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A new species of soft-winged flower beetle (Coleoptera, Malachiidae) from Vietnam

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Abstract

A new species, *Attalus kazantsevi* sp. n., from Vietnam (Kuan-Nin') is described. Diagnosis, figures of male genitalia and urites are given. It is known only from its type locality. A key is also provided for S.E.Asian dark-colored *Attalus* species.

Key words: Coleoptera, Malachiidae, Vietnam.

Résumé

On décrit une nouvelle espèce provenant du Vietnam (région du Kuan-Nin'), *Attalus kazantsevi* sp. n. Une diagnose ainsi que des figures des génitalia du mâle et des urites sont données. L'espèce n'est connue que de la localité type. On propose également une clé de détermination pour les espèces du Sud-Est asiatique et de coloration noire.

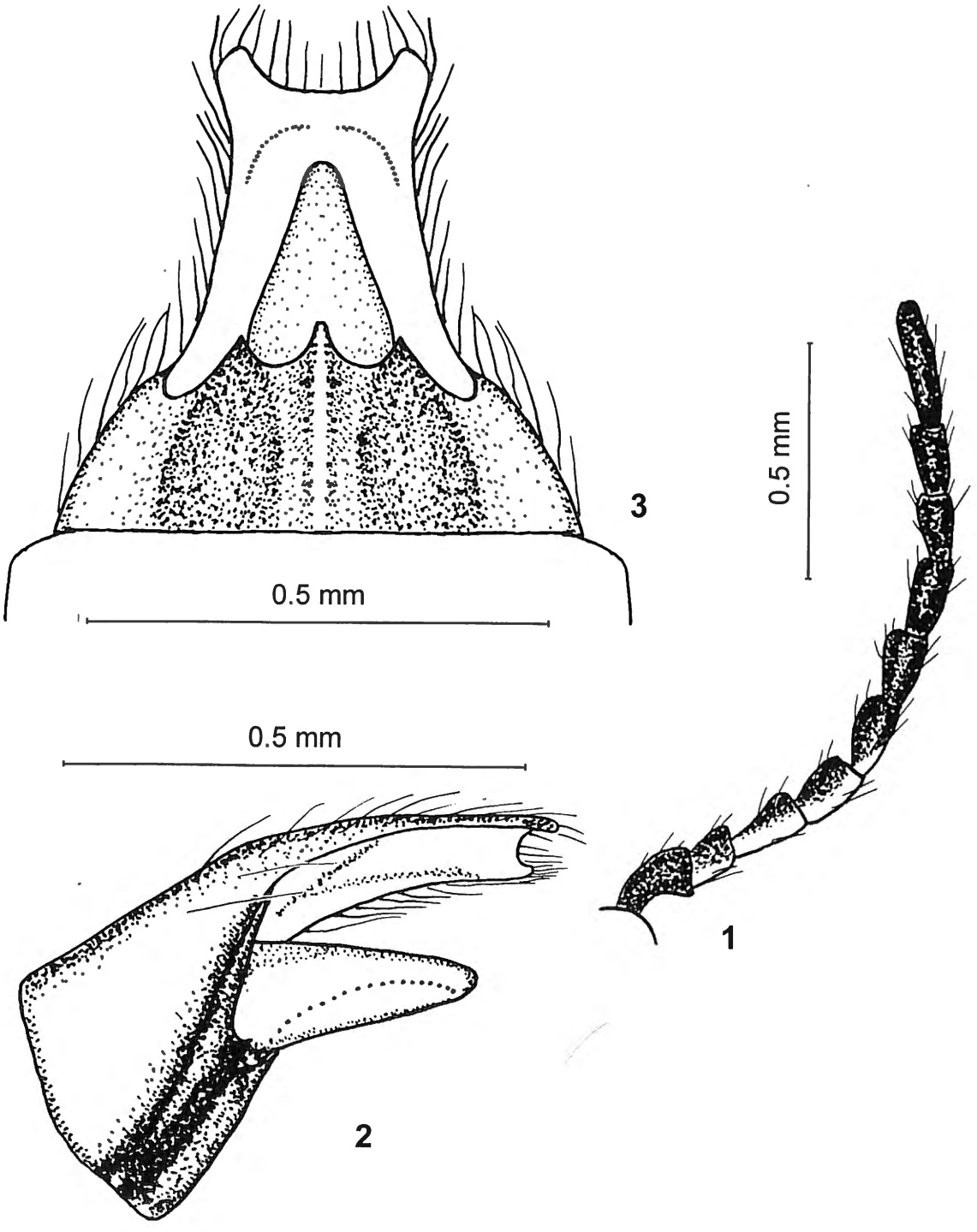
Mots-clefs: Coleoptera, Malachiidae, Vietnam.

The genus *Attalus* is represented in Indochina by 21 species, most of them having more or less colored bodies, but a few species are monochromously dark. However, a different black species has been found amongst the soft-winged flower beetles from Vietnam (Kuan-Nin'); the material gathered by Dubrovin in 1985 was kindly presented to the author for examination by Sergei Kazantsev. The new species differs by the long apical tergite with its special emargination and moderately dense pubescence; this and other characters can be used to separate this new species from the other dark *Attalus* (males only) species in the following key:

1. Surface strongly lustrous 2
   – Surface weakly lustrous 3
2. Apical tergite elongate; aedeagus long, not thin, curved dorsally and turned over the tergite (Tonkin) .... *atroopacus* PIC, 1925
   – Apical tergite wide, aedeagus not long, thin, slightly curved dorsally but not turned over the tergite (Kuatun, China) ..... *chinensis* FLEISHNER, 1919
3. Pronotum or elytra with light spots or stripes 4
   – The surface of pronotum and elytra monochomous . 7
4. Elytra with light spots, pronotum monochromous 5
   – Elytra with stripes, pronotum with yellow spots on the posterior angles, antennae short with elongate joints; surface shining, densely pubescent ....*semilimbatus* (PIC, 1910)
5. Elytral disc lighter in coloration than other body parts; body short with elytra extremely widened posteriorly; apical tergite not modified, aedeagus small and almost hidden by the tergite (Vietnam) .... *discoluteus* PIC, 1925
   – Only base or apex of elytra lighter than other body parts 6
6. Elytral base with light spot ..... *coomani* PIC, 1925
   – Elytral apex yellowish; apical tergite short with triangular emargination in the middle; aedeagus short and thick (Ryukyus) ..... *walteri* SATÔ, 1986
7. Antennae long, reaching posterior third of elytra 8
   – Antennae short, reaching base of elytra 9
8. Antennal joints strongly elongate; pubescence of elytra sparse; apical tergite wide, not narrowed, slightly emarginate at the middle and ventrally curved, aedeagus short, thick, slightly curved dorsally and protruding beyond the tergite (Formosa) ..... *latopygus* WITTMER, 1982
   – Antennae long, almost reaching the elytral apex; body narrow and shining, black pubescence of surface very sparse; apical tergite extremely narrowed with stretched apex, emarginate on sides and dorsally curved; aedeagus thick, dorsally curved and protruding beyond the tergite (Japan, Kyushu) ..... *elongatulus* LEWIS, 1895
9. Surface densely pubescent, apical tergite strongly elongate, narrowed on sides, weakly emarginate at the middle and slightly curved ventrally, aedeagus wide and short, almost completely hidden by the tergite ..... *kazantsevi* sp. n.
   – Surface sparsely pubescent, apical tergite slightly elongate and not emarginate 10
10. Apical tergite slightly elongate, ventrally curved and deeply impressed in the middle on upper side; aedeagus wide, dorsally curved and protruding the tergite, but not turning over it (Liou-Kiou Archipelago) .... *trochantinus* WITTMER, 1982
    – Apical tergite not modified, only slightly curved ventrally, aedeagus short, narrow, almost completely hidden by the tergite (Guilin, China) ..... *stotzneri* PIC, 1926

The remaining S.E.Asian species of soft-winged flower beetles with dark bodies, *A. bengalensis* PIC, 1907, previously considered as a member of *Attalus,* have been transferred to *Sceloattalus* (WITTMER, 1966).

This is the fifth paper relating to the work of the author on Malachiidae of Russia and adjacent countries: the first was devoted to *Troglocollops* WITTM. (TSHERNYSHEV, 1994-95), the second to *Cephaloncus* WESTW. (TSHERNYSHEV, 1997), the third to *Malachius*-group genera (Russian Entomological Jour-



Figs. 1-3. – *Attalus kazantsevi* **sp. n.**, male: 1 – right antenna; 2 – abdomen apex laterally; 3 – abdomen apex ventrally.

nal, 1998, in press), and the fourth to *Hypebaeina* WITTM. (Species Diversity, 1998, in press).

All specimens are kept in the following museums:
ISNB - Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Science, Brüssel;
NHMB - Naturhistorisches Museum, Basel;
SZMN - Siberian Zoological Museum, Institute of Animal Systematics and Ecology, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Novosibirsk.

For description and diagnosis of the species some special male characters have been primarily used: the genitalia and the urites. Once the genitalia had been studied, they were glued using G-1300 (Yo Yo) glue on label paper and pinned under the specimen.

Attalus kazantsevi TSHERNYSHEV, sp. n.
(Figs. 1-3)

Description. Holotype, male. Head black with the clypeus, base of antenna and labrum lighter. 2nd, 3rd and 4th antennal joints light-brown, the remaining ones dark brown. Pronotum and

elytra black-brown with slight metallic luster, ventral side black, legs brown with tarsi somewhat lighter. Surface with dense double pubescence: black semi-erect long and light fine adpressed hairs. Vesicles yellow, trochanters and thorax mesepimers black.

Head narrow, front flat with slight interocular impression anteriorly, genae short and straight, clypeus narrow, transverse, bearing light hairs, labrum short, transverse; palpi elongate, 2nd joint transversal, less than half the length of the 3rd; apical joint thin, cylindrical, 1.3 times longer than the 1st, with thin stretched apex; surface shining, punctures sparse, microsculpture visible, pubescence as on pronotum and elytra.

Antennae (Fig. 1) not long, reaching the anterior third of the elytra, the 1st joint larger, oblongo-clavate, the 2nd joint short, transverse, less than half of the length of the previous joint, intermediate segments 3-7 elongate, with the outer edges moderately sinuate, remaining ones cylindrical; evenly covered with short light erect pubescence.

Pronotum almost equilateral, somewhat wider than long, anterior margin strongly pronounced, posterior straight; all angles rounded; surface densely punctured, smooth and shining, with double pubescence.

Scutellum very short and transverse, almost hidden by the pronotum.

Elytra oblong, widening posteriorly, at the base not wider than the pronotum; shoulders distinct, not protrudent; apices evenly rounded near the suture, simple; surface shining, evenly granulate, with distinct microsculpture and double pubescence.

Legs of moderate size, posterior femora not reaching the elytral apices; tibiae thin, rounded, straight; all tarsi 5-segmented, narrow; claw segment the longest, somewhat longer than 1, 2 and 3 taken together for the anterior and intermediate legs, and of the same length as 1 and 2 taken together for posterior legs; 2nd joint of anterior tarsi with a small comb above; claws narrow, with small dent and a pellucid lamella at the base.

Ventral surface of body densely punctured, with sparse white adpressed pubescence; apical sternite transverse, narrowed at apex and strongly emarginate in the middle (Fig. 3); apical tergite strongly elongate, narrowed on sides, weakly emarginate at the middle and slightly curved ventrally (Figs. 2,3), aedeagus wide and short, almost completely hidden by the tergite.

Length (male) 3.5 mm, width (at elytral base) 1.1 mm.

Female. Similar to the male, except as follows: elytra more strongly widened posteriorly; interocular impression weak; antennae shorter, joints wider; tarsal comb on anterior legs absent, claw segment with a few long black bristles; apical segments of abdomen simple.

Length (female) 3.6 mm, width (at elytral base) 1.1 mm.

Etymology. The species is dedicated to my colleague, Dr Sergei Kazantsev (Moscow).

DISTRIBUTION. Type locality only.

Holotype, male, Vietnam, 15 km NW of Hongai, Kuan-Nin', 28.3.1985, leg. Dubrovin (SZMN); allotype, female, idem (SZMN); paratypes, idem (1 female in ISNB; 1 female in NHMB; 1 female in SZMN).

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I am sincerely grateful to the late Dr Walter Wittmer, Naturhistorisches Museum (Basel), for his most valuable help in my studies of the Malachiidae and for providing valuable material on Indochina *Attalus*. I am also grateful to my colleague, Dr Sergei Kasantsev, for presenting me with specimens of this interesting new species, and to the Siberian Branch Presidium of Russian Academy of Sciences, which partly supported this work with a grant (N° 413, 10.11.1997 and N° 473, 18.12.1997).

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