

New and poorly known Clytrinae (Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae) from the Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique

by Lev MEDVEDEV

Abstract

3 new species of Clytrinae are described: *Melitonoma congoana* (Zair), *Aetheomorpha constanti* and *Aetheomorpha smetsi* (Cambodia). *Smaragdina plebeja* (WEISE) from Zair is a new synonym of *Smaragdina immaculata* (LACORDAIRE).

Key words: Clytrinae, new species, new synonym, Zair, Cambodia.

Introduction

Thanks to the amiability of Dr. J. Constant I received a large amount of undetermined material of Clytrinae (2328 ex.) from the collection of the Royal Institute of Natural Science Belgium. It includes 3 new species which are described below.

The following abbreviations are used for the Institutes where the type material is deposited: IRSNB – Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Bruxelles; LM – author's collection, Moscow, Russia.

Taxonomical part

Melitonoma congoana new species

Figs. 1, 4, 5

TYPE MATERIAL: Holotype (male): BELGIAN CONGO (=ZAIR); Ngowa, XI.1938 (leg. J. Mertens) (IRSNB).

Paratypes: 120 ex. together with holotype (IRSNB, 7 ex. – LM); 3 ex.: Elisabethville, I.1939 (leg. H.J. Bredo) (IRSNB).

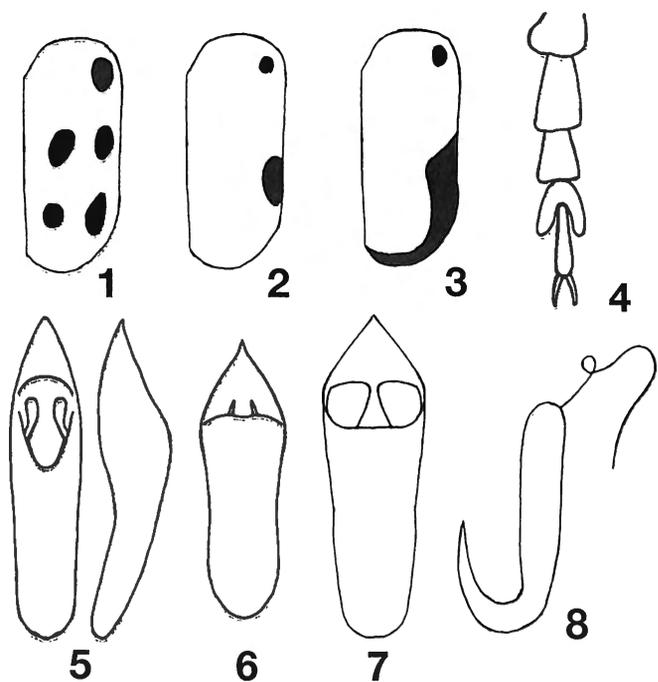
ETYMOLOGY: The name of species is connected with its locality.

DIAGNOSIS: Unspotted prothorax and especially elongate lateral spots of elytra allow to separate this species among other inhabiting in Central Africa except *M. vivicola* LEFEVRE 1884, which also has elongate spots on elytra. However it differs well in dull elytra, spotted and rugosely, punctured prothorax, strongly elongate anterior tarsi of male (tarsal segment 2 about twice as long as broad)

and other form of aedeagus. It is possible that the described new species was mixed earlier with *M. vivicola* LEFEVRE.

DESCRIPTION: Black, 3 basal segments of antennae, prothorax, elytra and tibiae fulvous. Prothorax usually unspotted, but sometimes with more or less distinct small black spot before scutellum. Elytra with 5 black spots (1-2-2), which are never connected, lateral spots usually more or less elongate (Fig. 1).

Head strongly punctate on frons and clypeus, almost smooth on vertex; anterior margin of convex clypeus almost straight; there is deep impression on each side of clypeus for accepting basal segments of antennae; pub-



Figs. 1-8 — 1-3. elytral pattern: 1. *Melitonoma congoana*, 2, 3. *Aetheomorpha constanti*. 4. anterior tarsus: *Melitonoma congoana*. 5-7. aedeagus: 5. *Melitonoma congoana*, 6. *Aetheomorpha constanti*, 7. *Aetheomorpha smetsi*. 8. spermatheca: *Aetheomorpha smetsi*.

escence very distinct, especially on frons. Mandibles slightly curved, with ridge on upperside near base, without elevated basal lobe. Antennae serrate from the 4th segment. Prothorax shining, with transverse impression on each side of base, distinctly but not strongly punctate, middle part often almost impunctate. Scutellum triangular with rounded apex, impunctate. Elytra shining, densely punctate except apical slope. Anterior tarsi with segment 1 about twice as long as wide, segment 2 almost as long as wide (Fig. 4). Aedeagus with triangular apex, without distinct impressions on underside (Fig. 5).

Female. Head and mandibles smaller, prothorax more narrow anteriorly, anterior tarsi less elongate.

Length 5.6-6.8 mm.

DISTRIBUTION: Belgian Congo (=Zair).

Smaragdina immaculata (LACORDAIRE, 1848)

Smaragdina plebeja (WEISE 1924) is a new synonym of this species. It differs from typical *S. immaculata* (LACORDAIRE) only in having black patch on side margin of elytra behind middle. I have studied a large series (15 ex.) from Bambesa (Zair) including both forms.

Aetheomorpha constanti new species

Figs. 2, 3, 6

TYPE MATERIAL: Holotype (male): CAMBODIA: 8 km N of Sre Noi (road to Anlong Vaeng), dry Dipterocarpus forest, 29-30.V.2003 (leg. J. Constant & K. Smets) (IRSNB).

Paratypes: 2 males, 4 females together with holotype (IRSNB, 2 ex. – LM).

DIAGNOSIS: Near *Ae. daklaka* MEDVEDEV 1988, differs in smaller size, other type of elytral pattern, entirely fulvous underside and acute apex of aedeagus.

ETYMOLOGY: The species is dedicated to its collector.

DESCRIPTION: Fulvous, antennae except 3 basal segments black, in male elytra with black humeral spot and elongate spot at middle of lateral margin; in female lateral elytral spot more large and prolonged posteriorly up to sutural angle (Figs. 2, 3). Head with smooth vertex and more or less punctate clypeus and frons, clypeus with 2 shallow impressions, frons with groove in middle, in male 2.0, in female 2.3 times as wide as eye. Antennae serrate from the 4th segment which is triangular, but smaller than 5th; next segments sharply triangular. Prothorax twice as wide as long, shining, impunctate. Scutellum triangular, impunctate. Elytra 1.4 times as long as wide, distinctly

confusedly punctate. Apex of pygidium rounded in male, slightly incised in female. Aedeagus – Fig. 6. Length of male 4.2-4.5 mm, of female 4.8-5.2 mm.

DISTRIBUTION: Only known from type locality.

Aetheomorpha smetsi new species

Figs 7, 8

TYPE MATERIAL: Holotype (male): CAMBODIA: 8 km N of Sre Noi (road to Anlong Vaeng, 29.V.2003, light trap, leg. J. Constant & K. Smets) (IRSNB).

Paratypes: 37 ex., among them at least 10 males together with holotype (IRSNB, 5 ex. – LM).

DIAGNOSIS: Near *Ae. sodalimima* MEDVEDEV & KANTNER 2002 from Thailand, but body smaller, frons much more narrow, pygidium distinctly exposed, form of aedeagus is different, especially in lateral view. *Smaragdina divisoides* MEDVEDEV 1988 from Vietnam, which is transitional form between *Smaragdina* DEJEAN 1836 and *Aetheomorpha* LACORDAIRE 1848 is also alike at *Ae. smetsi* sp.nov., but has fulvous tarsi and more broad frons.

ETYMOLOGY: The species is dedicated to its collector.

DESCRIPTION: Fulvous, antennae except 3 basal segments, tarsi, in females also pygidium and underside entirely or partly black.

Body parallel-sided in male, slightly widened to behind in female. Head practically impunctate, with 3 grooves, anterior margin of clypeus slightly arcuate, frons of male 1.1 times, of female 1.6-1.7 times as wide as eye. Antennae serrate from the 4th segment, which is sharply triangular and as large as 5; next segments also sharply triangular. Prothorax 1.8 times as wide as long, shining and impunctate. Scutellum triangular, smooth. Elytra 1.4 times as long as wide, very distinctly punctate except apical slope which is finely punctate or almost smooth. Pygidium of male with narrowly, rounded apex, while in female it is subtruncate, very feebly emarginated. In both sexes pygidium not covered with elytra. Aedeagus – Fig. 7, spermatheca – Fig. 8. Length of male 4.2-4.8 mm, of female 5.3-5.7 mm.

DISTRIBUTION: Only known from type locality.

Acknowledgment

I am grateful to Dr. J. Constant for the possibility to study this interesting material.

References

- LACORDAIRE, M., 1848. Monographie des Coléoptères subpentamères de la famille des Phytophages, 2. *Mémoires de la Société Royale des Sciences de Liège*, 5: 1-890.
- LEFEVRE, E., 1884. Descriptions d'espèces nouvelles de Clytrides. *Annales de la Société entomologique de Belgique*, 28: 281-282.
- MEDVEDEV, L., 1988 Leaf-eating beetles of the subfamily Clytrinae (Coleoptera, Nauka, Chrysomelidae) from Vietnamese fauna. In: The fauna and ecology of Vietnam. Moscow, pp. 21-45 (in Russian).
- MEDVEDEV, L. & KANTNER, F., 2004. Malawian *Clytrinae*: new faunistic data and a description of four new species (Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae). *Entomologica Basiliensia*, 26: 349-364.
- WEISE, J., 1924. Zoological Results of the Swedish Expedition to Central Africa, 1921. Insecta. 7. Chrysomelidae und Coccinellidae. *Arkiv för Zoologi*, 16 (22): 1-30.

Prof. Lev MEDVEDEV

Institute for Problems of Ecology and Evolution

Russian Academy of Sciences

Leninsky prospect 33

Moscow 119071

RUSSIA

e-mail: lev.medvedev@sevin.ru