooth prothorax, strongly punctured elytra and especially very small size.

Head and upperside dark blue, underside black, antennae and legs flavous, apical segments a little darker, but not black. Body ovate. Head smooth, frons twice as broad as diameter of eye, frontal tubercles small and transverse. Antennae long, about 3/5 of body length, segment 3 a little shorter than 4, segments 4–10 subequal, 7–11 slightly thickened. Prothorax 1.7 times as wide as long, lateral margins arcuate, anterior angles rounded and not produced, surface with very sparse punctures, mostly in basal part. Elytra with strong confused punctures and one more or less distinct row near side margin. Length 1.4 mm.

## Sphaeroderma doeberli sp. n.

(Fig. 2)

Holotype (male): Nepal, Ilam Distr., between Mai Pokhari, Mai Majuwa and Gitang Khola, 1,800-2,100 m, cultivated land, 26-VIII-1983, J. MARTENS, W.

SCHAWALLER, SMNS.

Paratypes: 1 male, Shiri-Khola-Rimbick, 1,950–2,350 m, Darjeeling, West Bengal, 21–V–1975, W. WITTMER, LM; 1 female, Chiang Dao, 1,000 m, Thailand, 17~24–V–1991, V. Kuban, NHMB; 1 male, Soppong-Pai, 1,800 m, NW Thailand, 1~6–V–1991, Pacholatko, LM.

Near S. atrithorax CHEN, 1934 and S. orientalis JACOBY, 1887; differs in having red fulvous antennae and legs.

Red fulvous, head and prothorax black, antennae not darkened to apex. Body ovate. Head impunctate, frons about 1.5 times as broad as diameter of eye, frontal tubercles large, transverse and obliquely placed. Antennae about 3/5 of body length, segment 3 a little shorter than 2 or 4, segments 4–10 subequal. Prothorax 1.6 times as wide as long, sides very feebly arcuate, anterior angles thickened, broadly rounded and not produced; surface finely punctate, more densely on basal half. Elytra rather densely punctate, punctures arranged in 4–5 more or less regular rows near side margins and almost regularly punctate near base, but quite confused in middle and near suture; apices narrowly rounded. Segment 1 of fore tarsi feebly thickened in male. Aedeagus (Fig. 2) narrow, cylindrical. Length 2.5–3.1 mm.

This species is dedicated to a specialist of the Alticinae, Mr. M. DOEBERL.

## Sphaeroderma pseudapicale sp. n.

(Fig. 3)

Holotype (male): Vietnam, Gia-Lai—Contum Prov., Buon-Loi, 40 km N Ankhe, 2–VI–1983, on Bambusa, L. Medvedev, IPEEM. Paratypes: 30 exs., same locality, VI~VII–1981~1983, on Bambusa, L. Medvedev, LM; 2 exs., 90 km N Saigon, 3–VI–1980, N. Voronova, LM; [Nepal]: 1 ex., Karkineta-Nagdanga, 1,600 m, Dhawalagiri, Parbat Distr., 9–VII–1986, C. Holzschuh, NHMB.

Near S. apicale BALY, 1874, but prothorax not darkened at base.

Fulvous red, elytra black with red apex, sometimes with very feeble metallic sheen, antennae entirely fulvous, metasternum usually dark brown or black. Body short ovate. Head impunctate, frons narrow, about as wide as diameter of eye, more or less parallel-sided, frontal tubercles ovate and obliquely placed. Antennae reaching posthumeral area, with segment 3 shorter than 2 or 4, segment 5 a little longer than 4, segments 7–11 slightly thickened. Prothorax with sides almost straight and anterior angles rounded, not produced anteriorly; surface finely punctate and shining. Elytra with dense confused punctures, forming 1–2 more or less distinct rows laterally. Segment 1 of fore tarsi slightly widened in male. Aedeagus (Fig. 3) with simple triangular apex. Length 2.0–2.4 mm.

## Sphaeroderma bambusae sp. n.

(Fig. 4)

Holotype (male): Vietnam, Prov. Gia-Lai – Contum, Pleicu, 700 m, 22–XI–1979, on Bambusa, L. MEDVEDEV, IPEEM. Paratype: 1 female, same locality, LM.

Fulvous red, elytra black with fulvous apex, antennae fulvous, metasternum black or at least darkened. This species is fully identical with the preceding species and differs only in broader vertex and form of aedeagus.

Vertex about 1.4–1.5 times as wide as transverse diameter of eye, distinctly widened posteriorly. Aedeagus with well developed apical protuberance, thick in lateral view (Fig. 4). Length 2.1–2.2 mm.

Species of the S. apicale group (elytra black with fulvous apex ) can be differentiated as follows:

- 1 (2) Prothorax black at base. Vertex about 1.8 times as wide as transverse diameter of eye, not parallel-sided. Aedeagus with simple triangular apex, thick in lateral view (Fig. 5). Japan, China, northern Vietnam. . . . . . . S. apicale BALY
- 2 (1) Prothorax entirely fulvous. Vertex narrow.

#### Podagricomela metallica sp. n.

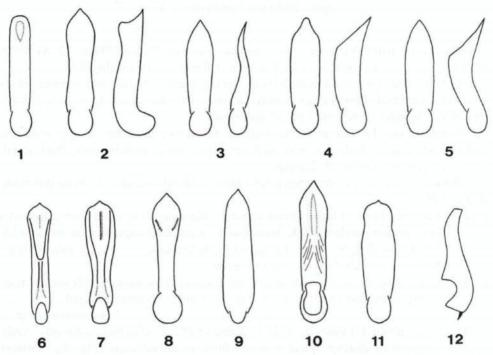
Holotype: West Bengal, Darjeeling, IPEEM.

Near to *P. apicipennis* Jacoby, 1905, but body much more convex and entirely metallic. Upperside dark blue, underside black, basal segments of antennae fulvous. Body short ovate, almost round and strongly convex. Frons and clypeus very finely punctate, divided from more distinctly punctate vertex with a transverse groove. Proportions of antennal segments as 14–5–6–7–9–10–10 (following segments absent). Prothorax 2.2 times as broad as long, strongly protruding posteriorly, with protruding anterior angles and feebly arcuate side margins; surface with fine and moderately dense punctures. Elytra 1.1 times as long as wide, very convex, with well-developed humeral tubercle and regular rows of strong punctures; interspaces flat, broad and finely punctate. Length 4.3 mm, width 3.0 mm, height 2.2 mm.

#### Asiorestia wittmeri sp. n.

(Fig. 6)

Holotype (male): Nepal, Godavari, 26-V-1976, W. WITTMER, NHMB. Paratype:



Figs. 1–11. Aedeagus, ventral and lateral views. — 1, Luperomorpha hirsuta; 2, Sphaeroderma doe-berli; 3, S. pseudapicale; 4, S. bambusae; 5, S. apicale; 6, Asiorestia wittmeri; 7, A. naini; 8, Pseudodera laeta; 9, P. nigripennis; 10, Xuthea coerulea; 11, X. pallida. — 12, Chaetocnema excavata, hind tibia.

1 female, same locality and date as the holotype, LM.

Near A. naini SCHERER, 1969, but smaller, with fulvous legs and stronger punctures of elytral rows. A specimen from Darjeeling, which I accept as a male of A. naini, differs also in a structure of aedeagus, though both the species have aedeagi of the same type (Figs. 6, 7).

Entirely fulvous; in male hind femora slightly darkened, in female apical part of antennae and hind femora distinctly darkened, but not black. Body narrow and elongate. Head impunctate, clypeus and interantennal space with sharp ridge, frontal tubercles rounded triangular. Proportions of antennal segments as 10–4–5–6–9–7–9–9–13. Prothorax 1.5 times as wide as long, lateral margins feebly arcuate, anterior angles thickened and angulate, transverse basal groove shallow, longitudinal grooves about 1/4 of length of disc, surface very finely punctate, more distinctly in basal groove. Elytra with quite regular rows of punctures and more or less convex smooth interspaces, posthumeral interspace more elevated, almost costate in female. Segment 1 of fore and mid tarsi strongly widened in male. Aedeagus very narrow, with complicate structure of underside (Fig. 6). Length 3.7–3.9 mm.

#### Asiorestia irrorata sp. n.

Holotype (female): Nepal, Janakpur, Dolakha Koshi, 850–1,100 m, 24~29–V–1989, M. Brancucci, NHMB.

Differs from all the species of India and Nepal in confused punctures of elytra.

Fulvous with antennal segments 5–11 and tarsi black, hind femora indistinctly darkened at apex. Body broad and feebly convex. Head practically impunctate, interantennal space flat, frontal tubercles flat, poorly delimited behind and indistinct. Proportions of antennal segments as 12–6–10–11–15–14–14–14–14–18. Prothorax 1.5 times as broad as long with sides evenly arcuate and maximal width in basal third, surface feebly convex, with shallow basal groove, extremely finely and sparsely punctate; longitudinal basal grooves occupying about quarter of prothoracic length. Elytra 1.5 times as long as wide, with moderately strong confused punctures and only with traces of irregular rows in basal half. Length 5.0 mm.

## Pseudodera laeta sp. n.

(Fig. 8)

Holotype (male): East Nepal, Arun Valley, Chichila, 1,950 m, 31–V–1983, M. Brancucci, NHMB.

Very near to *P. bifasciata* JACOBY, 1889, but differs in structure of basal groove of prothorax and entirely fulvous elytra.

Red fulvous, elytra pale flavous; antennae except segment 1, apical part of tibiae and tarsi dark, pitchy brown to black. Body elongate, slightly widened anteriorly. Frontal tubercles subquadrate with elongate anterior processes, divided behind with rugose impression and from each other with a deeply impressed line. Vertex smooth and shining. Antennae about 4/5 of body length, proportions of segments as 19–6–17–17–17–16–16–16–16–15–16, segments 3–6 thickened apically. Prothorax 1.35 times as wide as long, with anterior and posterior margins feebly concave, lateral margins feebly arcuate, not emarginate before base; basal transverse groove arcuate, very deep in middle and shallow laterally, basal longitudinal grooves deep and long; surface impunctate and shining. Elytra dull, with single sutural row and 4 pairs of double rows, interspaces flat and impunctate. Tibiae angulately widened at apex. Segment 1 of all tarsi feebly widened in male. Aedeagus: Fig. 8. Length 9.0 mm.

## Pseudodera nigripennis sp. n.

(Fig. 9)

Holotype (male): NW Thailand, Mae Hong Son, Ban Huai Po, 1,600–2,000 m, 17~23–V–1991, J. HORAK, IPEEM.

Near *P. inornata* CHEN, 1933, but body much larger, elytra and underside black, elytral rows distinctly geminate. From the nearest species, *P. bifasciata* JACOBY, 1889,

differs in entirely black elytra, antennae and underside.

Black; head, prothorax, antennal segment 1 beneath and apex of scutellum red. Clypeus short, strongly transverse, with a few setigerous punctures. Frontal tubercles with very long processes intruding in broad interantennal space and divided behind from vertex with very deep impression; vertex microsculptured and impunctate. Antennae reaching middle of elytra, proportions of antennal segments as 22–8–18–18–17–17–16–15–14–13–16. Prothorax 1.6 times as wide as long, with sides strongly arcuate and maximal width in middle, basal groove deep and narrow, slightly arcuate and delimited at sides with short longitudinal groove; surface convex, with slight longitudinal impression behind middle, with fine and comparatively sparse punctures. Elytra with sutural row and 4 pairs of geminate rows, interspaces flat, outer interspaces with a few strong punctures. Segment 1 of all tarsi distinctly widened in male. Aedeagus: Fig. 9. Length 10.5 mm.

## Xuthea (Xuthea) coerulea sp. n.

(Fig. 10)

Holotype (male): Nepal, Janakpur, Hanumante, W-Jiri, 2,500–3,100 m, 17~26–VI–1987, C. RAI, NHMB.

Very near to *X. nepalensis* SCHERER, 1969, differs in having blue upperside, dark legs, details of prothoracic structure and strong rugosity on underside of aedeagus.

Violaceous blue, labrum and antennae except for basal segment dark brown, legs pitchy black with tarsi paler. Head impunctate, with deep and sharp ocular grooves. Antennae quite identical with those of *X. nepalensis*. Prothorax with side margins slightly excavated before base and hind angles much more acute, as compared with *X. nepalensis*; space between basal groove and base moderately convex (very convex in *X. nepalensis*), surface practically impunctate. Elytra without postbasal impression, with regular rows of punctures. Segment 1 of anterior tarsi feebly widened in male. Aedeagus (Fig. 10) on underside with elevated basal triangle prolonged anteriorly in a longitudinal central impression, with oblique rough rugosity on each side in middle portion. Length 5.3 mm.

## Xuthea (Paraxuthea) pallida sp. n.

(Fig. 11)

Holotype (male): Nepal, Godavari, 1,500–1,700 m, 21–V–1977, W. WITTMER & M. BRANCUCCI, NHMB. Paratype: 1 female, Godavari, 1,500 m, 19–V–1989, M. BRANCUCCI, LM.

Body flavous with elytra, antennae and legs paler, 3 apical antennal segments dark pitchy; in female anterior part of head darkened. Glabrous above except for scattered pubescence on head near inner margins of eyes. Body elongate ovate about 1.7 times as long as broad (except head). Head much narrower than prothorax, clypeus triangu-

lar, impunctate and not ridged longitudinally; interantennal space moderately broad and flat, frontal tubercles triangular. Vertex convex, smooth and impunctate. Proportions of antennal segments as 14-7-10-11-13-13-13-11-11-10-13. Prothorax twice as wide as long, widest at middle, with anterior angles obtuse and not protruding laterad, lateral margins rounded, posterior angles rectangular, basal margin bisinuate with broad prescutellar lobe. Scutellum triangular and impunctate. Elytra about 1.2 times as long as wide, humerus distinct, basal convexity undeveloped, disc with 9 complete rows of punctures and a scutellar row not exceeding basal third; interspaces of rows flat or slightly convex. Fore and mid tarsi with segment 1 strongly widened. Aedeagus: Fig. 11. Length 4.7 mm.

Very near to X. sinuata GRESSITT et KIMOTO, 1953, but differs as follows:

## Chaetocnema (Tlanoma) excavata sp. n.

(Fig. 12)

Holotype (female): Nepal, Lamobagar Gola, Arun Valley, 1,400 m, 28~31–V–1990, С. Holzschuh, NHMB. Paratype: 1 female, same locality, LM.

Because of unusual structure of hind tibiae, this species might be compared only with *C. tristis* ALLARD, 1889, but the latter species has red vertex with deep excavation on each side near eye.

Dark aeneous; basal segments of antennae, tibiae and tarsi fulvous. Clypeus finely punctate on sides, smooth in middle. Interantennal space broad, with much flattened ridge, delimited behind with transverse groove, ocular grooves straight, vertex very finely shagreened, extremely finely and sparsely punctate, with a small groove on each side near eye, bearing a few strong punctures. Proportions of antennal segments as 9–4–6–5–6–6–6–8. Prothorax 1.8 times as wide as long, with maximal width before base, lateral margins straight, anterior angles slightly thickened, surface shining and distinctly punctate. Elytra with regular rows of punctures, including a short scutellar row, interspaces very finely shagreened, flat on dorsum and convex on sides. Excavation of hind tibia very deep, semicircular, with large acute tooth (Fig. 12). Length 2.5–3.0 mm.

## 要 約

L. N. MEDVEDEV: ネパールおよびその周辺地域のノミハムシ亜科の新種. — ネパールおよびその周辺地域のノミハムシ亜科を検討し、ネパールから Aphthona furthi, A. brancuccii, Asiorestia irrorata, A. wittmeri, Chaetocnema excavata, Hespera flaviventris, Luperomorpha hirsuta, Pseudo-

dera laeta, Sphaeroderma minutissima, Xuthea coerulea, X. pallida spp. n., ネパールおよびベトナムから Sphaeroderma pseudapicale sp. n., ネパール, インドおよびタイから Sphaeroderma doeberli sp. n., インドから Podagricomela metallica sp. n., タイから Pseudodera nigripennis sp. n., ベトナムから Sphaeroderma bambusae sp. n. の計16種を記載した.

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Elytra, Tokyo, 25 (1): 22, May 15, 1997

# A Host Record of Molorchus ikedai (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae)

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Larval host plant of *Molorchus ikedai* Takakuwa has not yet been known. Recently, I was able to examine specimens of this cerambycid emerged out from dead branches of *Abies veitchii* Lindl. The hosts were newly dead branches about 5 cm in diameter, which were obtained at Houou Mountain hut. The collecting data are as follows:  $17 \, \delta \delta$ ,  $18 \, 9$ , Mt. Jizôgatake, Nirasaki City, Yamanashi Pref., central Honshu of Japan. The host branches were collected on 3-V-1993 by Y. Kaneko, and the adults emerged out from the hosts in Tokyo on  $17\sim21-VI-1994$ .

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Messrs. Koichi Hosoda of Yamanashi and Yoshinori Kaneko of Tokyo.

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