On the Scaphidiinae (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae) of Central India

MITTEILUNGEN DER SCHWEIZERISCHEN ENTOMOLOGISCHEN GESELLSCHAFT
BULLETIN DE LA SOCIÉTÉ ENTOMOLOGIQUE SUISSE
77, 345 – 349, 2004

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Eight scaphidiines species are reported from the Central Indian states Mahdya Pradesh and Maharashtra. One of them, *Scaphisoma hospitator* **sp. n.**, is new to sciences. It may be reliably distinguished from allied species by its aedeagal characters.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scaphidiinae, taxonomy, distribution, India.

INTRODUCTION

While 49 species of Scaphidiinae are known to occur in the South India, and 209 are recorded from North India and neighbouring Pakistan, Nepal and Bhutan, no member of the subfamily was reported to date from Central India. The Central Indian scaphidiines, as other mycophagous beetles, are certainly under-represented in collections and consequently poorly known. The examined collection made by G. Cuccodoro in Mahdya Pradesh and Maharashtra suggests that the present lack of data is probably due to insufficient sampling and not to real absence of scaphidiines in the remands of comparatively dry forest habitats. Eight species of scaphidiines were distinguished within the studied material, including one species new to sciences.

The material is deposited in the Muséum d'histoire naturelle, Geneva (MHNG).

NEW RECORDS AND SPECIES

Baeocera pseudincisa Löbl

Material examined. Mahdya Pradesh, Mahadeo Hills 1050m, 5 km SW Pachmarhi, along shortcut to Rorighat village, moist vegetable debris at base of rocks in a teck forest, 22°26'49'' N 78°22'58'' E, 18.x.2000, #3a, leg. G. Cuccodoro, 1 ex.; same data but 4.5 km SW Pachmarhi, 950m, «Vanshree Vihar», leaf litter near stream, 22°26'34''N 78°23'25''E, 16.x.2000, #1b, leg. G. Cuccodoro, 2 ex.; Maharashtra, Western Ghats, Purunthar Hills, 7km W Panchgani 1350 m, leaf litter near stream, 17°54'59''N 78°44'20''E, 24.x.2000, #8a, leg. G. Cuccodoro, 16 ex.

Distribution. Northeast and central India.

Comments. The shape of the parameral lobe ranges from denticle-like form as illustrated in Löbl (1984) to lobe-like form. However, the species may be readily distinguished (Löbl, 1984, 1992).

Baeocera ventralis (Löbl)

Material examined. Mahdya Pradesh, Mahadeo Hills 1050m, 5 km SW Pachmarhi, along shortcut to Rorighat village, moist vegetable debris at base of rocks in a teck forest, 22°26'49" N 78°22'58" E, 18.x.2000, #3a, leg. G. Cuccodoro, 1 ex.

Distribution. India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Thailand.

Comments. This species is usually common in lowland and hilly forested areas of India. The only record above 2000 m altitude from Lava, Darjeeling Distr. is based on unreliable locality data given by B. Bhakta.

Baeocera serendibensis (Löbl)

Material examined. Mahdya Pradesh, Mahadeo Hills, 4.5 km SW Pachmarhi, 950m, «Vanshree Vihar», leaf litter near stream, 22°26'34"N 78°23'25"E, 16.x.2000, #1b, leg. G. Cuccodoro, 20 ex.

Distribution. Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand, South China.

Comments. This species exhibits slightly variably rod of the internals sac of the aedeagus.

Scaphobaeocera difficilis Löbl

Material examined. Mahdya Pradesh, Mahadeo Hills, 4.5 km SW Pachmarhi, 950m, «Vanshree Vihar», leaf litter near stream, 22°26'34"N 78°23'25"E, 16.x.2000, #1b, leg. G. Cuccodoro, 24 ex.

Distribution. Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand.

Comments. This species may be distinguished by the shape of the internal sac and apically widened parameres as illustrated in Löbl (1979), in combination with the medially striate metasternum. The latter character is sometimes obscured by dense metasternal pubescence.

Scaphisoma besucheti Löbl

Material examined. Mahdya Pradesh, Mahadeo Hills, 4.5 km SW Pachmarhi, 950m, «Vanshree Vihar», leaf litter near stream, 22°26'34"N 78°23'25"E, 16.x.2000, #1b, leg. G. Cuccodoro, 31 ex.

Distribution. Sri Lanka, India, Nepal.

Comments. This species is characterized by the long, strongly curved articular process of the median lobe.

Scaphisoma portevini Pic

Material examined. Mahdya Pradesh, Mahadeo Hills, 4.5 km SW Pachmarhi, 950m, «Vanshree Vihar», leaf litter near stream, 22°26'34"N 78°23'25"E, 16.x.2000, #1b, leg. G. Cuccodoro, 23 ex.

Distribution. India, China, Korea, Japan.

Comments. This species was previously misidentified as *S. rufum* Achard (see Löbl 1986). Its internal sac of the aedeagus has a flat sclerotized plate that may be straight and obscures membranous structures, or is arcuate. The length of antennomeres 4 and 5 is comparatively variable in this species, the segments 3 and 4 combined are usually distinctly shorter than the antennomere 5 in the specimens from Mahadeo.

Scaphisoma sp. near *atronotatum* Pic

Material examined. Mahdya Pradesh, Mahadeo Hills, 4.5 km SW Pachmarhi, 950m, «Vanshree Vihar», leaf litter near stream, 22°26'34"N 78°23'25"E, 16.x.2000, #1b, leg. G. Cuccodoro, 1 ex.

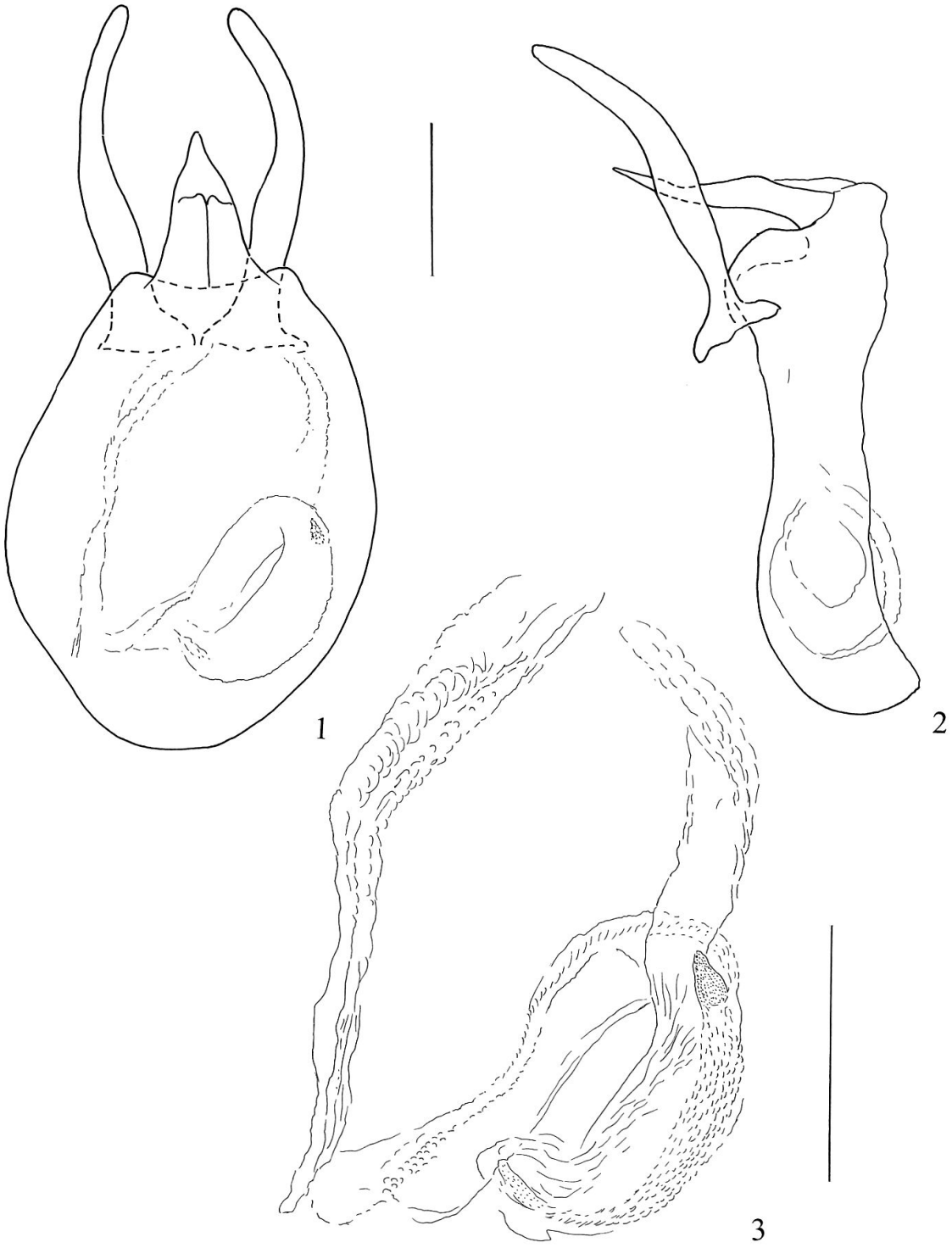
Comments. The specimen is in poor condition and cannot be reliably identified.

Scaphisoma hospitator sp. n.

Holotype male: India, Mahdya Pradesh, Mahadeo Hills, 5.5 km SW Pachmarhi, Tridhara 900m, dry leaf litter in gallery forest, 22°26'09"N, 78°23'01"E, 19.x.2000, leg. G. Cuccodoro, #4b (MHNG). Paratype male. With same data as holotype (MHNG).

Description. Length 1.45 mm. Body ochreous, elytral and apex of abdomen paler, yellowish, legs and antennomeres 1 to 6 yellowish. Thorax and elytra lacking microsculpture. Antennae comparatively short, not reaching posterior pronotal base; antennomere 4 cylindrical, following antennomeres widened. Length/width ratios of antennomeres as follows: III 2/2; IV 4/2; V 10/3; VI 11/3.5; VII 14/4.5; VIII 9/4; IX 11/5; X 11/5; XI 16/5. Pronotum very finely punctate, with arcuate lateral margins, lateral carinae visible at dorsal view. Tip of scutellum visible. Elytra moderately narrowed apically, with lateral margins oblique in middle, lateral margin keels visible in dorsal view, apical margins truncate, inner apical angle denticulate, lying posterior outer angles, sutural striae distinct, parallel to sutural margin, curved along margin of pronotal lobe, extended about to line of lateral edges of pronotal lobe. Adsutural areas flat, with very fine punctures. Basal fourth to third of elytra with punctation very fine and similar to pronotal punctation, remainder of elytral disc distinctly coarser punctate than elytral base. Hind wings fully developed. Mesepimeral line about twice as long as interval to mesocoxa. Metasternum very finely punctate, lacking impressions, lacking antecoxal puncture rows, mesocoxal lines arcuate, mesocoxal areas about 0.03 mm long. Metepisterna flat, lying below plan if metasternum, distinctly narrowed anteriorly, with fine suture. Abdominal sternite 1 lacking microsculpture, very finely punctate laterally and medio-apically, with distinct punctation on anterior two third of median area. Metacoxal lines strongly arcuate, metacoxal areas 0.10 mm long, extended to sternal mid-length. Following sternites very finely punctate and with punctulate microsculpture.

Male. Protarsomeres 1 to 3 moderately widened. Apical process of abdominal sternite 6 triangular, about 0.04 mm long. Aedeagus (Figs 1 to 3) 0.46-0.49 mm long, symmetrical. Median lobe moderately sclerotized. Basal bulb large, suboval, with large ventral tubercle. Distal process strongly inclined, almost vertical to axis



Figs 1 - 3. *Scaphisoma hospitator* sp. n., aedeagus in dorsal and lateral views (1 and 2), and internal sac (3). Scale bars = 0.1 mm.

of median lobe, narrow in lateral view, with acute tip. Dorsal valves short, contiguous mesally. Internal sac vesicular basally, with single, small, sclerotized denticle. Parameres moderately long, arcuate, weakly inclined.

Comments. The aedeagal characters indicate relationships of this new species with *S. fraterculum* Löbl and *S. japonicum* Löbl. *Scaphisoma hospitator* is charac-

terized by its strongly curved and vesicular internal sac bearing a single, small sclerotized denticle. It differs from its allied in particular by the length ration of the antennomeres 3 to 5, the much lighter body coloration and the abdomen lacking striate microsculpture.

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(received 7 October 2004; accepted 10 November 2004)