

***Hister smetanai* sp. nov., a new *Hister*- species (Coleoptera: Histeridae) from India**

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Taxonomy, new species, Coleoptera, Histeridae, *Hister*, India

Abstract. *Hister smetanai* sp. nov. from India (Assam) is described and illustrated. Additionally, its systematic position is discussed.

INTRODUCTION

The species of the genus *Hister* Linnaeus, 1758 are much poorly represented in the Oriental Region (23 species; Mazur, unpubl. data) compared with the tropical Africa (82 species; Mazur, 2009). Such a situation arises from the fact that elements of the ancient Paleotropic faunistic complex prevail in the Oriental region as well. This complex consists of genera which occur in forest and savannas. Thus, the characteristic feature of the Oriental histerids is a subcortical way of living. This manner is strictly related to the wealth of forest formations in the whole Oriental Region. The *Hister*-species belong to a species-group of open land what enables them to locate carrion and dung via olfaction.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Abbreviations used:

MSNG	Museo Civico di Storia Naturale "Giacomo Doria", Genova, Italy;
PE	length from the anterior pronotal margin to the elytral apex;
(0.1 - 1.0)	distance between punctures measured by their diameter.

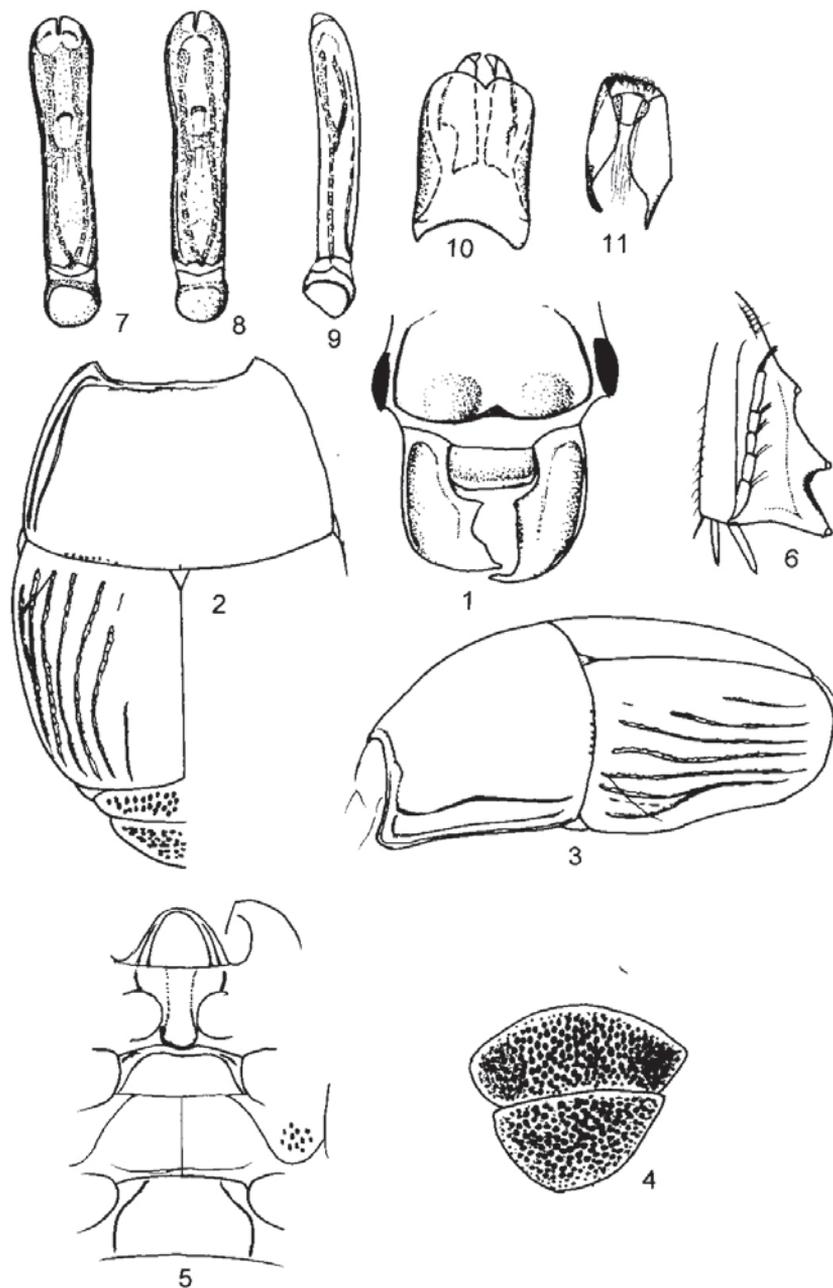
DESCRIPTION

***Hister smetanai* sp. nov.**
(Figs 1-11)

Type material. Holotype (♂): East India: north Assam, Shalukpong, 1-10.v.1999, E. Kučera leg. (MSNG).

Description. Body oval (Fig. 2), moderately convex, upper side black and shiny, with aeneous tinge; legs brownish-red. Length: PE 4.1 mm; total: 5.3 mm. Width: 3.2 mm.

Forehead (Fig. 1) flat, with two shallow foveae laterally. Frontal stria complete, cariniform, feebly outwardly arcuate at middle. Labrum almost twice as wide as long, a little



Figs 1-11. *Hister smetanai* sp. nov.: 1- head; 2- upper side; 3- body, laterally; 4- propygidium and pygidium; 5- under side; 6- protibia; 7- aedeagus ventrally; 8- aedeagus dorsally; 9- aedeagus laterally; 10- 8th segment; 11- 9th and 10th tergites.

incised at base. Mandibles concave, their external margin elevated. Scapus and funiculus pitch-brown, antennal club tomentose, with two transverse sutures.

Pronotum rounded laterally. Marginal pronotal stria complete at sides (Fig. 3), interrupted behind the head. Lateral pronotal striae incised, complete, the outer one sinuous medially. Epipleura a little concave, not ciliate.

Elytral epipleural fossete concave and smooth. Both marginal striae complete, a little carinate. Outer subhumeral stria deeply incised, present on basal half and united with the inner subhumeral one. Inner subhumeral stria complete and incised. All the dorsal striae deeply incised and weakly crenulate. First to third dorsal striae complete. Fourth dorsal stria abbreviated basally. The 5th stria reduced, present on apical third. Oblique humeral stria present on basal fourth (Figs 2-3).

Pygidial segments (Fig. 4) a little convex. Propygidium with two shallow depressions at sides, very densely covered with oval punctures (0.1-1.0). Interspaces among the coarse punctures intermingled with ground punctuation. Pygidial punctuation similar to the propygidial one.

Prosternal lobe (Fig. 5) rounded, doubly margined, the outer marginal stria less marked and widely interrupted anteriorly. Disc finely punctulate, more coarsely at sides. Prosternal keel finely and rarely punctulate.

Anterior margin of mesosternum feebly emarginated, the mesosternum finely and rarely punctulate. Marginal mesosternal stria complete and incised. There are also two short, additional striae in anterolateral angles. Meso-metasternal suture finely marked. Metasternum as punctulate as mesosternum. Median line finely marked. Transverse line at metasternal apex very fine and indistinct. Lateral metasternal stria subcariniform, extending obliquely and posteriorly, united arcuately with oblique stria which extends inwards from metasternal-metepisternal suture. Lateral disc of metasternum covered with large and round punctures, intermingled with the small ones.

Intercostal disc of 1st abdominal segment distinctly margined laterally, the marginal striae obliquely descending the posterior margin (Fig. 5).

Legs paler than body, pitch-brown. Protibia (Fig. 6) with 3 dents at outer margin. Apical protibial margin with two large spinules. Profemoral stria incised and complete. Mid- and hind tibia with two rows of numerous spinules at outer margin.

Genital structure as well as the 8-10 sterna and tergites are figured (Figs 7-11).

Differential diagnosis. Very similar to *Hister inexpectatus* Desbordes, 1923 from which it may be separated by absence of sutural stria, not margined pygidium and by tridentate protibia only.

Derivatio nominis. This species is dedicated to Aleš Smetana in appreciation of his 80th anniversary.

DISCUSSION

Hister smetanai sp. nov. belongs to the Oriental group which may be characterized by the presence of outer subhumeral stria and absence of pilosity on pronotal epipleura (*H. furcipes* Marseul, 1854, *H. inexpectatus* Desbordes, 1923). The complete inner subhumeral stria

separates it, however, from the remaining Oriental species. This feature is unique among Histerini, being sporadically met in some African genera. The body shape and absence of the sutural stria is additionally shared with *Quassarus* Mazur, 2007: 136-139, but the *Quassarus*-species have the tristriate pronotal sides and ciliate epipleura.

Not resolving all these doubts at this level of our knowledge of *Hister*-phylogeny and mutual relationships, it is better to treat this new species as a member of the genus *Hister* Linnaeus, 1758.

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Received: 31.1.2011

Accepted: 28.2.2011