

Zeitschrift: Entomologica Basiliensia et Collectionis Frey
Herausgeber: Naturhistorisches Museum Basel, Entomologische Sammlungen
Band: 28 (2006)

Artikel: The genus *Blaps* Fabricius, 1775 in the Nepal Himalayas (Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae)
Autor: Schawaller, Wolfgang
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-980988>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

Download PDF: 08.02.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

The genus *Blaps* Fabricius, 1775 in the Nepal Himalayas (Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae)

by Wolfgang Schawaller¹⁾

Abstract. Four species of the genus *Blaps* Fabricius, 1775 are actually known from the Nepal Himalayas. Their diagnostic characters are addressed in brief, the distributional data are mapped and a species key is provided. The *Blaps* species are characteristic elements on the floor of subalpine forests as well as of alpine meadows above the timberline in an altitude belt of 3000–4600 m. The small number of congeners obviously colonized the Himalayas from the adjacent Tibetan Plateau without displaying any dynamic speciation processes, unlike several other animal and plant groups. New synonyms: *Blaps gentilis* ssp. *gentiloides* Kaszab, 1977 syn.nov., *Blaps gentilis* ssp. *punctithorax* Kaszab, 1977 syn.nov., *Blaps gentilis* ssp. *radula* Kaszab, 1977 syn.nov., *Blaps gentilis* ssp. *semistriata* Kaszab, 1977 syn.nov., all of *Blaps socia* Seidlitz, 1898 (= *Blaps tentyrioides* Seidlitz, 1898). New combination: *Dila armata* (Blair, 1913) comb.nov. from *Blaps*.

Key words. Coleoptera – Tenebrionidae – *Blaps* – Nepal – Himalayas – taxonomy – distribution

Introduction

Although most species of the genus *Blaps* Fabricius, 1775, which are distributed exclusively in the Palaearctic region, are of sufficiently large dimensions to be collected in higher numbers, species identification is quite difficult. The first comprehensive revisions were conducted by ALLARD (1880, 1881, 1882) and SEIDLITZ (1898), more than one hundred years ago. A newer taxonomic revision of this species-rich genus initiated over a century later in the 1970's by the late N. G. Skopin (Karaganda, Russia), but was unfortunately interrupted by his sudden death. The taxonomic problems often lie in the misinterpretation of taxa by former coleopterists, in the description of single females and subspecies of uncertain status, and in the lack of knowledge of infraspecific variability, etc. This holds true in particular for the fauna of Central Asia, China (SCHUSTER 1923, REN & WANG 2001) and the Himalayas (SKOPIN & KASZAB 1978).

HOPE (1831) in his historic survey of Nepalese insects described also two species of *Blaps*, but these taxa remain doubtful until today (see below). Some new species of *Blaps* collected by the British Everest Expeditions on the northern Tibetan slopes of the Himalayas were described by BLAIR (1922, 1923, 1927). The first recent records of *Blaps* in Nepal proper after much of the country opened up to foreign visitors were published by PIERRE (1961) and by KASZAB (1970, 1973, 1977). Although only few species occur in Nepal, Kaszab himself seemed to have been confused in his own identifications; in the Budapest Museum collection, corresponding specimens have subsequently been labelled with different names. The present author had the same problem in recent years, and several of my older identifications have therefore been wrong. Newly collected specimens induced me to tighten up at least somewhat

¹⁾ Contributions to Tenebrionidae no. 60. – For no. 59 see: *Japanese Journal of Systematic Entomology* 12, 2006.

the taxonomy and distribution of *Blaps* in the area in question, establishing a certain taxonomic stability as far as it is possible without a revision of the complete genus. As a result, four species are actually recognized from Nepal, their diagnostic characters are briefly addressed, the distributional data are mapped (Fig. 12) and a species key is provided. Some comparative material from the British Museum proved to be syntypes, but I have avoided fixing lectotypes here because this should be done only in a more comprehensive study of a revisional character.

Abbreviations

BMNH	.....	British Museum of Natural History, London (Max Barclay)
HNHM	.....	Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest (Dr. Ottó Merkl)
NHMB	.....	Naturhistorisches Museum, Basel (Dr. Michel Brancucci)
NME	.....	Naturkundemuseum, Erfurt (Matthias Hartmann)
SMNS	.....	Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart
SMTD	.....	Staatliches Museum für Tierkunde, Dresden (Olaf Jäger)
ZSM	.....	Zoologische Staatssammlung, München (Dr. Martin Baehr)

Species characters

Most but not all species of *Blaps* display certain differences of external characters in males and females. Thus, those species described by different authors upon the basis of single females complicate the identification and classification of species and these taxa often remain doubtful. The following characters are considered as species-specific in the genus: body size and shape (often different in ♂ and ♀), shape of the antennomeres, surface structure (granules, punctation) on pronotum and elytra, shape of the elytral tip (mucro) (often different in ♂ and ♀), existence or lack of a hair-brush between male ventrites 1 and 2, further modifications on the male ventrites (tubercles etc.), shape of legs including tarsal segments, and the shapes of the aedeagus and the ovipositor.

Species known from the Nepal Himalayas

Blaps apicecostata Blair, 1922 (Figs 1–2)

Type material studied. Tibet, Gyantse, 13,000 ft., VI.1904, leg. H. J. Walton, 1 syntype BMNH (labelled as type).

New material. Tibet, Rongshar Valley, 10,000 ft., 24.V.1924, leg. R. W. G. Hingston, 1 ♂ HNHM. – Tibet, Nyalam, 4200 m, 18.VII.1996, leg. V. Major, 1 ex. SMNS. – S Tibet, Kangtissu Shan, 40 km SE Lhasa, 5000–5200 m, 19.–20.VI.1995, leg. A. Wrzcionko, 1 ex. ZSM. – Nepal, Dolpo, Tarap Valley, 4200 m, 17.VI.1973, leg. J. Martens, 1 ex. HNHM. – Nepal, Dolpo, between Charka and Sandak, 4300–4500 m, 25.VI.1973, leg. J. Martens, 2 ex. SMNS. – Nepal, Thakkhola, Muktinath, 2800 m, VI.1977, leg. D. Müting, 7 ex. SMNS, 1 ex. HNHM. – Nepal, Thakkhola, Muktinath, 3200–3300 m, 6.VI.1993, leg. D. Ahrens, 1 ex. SMNS. – Nepal, Mustangbhat (= Mustang Distr.), Pass N Ghilinggaon, 4000 m, 10.VIII.1955, leg. F. Lobbichler, 1 ex. HNHM. – Nepal, Mustangbhat, Mustang, 3800 m, 14.VIII.1955, leg. F. Lobbichler, 1 ex. HNHM. – Nepal, Manang Distr., Marsyandi, Pisang, 3000 m, 18.IV.1980, leg. J. Martens & A. Ausobsky, 1 ex. SMNS. – Nepal, Manang Distr, Nar, N Pisang Peak, 4100 m, 5.VI.1994, leg. J. Schmidt, 4 ex. SMNS. –

Nepal, Manang Distr., above Kangsar W Manang, 4000–4600 m, 5.VI.1993, leg. J. Schmidt, 2 ex. SMNS. – Nepal, Langtang, between Kyangshing and Marku, 3700–3800 m, 30.VII.1998, leg. C. Berndt & S. Tamang, 1 ex. SMTD. – Nepal, Langtang, Nubama Dhang, 3800–3900 m, 31.VII.1998, leg. C. Berndt & S. Tamang, 3 ex. SMTD. – Nepal, Langtang, around Ganja La, 3600–4600 m, 3.VIII.1998, leg. C. Berndt & S. Tamang, 7 ex. SMTD. – Nepal, Rolwaling Himal, Na, 4000–4100 m, 16.IX.1999, leg. J. Schmidt, 2 ex. SMNS. – Nepal, Khumbu, Khumdzung, 3900 m, 20.–25.VII.1962, leg. G. Ebert, 2 ex. HNHM.

Diagnostic characters. Body length 18–21 mm, male body shape Fig. 1, male ventrites 1/2 without hair-brush, aedeagus Fig. 2.

Distribution. Tibet (type locality Gyangtse), Sikkim (type locality Tungu), Nepal (KASZAB 1970, 1977; SKOPIN 1971).

Blaps himalaica Blair, 1923

(Figs 3–4)

Type material studied. Tibet, Everest Base Camp, Rongbok glacier, 16,500 ft., 16.–20.V.1922, leg. T. G. Longstaff, 1 syntype BMNH (labelled as type, labelled with the invalid manuscript name *longstaffi*), 1 syntype HNHM (labelled as paratype).

New material. Tibet, Everest, Rongbok Valley, 5000 m, vii. 1993, leg. T. Solhoy, 3 ex. SMNS. – E Tibet, Lhodzong, Poshö, 12,600 ft., 15.V.1936, leg. R. J. H. Kaulback, 1 ex. SMNS (duplicate from BMNH). – S Tibet, Nyalam, 3800 m, 14.–15.VII.2005, leg. Biebr, 1 ex. SMNS. – S Tibet, Sachla, 4600–5000 m, 28.V.–1.VI.1995, leg. A. Wrzecionko, 4 ex. ZSM, 1 ex. SMNS. – Nepal, Mustangbhat, Mustang, 3800 m, 14.VIII.1955, leg. F. Lobbichler, 4 ex. HNHM, 3 ex. ZSM. – Nepal, Mustangbhat, Kang to Juri, 4600 m, 31.VIII.1955, leg. F. Lobbichler, 1 ex. SMNS.

Diagnostic characters. Body length 14–16 mm, male body shape Fig. 3, male ventrites 1/2 without hair-brush, aedeagus Fig. 4.

Distribution. SE Tibet (type locality Rongbok), Nepal (only Mustang) (KASZAB 1970).

Blaps socia Seidlitz, 1898

(Figs 7–8)

Blaps tentyrioides Seidlitz, 1898

Blaps gentilis ssp. *gentiloides* Kaszab, 1977 **syn.nov.**

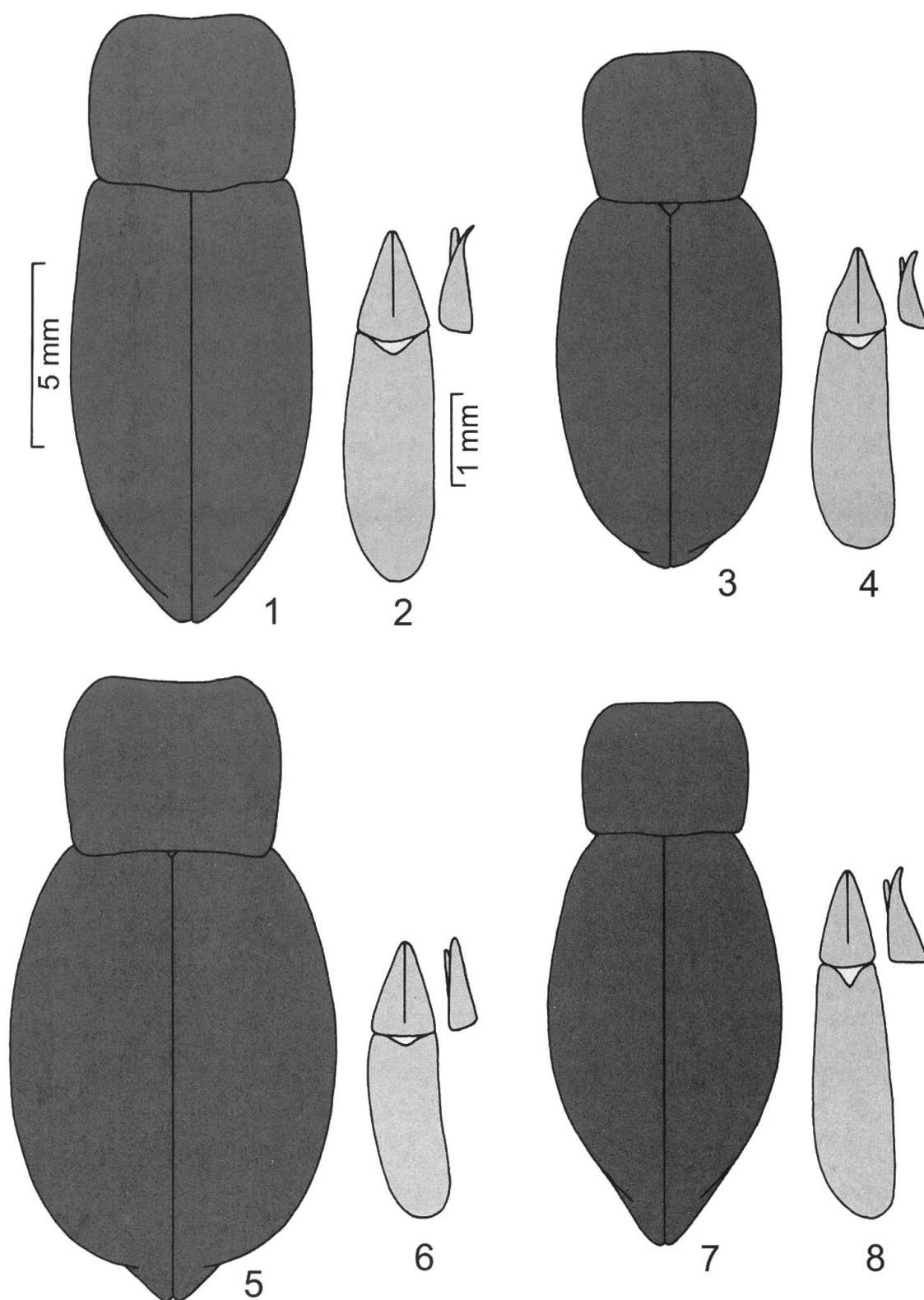
Blaps gentilis ssp. *punctithorax* Kaszab, 1977 **syn.nov.**

Blaps gentilis ssp. *radula* Kaszab, 1977 **syn.nov.**

Blaps gentilis ssp. *semistriata* Kaszab, 1977 **syn.nov.**

Type material studied. Nepal, Trisuli, Gosainkund, 3000 m, 23.–26.IV.1973, leg. J. Martens, ♂ holotype of *Blaps gentilis semistriata*, SMNS. – Nepal, Dolpo, Charka, 4300–4400 m, 20.–25.VI.1973, leg. J. Martens, 4 paratypes of *Blaps gentilis punctithorax*, HNHM. – Nepal, Dolpo, Ringmo/Phoksumdo Lake, 3600–3800 m, V./VI.1970, leg. J. Martens, 3 paratypes of *Blaps gentilis gentiloides*, HNHM.

New material. Nepal, Kangchenjunga Himal, Ghunsa, 3375 m, 6.–10.VII.2000, leg. J. Schneider, 2 ex. NHMB, 1 ex. SMNS. – Nepal, Langtang NP, Kyanjin Gompa, 4000 m, 12.V.1988, leg. S. Bílý, 1 ex. SMNS. – Nepal, Langtang, Nubama Dhang, 3800–3900 m, 31.VII.1998, leg. C. Berndt & S. Tamang, 13 ex. SMTD. – Nepal, Kali Gandaki Valley, 19.IV.1982, leg. F. Baum, 2 ex. SMNS. – Nepal, Mustang Distr., Marpha to Yak Kharka, 3400–3700 m, 1.VI.2001, leg. J. Schmidt, 2 ex. NME, 1 ex. SMNS. – Nepal, Mustang Distr., Kali Gandaki Valley near Kagbeni, 9.VI.1993, leg. J. Schmidt, 1 ex. SMNS. – Nepal, Mustang Distr., Muktinath, 3200–3300 m, 6.VI.1993, leg. D. Ahrens, 1 ex. SMNS. – Nepal, Mustang Distr., Muktinath, 3800 m, 10.VI.1977, leg. D. Mütting, 1 ex. SMNS. – Nepal, Mustang Distr., below Serku W Muktinath, 3400 m, 21.IV.1980, leg. J. Martens & A. Ausobsky, 2 ex. SMNS. – Nepal, Mustang Distr., Thaksang, 3150–3400 m, 26.–29.IV.1980, leg. J. Martens & A. Ausobsky, 6 ex. SMNS. – Nepal, Mustang Distr., Purano Marpha, 3200 m, 9.–11.V.1995, leg. J. Martens & W. Schawaller, 1 ex. SMNS. – Nepal, Manang Distr., Nar Khola near Meta, 3600 m, 7.VI.1994, leg. J. Schmidt, 3 ex. SMNS. – Nepal, SE Annapurna, Krapa Danda near pilgrimshouse,



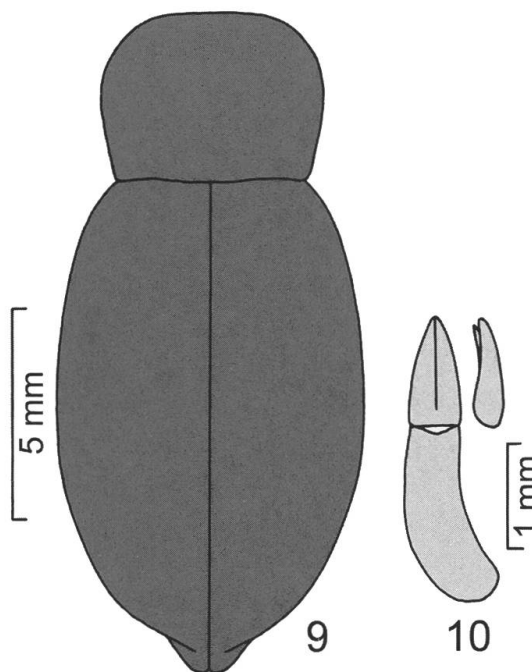
Figs 1–8. Body shape and aedeagus of male *Blaps* species from Nepal and adjacent regions: 1–2, *B. apicecostata*, non-type Nepal/Pisang, SMNS. 3–4, *B. himalaica*, non-type Nepal/Mustang, SMNS. 5–6, *B. moerens*, non-type India/Himachal Pradesh, SMNS. 7–8, *B. socia*, non-type Nepal/Muktinath, SMNS. (to be continued in the next page)

3300 m, 4.–5.VI.1997, leg. O. Jäger, 5 ex. SMTD. – Nepal, SW Annapurna, W Mardi Himal, W Mardi Khola, 3550 m, 14.V.2001, leg. O. Jäger, 2 ex. SMTD. – Nepal, Dolpo, Lake Ringmo, 14.IX.2004, leg. S. Brandt, 1 ex. NME. – Nepal, Jumla Distr., N Ludku, 2500–2900 m, 11.VI.1998, leg. W. Schawaller, 1 ex. SMNS. – Nepal, Jumla Distr., Khali-Lagna-Pass, 3500 m, 16.–17.VI.1998, leg. W. Schawaller, 2 ex. SMNS. – Nepal, Jumla Distr., Rara Lake, 3000 m, 27.–29.VI.1995, leg. Ahrens & Pommeranz, 25 ex. SMNS, 1 ex. SMTD. – Nepal, Jumla to Sisne Himal, 5000 m, 6.–20.VI.1995, leg. J. Kolibáč, 2 ex. NME. – Nepal, Jumla Distr., 12,000–14,000 ft., VI.–VI.1961, leg. J. Burnet, 1 ex. BMNH. – Nepal, Rara Lake, 10,000 ft., 6.–10.IX.1984, leg. M. G. Allen, 2 ex. BMNH. – Nepal, Seti/Bajura, 19 km W Simikot, Kuwadi Khola, 3500 m, 4.–5.VII.2001, leg. A. Kopetz & A. Weigel, 13 ex. NME, 3 ex. SMNS. – Nepal, Humla Distr., 1 km W Simikot, 3050–4100 m, 17.VI.2001, leg. E. Grill, 2 ex. SMNS (duplicates from NME). – W Nepal, Baitadi, Tinkar Khola, 12,000 ft., 25.VII.1953, leg. J. B. Tyson, 1 ex. BMNH. – W Nepal, Silgharhi-Doti, Dhuli, 9,500 ft., 12.VII.1953, leg. J. B. Tyson, 2 ex. BMNH. – India, Kumaon, Laptel, 15,000 ft., leg. H. G. Champion, 1 ex. BMNH. – India, Kumaon, Burphu, Gori Valley, 11,500 ft., leg. H. G. Champion, 3 ex. BMNH.

Synonymy. SEIDLITZ (1898), in his original description, already considered *Blaps tentyrioides* as a probable female of *Blaps socia*, and the synonymy was formally established by GEBIEN (1936–1944). The 4 described subspecies of *Blaps gentilis* from Nepal (KASZAB 1977) are considered herein just as infraspecific forms of *Blaps socia*, since body shape and aedeagus coincide more with *Blaps socia* and less with *Blaps gentilis* from China. Even Kaszab seemed to be confused about the assignment of his “subspecific” taxa, because in the collection of the HNHM corresponding specimens are labelled differently by Kaszab and Skopin as *Blaps gentilis gentiloides*, *Blaps gentiloides*, *Blaps socia gentiloides* and as *Blaps socia socia*, contrary to the remarks and the key to species and subspecies given in their joint paper on the genus *Blaps* from Kashmir (SKOPIN & KASZAB 1978).

Diagnostic characters. Body length 14–17 mm, male body shape Fig. 7, male ventrites 1/2 without hair-brush, aedeagus Fig. 8.

Distribution. “Himalaya” (type locality), India (Kumaon), Nepal.



Figs 9–10. Body shape and aedeagus of male *Blaps* species from Nepal and adjacent regions (continuation): *B. thibetana*, non-type Nepal/Mustang, SMNS.

Blaps thibetana Blair, 1922

(Figs 9–10)

Type material studied. Tibet, Mt. Everest Expedition, up to 18,500 ft., VII.1921, 1 syntype BMNH (labelled as type). – Tibet, Gyantse, 13,000 ft., VI.1904, leg. H. J. Walton, 2 syntypes BMNH, 2 syntypes SMNS.

New material. Tibet, Tingri, 4400 m, 3.–5.VIII.1998, leg. O. Jäger, 3 ex. SMTD, 1 ex. SMNS. – Tibet, Lhatse, 3900 m, 1.VIII.1998, leg. O. Jäger, 1 ex. SMTD. – W Tibet, Nganglong Mts., 20 km S Yanhu, 4600 m, 22.VI.1997, leg. V. Major, 2 ex. SMNS. – S Tibet, W Kangtissu Shan, Nakaerh, Chüshui, 4800–5200 m,

9.–12.VI.1995, leg. A. Wrzcionko, 2 ex. ZSM, 1 ex. SMNS. – Nepal, Mustangbhat, Keham, 3700 m, 12.VIII.1955, leg. F. Lobbichler, 1 ex. SMNS.

Diagnostic characters. Body length 15–16 mm, male body shape Fig. 9, male ventrites 1/2 with hair-brush, aedeagus Fig. 10.

Remarks. In the small series from Tibet/Chüshui the external margin of the protibia is smooth (crenulated in the types and other specimens) and the genae are somewhat more dilatated; all other characters coincide.

Distribution. Tibet (type localities N Mt. Everest, Gyangtse), Nepal (only Mustang).

Key to species from the Nepal Himalayas

This key is compiled only as an aid to identification and not for phylogenetic interpretation; it does not include all diagnostic characters and is suitable only for males because of the use of sexual characters. Males of taxa without abdominal hair-brush may be recognized with security only by dissection. The Nepalese species are quite similar (? related), the shapes of the mucro are not evident in this area and also the aedeagi of these taxa are similar (Figs 1–10).

1. Male ventrites 1/2 with hair-brush ***B. thibetana* Blair**
- Male ventrites 1/2 without hair-brush 2.
2. Elytral apex with traces of keels, body length 18–21 mm
..... ***B. apicecostata* Blair**
- Elytral apex lacking traces of keels, body length 14–17 mm 3.
3. Pronotum with fine punctation, distance between punctures 2–5 wider
than a diameter; pronotal disc more convex and without impressions
..... ***B. himalaica* Blair**
- Pronotum with rough punctation, distance between punctures 0.5–2
wider than a diameter; pronotal disc flatter and with weak impressions
..... ***B. socia* Seidlitz**

Biology and distribution

In Nepal, species of *Blaps* are characteristic elements on the floor of subalpine forests with mostly coniferous trees such as *Pinus excelsa* and *Abies spectabilis*, but also with dwarf *Rhododendron* and *Betula* spp., as well as of alpine meadows above the timberline in an altitude belt at 3000–4600 m (Fig. 11). Thus, they occur only in the northern parts of Nepal (Fig. 12), which is a drier area less influenced by the monsoon than farther south. According to my own observations, the adult beetles are active during the night and remain hidden under stones and rotten wood during daytime. SKOPIN (1971) briefly described the larva of *Blaps apicecostata* in the frame of an identification key – this larva was collected together with adult beetles in May in an empty stable at about 3900 m near Pangpoche/Khumbu. A closer association of *Blaps* species with the nests of digging mammals, known from other regions, has never been observed in the Himalayas.

Zoogeographically, the fauna of the geologically relatively young Himalayas is generally understood as an immigration fauna. In several groups, mainly soil-dwelling and lacking great dispersal abilities, single ancestral immigrants from various adjacent zoogeographical regions evolved rapidly here to huge species aggregations (for example in the Coleopteran genera *Trechus*, *Agathidium*, *Scaphisoma*, *Stenus*, *Laena*). However, this does not hold true in the case of *Blaps* and it seems likely, that the few congeners settled the Himalayas only from the adjacent Tibetan Plateau without displaying any dynamic speciation processes (Fig. 12).

Comparable and doubtful species

***Dila armata* (Blair, 1913) comb.nov.**

Blaps armata Blair 1913

Type material studied. Chitral, R. Hill, holotype BMNH (labelled as type).

Remarks. Described upon a single female (thus the holotype is fixed) from the western Himalayas. The anterior tibia is said to have an acute tooth apically, unusual in the genus *Blaps*. However, this is a generic character for *Dila* Fischer von Waldheim, 1844. This new combination was recognized by Kaszab in 1979 (according to an identification label), but not formally established.

Distribution. NE Pakistan (Chitral), not in Nepal.

***Blaps bengalensis* Hope, 1831**

Studied type material. Without locality label, 1 "type" (?syntype) BMNH.

Original description. "*Nigra, scutello flavopubescenti, elytrisque substriatopunctatis et acuminatis. Long. lin. 16; lat. 6.5.*"

Remarks. This species was "described" (see original description above) by HOPE (1831) in a paper called "Synopsis of the new species of Nepal Insects etc.". Thus it should be a member of the Nepalese fauna. However, confusion as to its origin may be possible, because such a huge species (33 mm) has not been collected recently in the Nepal Himalayas and the type looks similar to western Palaearctic species around *Blaps gigas* Fabricius, 1775. This problem can be solved only in a larger revision of the genus, so the taxonomic status remains doubtful.

Distribution. ?Nepal.

***Blaps brevipes* Seidlitz, 1898**

Remarks. Described upon a single female from the "Himalayas". Very probably this specimen does not originate from Nepal, because at that time the country was closed to scientists from abroad.

Distribution. "Himalayas".

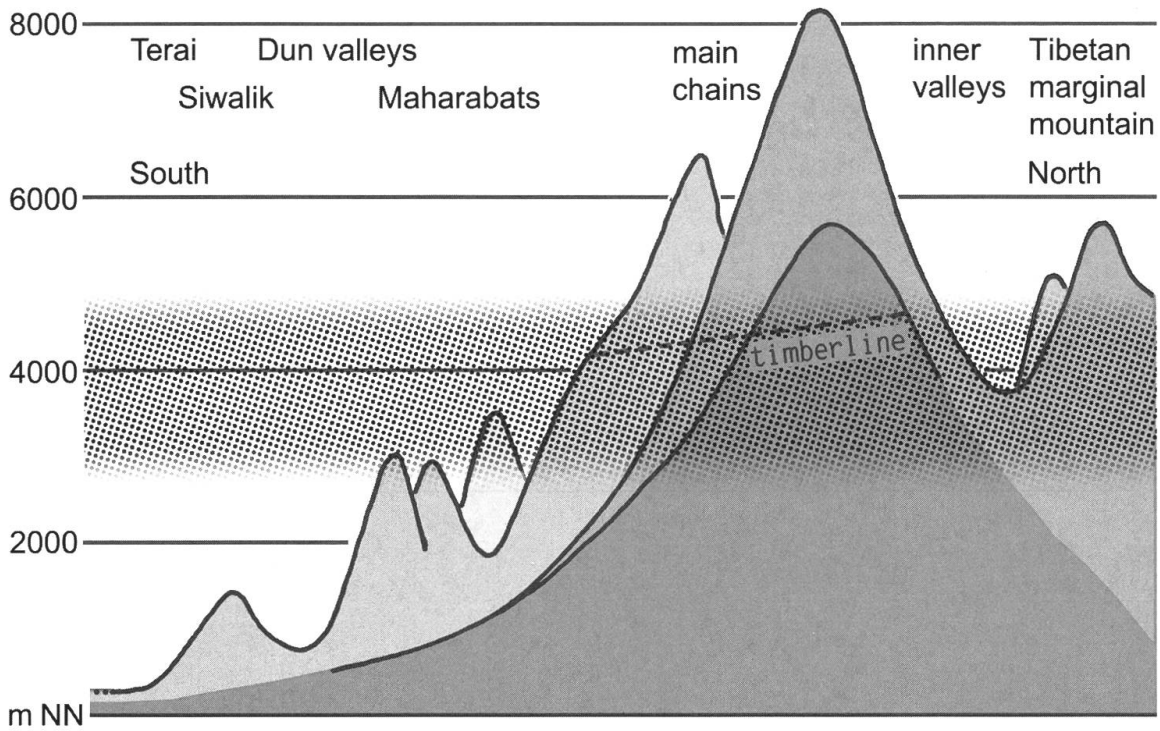


Fig. 11. Vertical belt of distribution (3000–4600 m), below and above timberline, of *Blaps* species in Nepal. A distinct vertical zonation of single species cannot be derived from current data.

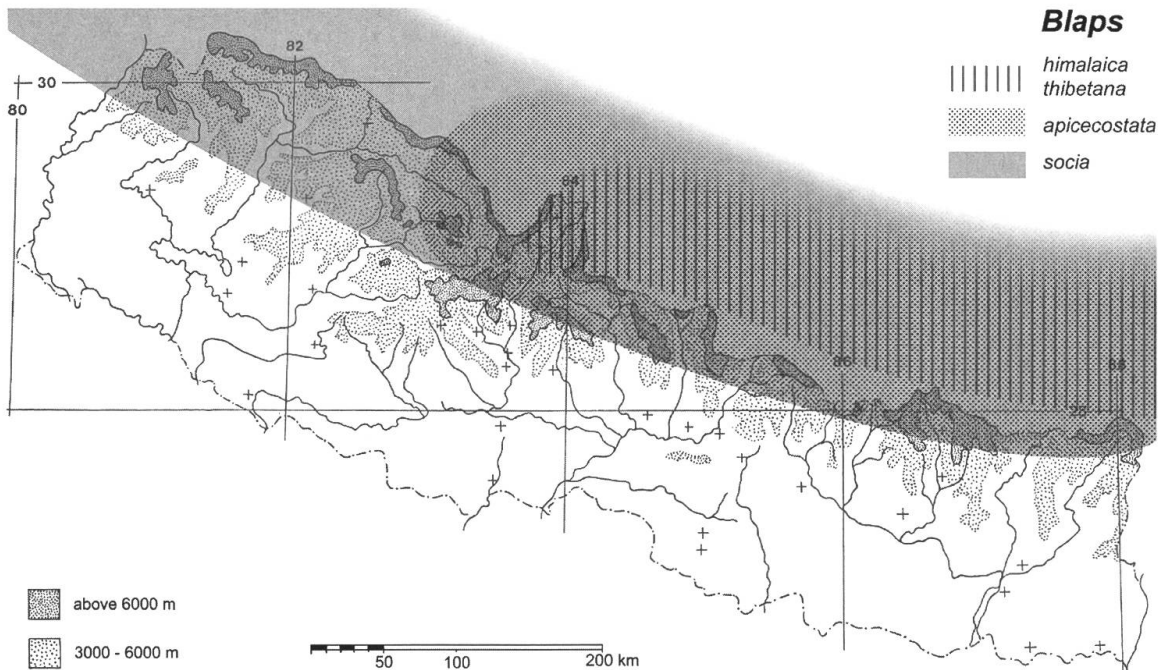


Fig. 12. Idealized areas of distribution of *Blaps* species in Nepal and adjacent southern Tibet. The areas show three different types of expansion towards the west. The distribution northward into Tibet is unknown.

***Blaps brunnea* Allard, 1880**

Remarks. This taxon was described by ALLARD (1880: key, 1883: description) based on a single specimen without detailed locality from the Himalayas. Probably not from Nepal for the same reasons as in the previous species. Its taxonomic position remains doubtful.

Distribution. “Himalayas”.

***Blaps gentilis* Fairmaire, 1887**

New material. China, NW Sichuan, Maniganggo, 4000 m, 18.VI.1995, leg. J. Rejsek, 2 ♀ SMNS.

Remarks. All records of this species in the Nepal Himalayas by KASZAB (1973, 1977) and PIERRE (1961) under various subspecies belong to *Blaps socia* (see above).

Distribution. China (Sichuan, Yunnan), not in Nepal.

***Blaps indica* Hope, 1831**

Original description. “*Nigra, thorace depresso et marginato, elytrisque subacuminatis et costatis. Long. lin. 7; lat. 3.*”

Remarks. This species was “described” by HOPE (1831) in a paper called “Synopsis of the new species of Nepal Insects etc.”, thus it should be a member of the Nepalese fauna. Its taxonomic status is completely unknown. BLAIR (1922) pointed out a certain similarity between *Blaps indica* Hope, 1831 and his *Blaps apicecostata* Blair, 1922.

Distribution. ?Nepal.

***Blaps longicornis* Kraatz, 1882**

Remarks. The record of this species from Nepal by PIERRE (1961) is surely based on a misidentification, because this taxon (as synonym of *Blaps caraboides* Allard, 1882) does not occur in the Himalayas.

Distribution. Central Asia (Pamir, Tien Shan, Alai, Kashgar), not in Nepal.

***Blaps moerens* Allard, 1880**

(Figs 5–6)

Studied type material. India or., leg. F. Bates, 1 “type” (?syntype) BMNH.

New material. India, Himachal Pradesh, Lahul, Keylong, 3300–4100 m, 24.–25.VII.1989, leg. A. Riedel, 3 ex. SMNS. – India, Himachal Pradesh, Manali, Solang Valley, 2500 m, 20.VII.1989, leg. A. Riedel, 3 ex. SMNS. – India, Himachal Pradesh, NE Gramphoo, 17 km NE Mandi, 3000–3900 m, 20.VI.1996, leg. J. Kaláb, 4 ex. ZSM. – India, Uttar Pradesh, Mussoorie, Kampty Falls, 1500 m, 8.VII.1989, leg. A. Riedel, 1 ex. SMNS.

Diagnostic characters. Body length 18–20 mm, male body shape Fig. 5, male ventrites 1/2 with hair-brush, aedeagus Fig. 6.

Remarks. This taxon was described by ALLARD (1880: key, 1883: description) from “Indes orientales” (must be northern India because of the Palaearctic character of *Blaps*)

and said to be quite similar to the Mongolian *Blaps rugosa* Gebler, 1825 with granulated elytral surface. The newly collected specimens fit well with the studied type.

Distribution. Northern India (Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh), Tibet (BLAIR 1927), not in Nepal.

Blaps subcarinata Blair, 1927

Remarks. Described from southern Tibet and said to be similar to the mediterranean *Blaps sulcata* Fabricius, 1775 (as synonym of *Blaps polychresta* Forskål, 1775) with sulcated elytral surface. I have not seen any specimens from the Himalayas and southern Tibet showing this appearance.

Distribution. Tibet (type locality Jelap La at the border with Sikkim), not in Nepal.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to all the colleagues and friends (listed in the compilation of the depositories) for the loan of material and fruitful cooperation over the years, without whose help most of my studies would remain fragmentary. My own field work in Nepal was supported in the course of various field trips by Prof. Dr. J. Martens (Mainz), Dr. M. Hauser (Urbana/Illinois), G. Miksch and D. Bartsch (both Stuttgart), and last but not least by several Sherpa guides, cooks and porters, here unnamed. Dr. W. B. Dickoré (Göttingen), J. Schmidt (Rostock) and T. Solhoy (Bergen) kindly deposited some tenebrionids from Tibet and Nepal respectively in Stuttgart. J. Reibnitz (Stuttgart) scanned my drawings and arranged them on plates.

References

- ALLARD E. (1880): *Essai de classification des Blapsides de l'ancien monde. 1e partie.* Annales de la Société entomologique de France (5)10: 269–320.
- ALLARD E. (1881): *Essai de classification des Blapsides de l'ancien monde. 2e et 3e partie.* Annales de la Société entomologique de France (6)1: 131–180, 493–526.
- ALLARD E. (1882): *Essai de classification des Blapsides de l'ancien monde. 4e et dernière partie.* Annales de la Société entomologique de France (6)2: 77–140.
- BLAIR K. G. (1913): *Some new species of Indian Tenebrionidae.* Annals and Magazine of natural History (8)12: 56–58.
- BLAIR K. G. (1922): *Coleoptera of the Mt. Everest Expedition, 1921.* Annals and Magazine of natural History (9)9: 558–562.
- BLAIR K. G. (1923): *Coleoptera of the second Mt. Everest Expedition, 1922.* Annals and Magazine of natural History (9)11: 278–285.
- BLAIR K. G. (1927): *Heteromera of the third Mt. Everest Expedition, 1924.* Annals and Magazine of natural History (9)19: 241–255.
- GEBIEN H. (1936–1944): *Katalog der Tenebrioniden (Col. Heteromera).* Teil 1: Pubbl. Mus. ent. Pietro Rossi Udine 2 (1936). Teil 2: Mitteilungen der münchener entomologischen Gesellschaft 28–32 (1938–1942). Teil 3: Mitteilungen der münchener entomologischen Gesellschaft 32–34 (1942–1944).
- HOPE F. W. (1831): *Synopsis of the new species of Nepaul Insects in the collection of Major General Hardwicke.* In: J. E. GRAY: *Zoological Miscellany.* London, pp. 21–32.

- KASZAB Z. (1970): *Beiträge zur Kenntnis der Tenebrioniden-Fauna von Nepal (Coleoptera)*. Khumbu Himal **3**: 422–434.
- KASZAB Z. (1973): *Tenebrioniden (Coleoptera) aus Nepal*. Acta Zoologica Academiae scientiarum hungaricae **19**: 23–74.
- KASZAB Z. (1977): *Tenebrionidae der Nepal-Expeditionen von Dr. J. Martens (1969–1974) (Insecta: Coleoptera)*. Senckenbergiana biologica **57**: 241–283.
- PIERRE F. (1961): *Expédition française au Jannu (Népal oriental). Coleoptera Tenebrionidae*. Bulletin de la Société entomologique de France **66**: 212–214.
- REN G. & WANG X. (2001): *Eight new species of the genus Blaps Fabricius (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Blaptini) of China*. Entomotaxonomia **23**: 15–27 (in Chinese).
- SCHUSTER A. (1923): *Neue chinesische Blaps (Col., Tenebr.)*. Wiener entomologische Zeitung **40**: 30–32.
- SEIDLITZ G. von (1898): *Tenebrionidae*. In: KIESENWETTER H. von & SEIDLITZ G. von: *Naturgeschichte der Insecten Deutschlands. Erste Abteilung Coleoptera. Fünfter Band. Erste Hälfte*. Berlin, Nicolaische Verlags-Buchhandlung, xxviii + 877 pp.
- SKOPIN N. G. (1971): *Über einige Tenebrioniden-Larven aus Nepal nebst Übersicht der bekanntesten Larven der primitiven Blaps-Arten (Ins., Coleoptera)*. Khumbu Himal **4**: 315–321.
- SKOPIN N. G. & KASZAB Z. (1978): *Über die Arten der Gattung Blaps F. (Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae), gesammelt von Herrn Dr. W. Wittmer im Jahre 1976 in Kaschmir*. Folia entomologica hungarica **31**: 221–226.

Author's address:

Dr. Wolfgang Schawaller
Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde
Rosenstein 1
D-70191 Stuttgart
GERMANY
E-mail: schawaller.smns@naturkundemuseum-bw.de

