

A new species of *Taridius* from Thailand (Coleoptera: Carabidae: Lebiini)

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Abstract. The new species of the genus *Taridius* Chaudoir, 1875 from northwest Thailand, *Taridius thailandicus* sp. nov., is described, illustrated and compared with related congeners.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Taridius* Chaudoir, 1875 with nineteen described species is relatively widely distributed from south-eastern part of Palaearctic region (Chinese province Yunnan and north and northeastern parts of India - Sikkim, Darjeeling District and Uttarakhand) through Oriental region from India, Myanmar and Vietnam to Malay Peninsula and Greater Sunda Islands. Most species of *Taridius* were described just recently (past the year 1996) by Kirschenhofer (1996, 2003, 2010), Fedorenko (2012, 2014) and Kabak & Wrase (2014). Fedorenko (2012) redefined the genus *Taridius*, rejected subgeneric structure proposed by Kirschenhofer (2010) and published the determination key to all species known at those time. The purpose of present paper is to describe the new species of *Taridius* species from Chiang Mai province in northwest Thailand.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

This paper is based on the study of type material of the new species described below and available consubgenera from the author's collection. The specimens included in this study are deposited in the following private collection:

OHPC Oldřich Hovorka collection, Praha, Czech Republic

Measurements were made with a MBS-10 stereoscopic microscope, at magnifications of 8x, 16x and 32x. Measurements of body parts and corresponding abbreviations used in the text are as follows:

ABL = apparent body length - length measured from the apex of left mandible (mandibles closed) to the apex of abdomen

EL = elytral length - length of left elytron measured from humerus to apex;

EW = elytral width - maximal width of both elytra combined;

PL = pronotal length - length of pronotum measured along mid-line;

PW = pronotal width - maximal width of pronotum;

TL = total length - length measured from the apex of left mandible (mandibles closed) to the apex of left elytron.

The type specimen of newly described species is provided with locality label and red printed label: “*Taridius / thailandicus* sp. nov. / HOLOTYPE / det. O. Hovorka, 2023”.

DESCRIPTION

Taridius thailandicus sp. nov.

(Fig. 1)

Type material. Holotype (♀) labelled: “NW Thailand, 19.-23. / Chiang Mai, 4.1991 / Doi Suthep to Doi Pui / J. Horák leg.” (OHPC).

Description. Habitus as on Fig. 1. The new species is relatively small (TL 6.7 mm; ABL 7.1 mm; maximal body width 2.8 mm). Body colour: head dark brown-black, clypeus, labrum, maxillar palpus and mandible (with exception of black apex) yellow-red, whole antennae yellowish; pronotal disc dark brown-black, margins yellowish. Elytral light pattern (Fig. 1) is dominant, dark pattern is reduced, it's color dark brown-black, without distinct metallic tinge. The dark pattern is formed by more or less rounded dark spot around scutellum on intervals 1-4 (very slightly exceeding fourth stria to inner part of fifth interval), which is emarginate posteriorly and extended into sutural strip running on sutural interval only and tapering behind dark medial fascia; shortly before midlength of elytra starts the rest of transverse medial fascia, expanded outwards as far as stria 5 and having more or less pentagonal shape, disconnected from the rest of medial fascia which is formed as short submarginal spot on intervals 7-8. Underside dark brown-black, only prosternal process, central part of mesothorax, metasternal process, triangular spot on metathorax and inner half of metacoxa yellow. Abdomen brown, apical third of its last sternite yellow. Microsculpture of dorsal surface isodiametric, sharp on elytron and pronotum (pronotal sculpticells smaller than elytral), distinct on dorsal surface of head, obsolete laterally on neck and genae. Ventral surface with very fine (sometimes obsolete), more or less transverse microsculpture.

Head slightly reduced, genae rather long and oblique but not projecting, head broadest in anterior third of eye tubercle length; two frontal carinae present. Vertex slightly convex, neck-constriction barely traceable.

Pronotum (Fig. 1) short, transverse, 1.30 times wider than head and distinctly wider than long (PW/PL 1.38), lateral parts of base nearly straight, sides distinctly sinuate before base, hind angles obtuse but very distinct. Front transverse impression obsolete, basal transverse impression and basal foveae slightly impressed. Pronotal surface with very slight irregular transverse grooves (wrinkles), otherwise without any irregularities.

Elytra (Fig. 1) slightly convex, subovate, elongate (EL/EW 1.54) and 1.63 times wider than pronotum. Elytral striae relatively strongly impressed, deep, punctate to crenulate; intervals distinctly convex, third interval with two discal setae, anterior seta in basal quarter of elytral length, posterior seta in two thirds of the length; both setigerous pores situated in or at inner margin of third stria. Umbilicate series uninterrupted, composed of 13 setigerous pores. Elytral sutural angle blunt, apical margin strongly sinuate. Hind wings well developed. Terminal sternite of female with one pair of submarginal setae.

Female gonocoxite IX narrow, elongated, 2.25 times longer than wide, slightly curved



Fig. 1. Holotype of *Taridius thailandicus* sp. nov., apparent body length 7.1 mm.

just before apex, with two ensiform setae, dorsal ensiform seta distinct in ventral view.

Male unknown.

Differential diagnosis. Among members of the genus *Taridius*, the *T. thailandicus* sp. nov. is recognisable by following combination of features: body small (ABL 7.1 mm); pronotum dark brown-black with contrastingly light and wide lateral margins; colour of elytra mostly yellow, dark elytral pattern reduced, without any metallic tinge; dark lateral submarginal stripe reduced to spot; head relatively small, two frontal carinae present; pronotum large, 1.30 times wider than head and 1.38 times wider than long; abdomen completely dark; terminal abdominal sternite of female bisetose.

In the system proposed by Kirschenhofer (2010), *T. thailandicus*

sp. nov. belongs to the subgenus *Perseus* Kirschenhofer, 2003. This subgenus is characterised by fusiform terminal labial palpomere and only one lateral pronotal seta. Determination key given by Kirschenhofer (2010) leads to the species *T. pahangensis* (Kirschenhofer, 2003) when applied on specimen of *T. thailandicus* sp. nov.

Fedorenko (2012) did not accept Kirschenhofer's division of the genus into subgenera; he defined two lineages based on other characters. First lineage is characterised by the last abdominal sternite bisetose in both sexes, as well as rather weak female styli supplied with strongly reduced ensiform setae. In addition, the dark elytral pattern is mostly entire, the facial carinae are more numerous, and often also the dorsal microsculpture is superficial on the head and pronotum. In the second lineage are females distinctive in showing four setae on the last abdominal sternite. A rather pale elytral pattern, conspicuous dorsal microsculpture, less numerous frontal carinae and strongly armed female styli are among additional characters of the lineage. The determination key presented by Fedorenko (2012) is mainly based on the colour pattern of individual body parts, and when applied to the type specimen of *T. thailandicus* sp. nov. we identify the species *T. disjunctus* Fedorenko, 2012.

T. thailandicus sp. nov. is habitually really very similar both to *T. disjunctus* and/or to *T. pahangensis*. Both mentioned species belongs to the second lineage of Fedorenko (2012)

together with *T. wrasei* Kirschenhofer, 2010 and *T. andrewesi* Emden, 1937. *T. thailandicus* sp. nov. share with them rather pale elytral pattern, conspicuous dorsal microsculpture, less numerous frontal carinae and strongly armed female styli, but differs substantially from all those species by having only two setae on the last abdominal sternite of female. It is not clear at the moment if *T. thailandicus* sp. nov. is isolated species within the genus *Taridius* or aberrant species belonging to the second lineage of Fedorenko (2012). *T. thailandicus* sp. nov. differs moreover from *T. andrewesi*, *T. pahangensis* and *T. wrasei* by abdomen completely dark, not laterally pale. The most similar *T. disjunctus* differs from *T. thailandicus* sp. nov. by presence of bronzed reflections over dark elytral pattern, by size (over 8 mm) and by less transverse pronotum with narrower yellow lateral margins.

Name derivation. The species name refers to the Kingdom of Thailand, where the type specimen was collected.

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