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Description of two new species of *Falsomalthinus* Pic, 1924 from Sumatra (Coleoptera, Cantharidae)

by Michel Brancucci

Abstract. The author describes two new species of *Falsomalthinus* Pic, 1924 from Sumatra: *Falsomalthinus dembickyi* sp.nov. and *F. seblatensis* sp.nov. The addition of these species brings the total number of known species in this genus to ten.

Keywords. Coleoptera – Cantharidae – *Falsomalthinus* – Sumatra

Introduction

In the collections of the Natural History Museum of Basel I found a series of cantharid specimens from Indonesia, Sumatra (Kerinci province). They proved to belong to two different species of the genus *Falsomalthinus* Pic, 1924, very different and very easy to recognise on the structure of the aedeagus but very similar in the rest of their characters. For this reason I was not able to assign the females to one or the other species.

A few years ago I revised the genus *Falsomalthinus* (BRANCUCCI 1982). In that paper I recognised 4 species. Since then I have described further species (BRANCUCCI 1984a, 1984b, 2003), bringing the total number of known species to 8 and not 6 as stated in my last paper (BRANCUCCI 2003). The present paper describes two new species. The total number of species of this genus is now raised to ten, and a complete checklist of the species is given below.

Checklist of *Falsomalthinus* species

<i>F. dembickyi</i> sp.nov.	W-Sumatra (Kerinci)
<i>F. flavicolor</i> (Pic, 1924)	Vietnam
<i>F. klapperichi</i> Brancucci, 1984	Sumatra (Aceh)
<i>F. malayensis</i> Brancucci, 1982	West Malaysia
<i>F. pallidus</i> (Pic, 1927)	Borneo
<i>F. satoi</i> Brancucci, 2003	Brunei
<i>F. seblatensis</i> sp.nov.	W-Sumatra (Kerinci)
<i>F. shillongensis</i> Brancucci, 1982	Meghalaya
<i>F. stramineus</i> (Champion, 1924)	South India
<i>F. wittmeri</i> Brancucci, 2003	Brunei

The material studied here is deposited in the collections of the Natural History Museum, Basel, Switzerland (NHMB).

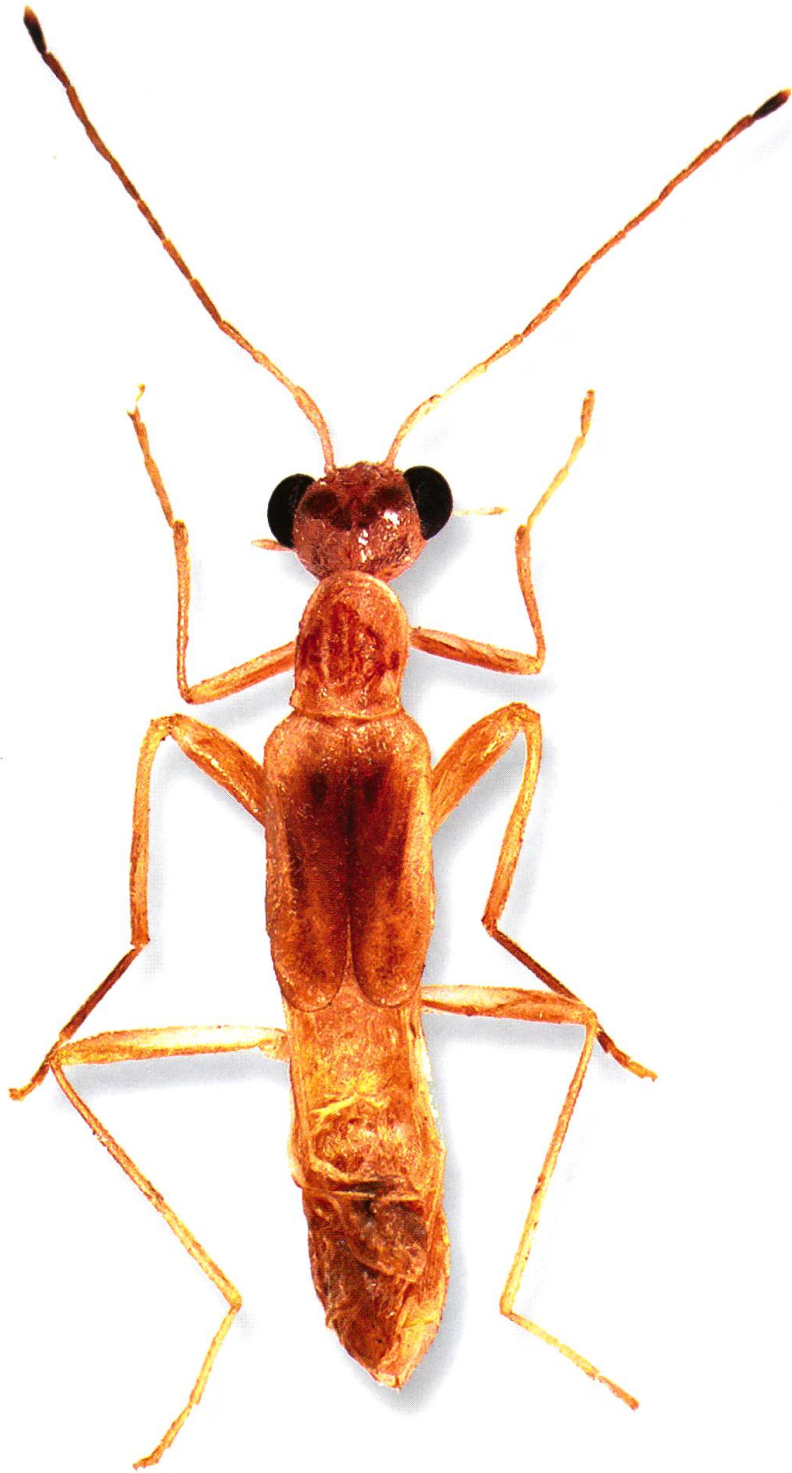


Fig. 1. *Falsomalthinus dembickyi* sp.nov.: habitus.

***Falsomalthinus dembickyi* sp.nov.**

(Figs 1–3)

Type material. Holotype ♂ (NHMB); locality: “West Sumatra Prov.: Kerinci, Seblat N.P.; 24 km NE Tapan; Muara Sako - E. env.; 2°05'S 101°15'E; 400–550m, Dembický leg.; 4–18.III.2003.” [white printed label]. “Holotype *Falsomalthinus dembickyi* sp.n. M. Brancucci des. 2008” [red printed label]. Paratypes: 7 ♂ specimens with same data as holotype (NHMB). All paratypes are provided with a red printed paratype label.

Description. Body completely pale yellow-testaceous, eyes black (Fig. 1).

♂. Head very broad, distinctly depressed, covered with a very fine pubescence. With a sharp longitudinal ridge on vertex. Eyes large and prominent, their interspace 1.6 times larger than the greatest eye diameter. Antennae testaceous, the last four joints somewhat darker, of medium length, almost reaching the apex of the elytra. First joint long, the second and the third ones 1.7 times smaller, the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th subequal, 2.2 times smaller, and the four last joints 2 times smaller.

Pronotum distinctly longer than broad, by 1.2 times, strongly depressed on postero-median part. Anterior margin broadly rounded, lateral margins straight. Posterior margin sinuate. Ground smooth, finely pubescent. Anterior lobe visible but not prominent.

Elytra short, somewhat more than 1.7 times as long as their combined width at the shoulder. Posterior margin broadly rounded. Pubescence fine.

Last sternite very large, slightly concave ventrally before and narrowly rounded medially (Fig. 3). Aedeagus triangular, characterised by a median lobe ending in a double stylus and with several apophyses around and on lateral lobes (Fig. 2).

♀: Unknown.

Total length: Holotype: 5.0 mm; paratypes: 4.3–5.1 mm (4.68 mm, n = 6).

Distribution. West Sumatra (Kerinci province).

Derivatio nominis. This species is dedicated to my colleague and friend Luboš Dembický, who collected this species in Sumatra under very difficult conditions.

Differential diagnosis. This species is closely related to *F. seblatensis* sp.nov. The structure of the aedeagus will enable the two to be easily distinguished. As both species occur in the same locality, females cannot be identified.

***Falsomalthinus seblatensis* sp.nov.**

(Figs 4–5)

Type material. Holotype ♂ (NHMB); locality: “West Sumatra Prov.: Kerinci, Seblat N.P.; 24 km NE Tapan; Muara Sako - E. env.; 2°05'S 101°15'E; 400–550m, Dembický leg.; 4–18.III.2003.” [white printed label]. “Holotype *Falsomalthinus seblatensis* sp.n. M. Brancucci des. 2008” [red printed label].

Description. Completely pale yellow, eyes black.

Head very large and broad, depressed, covered with a very fine pubescence. With a sharp longitudinal ridge on vertex. Eyes large and prominent, their interspace 1.4 times as broad as the greatest eye diameter. Antennae of medium length, almost reaching the apex of elytra, the last four joints very slightly darker. First joint long, the second 1.7 times smaller, the 3rd and subsequent joints subequal in length and about 2 times smaller.

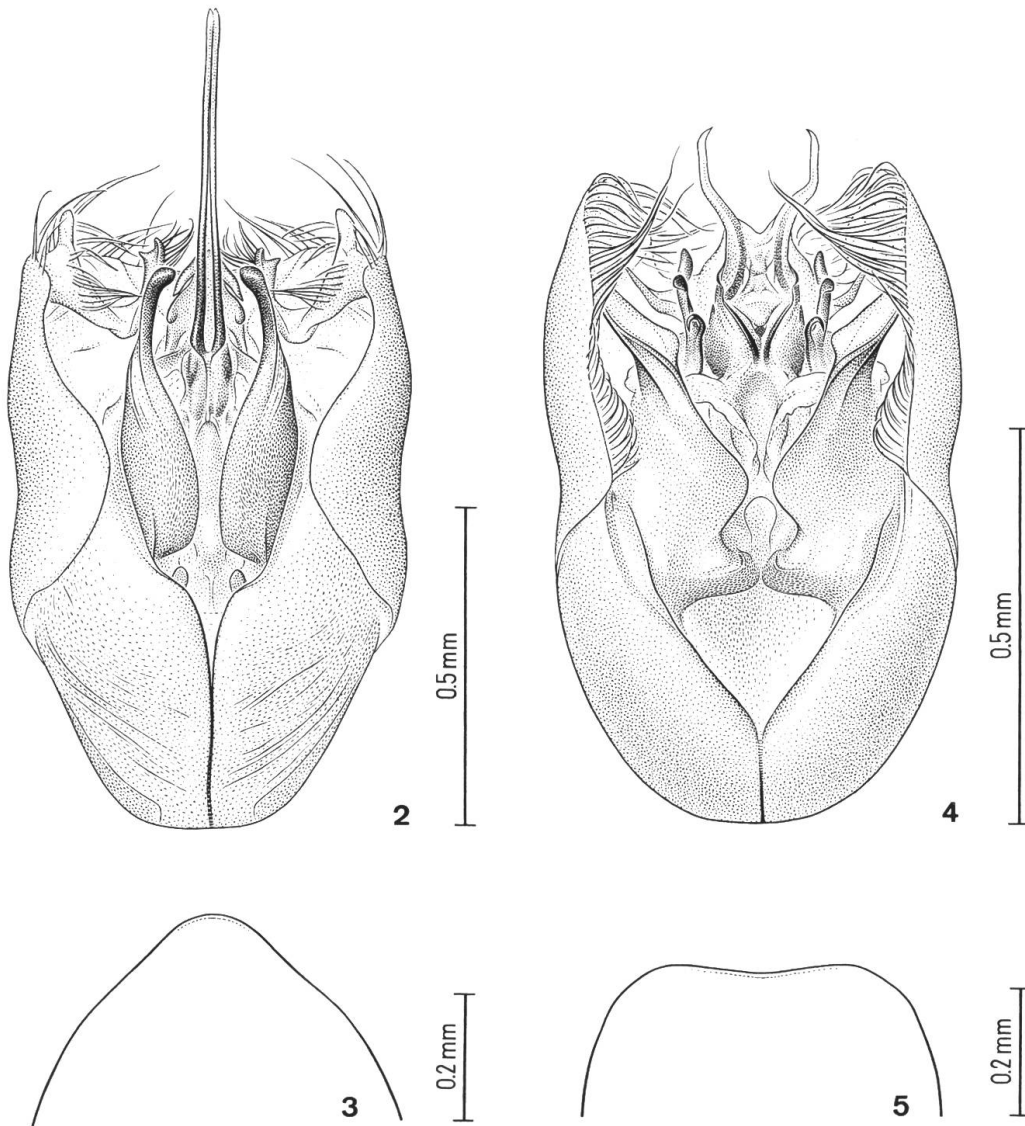
Pronotum slightly longer than broad, by 1.3 times. Anterior margin broadly rounded, lateral margins straight and posterior margin sinuate. Ground surface smooth, finely pubescent. Anterior lobe slightly visible.

Elytra short, 1.7 times as long as their combined width at the shoulder. Posterior margin broadly rounded. Pubescence fine.

Last sternite very large, slightly concave on posterior margin, narrowly rounded medially (Fig. 5). Aedeagus short, bifid and accompanied by different apophyses (Fig. 4)

♀: Unknown.

Total length: 4.6 mm.



Figs 2–5. Figs 2–3, *Falsomalthinus dembickyi* sp.nov.: 2, aedeagus in ventral view; 3, anal sternite in ventral view. Figs 4–5, *Falsomalthinus seblatensis* sp.nov.: 4, aedeagus in ventral view; 5, anal sternite in ventral view.

Distribution. West Sumatra (Kerinci province).

Derivatio nominis. This species was collected in Seblat National Park.

Differential diagnosis. This species is closely related to *F. dembickyi* sp.nov. The aedeagus will enable a rapid and a sure determination to be made.

Conclusion

This paper illustrates once again that very similar species can occur together in the same area, and in this case the aedeagus is the only character which will enable a sure determination to be made. Although I had at my disposal a series of 10 females, I was absolutely unable to separate them into two or more groups. Such a separation would have been a first step towards identifying them, but the next difficulty would have been to determine to which species they actually belonged. The eye interspace is very often of great help for differentiating the species, but in this particular case it is of no use.

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