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Ergebnisse der Bhutan-Expedition 1972 des Naturhistorischen Museums in Basel

Coleoptera: Fam. Staphylinidae Tribus Quediini

By A. Smetana*

Abstract: *Quedius akalita* and *Anchocerus punctatissimus*, both from Bhutan, are described as new. The male of *Securipalpus rudepunctatus* Schub. is described and illustrated for the first time; the monotypic genus *Securipalpus* is considered as distinct from the genus *Algon* Shp. A lectotype is designated for *Anchocerus birmanus* Fvl.

The paper presents the results of the study of the material of the Quediini collected by the 1972 Bhutan expedition of the Naturhistorisches Museum in Basel, Switzerland, headed by Dr. W. Wittmer.

The staphylinid fauna of Bhutan remained virtually unknown because of lack of collecting and all species mentioned in this paper are recorded from this country for the first time; they are all of oriental origin.

The original material of *Securipalpus rudepunctatus* Schub. and *Anchocerus birmanus* Fvl. has been made available to me through the kindness of Dr. F. Hieke, Museum für Naturkunde an der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, and Dr. G. Demoulin, Institut Royal des sciences naturelles de Belgique, Bruxelles. Their assistance is gratefully acknowledged.

I would like to thank Dr. W. Wittmer for making the specimens available for study.

Algon semiaureus Fvl.

Algon semiaureus FAUVEL, 1895, Rev. d'Ent. 14: 273.

Creophilopsis semiaeneus CAMERON, 1921, Ent. mon. Mag. 57: 273.

Algon semiaureus; CAMERON, 1932, Fn. Brit. Ind. III: 271, pl. III, Fig. 2.

Locality. Sampa-Katoka, 1400–2600 m, 9. VI. 72 (1).

Distribution. India (W. Bengal), Bhutan, Burma.

* 104th contribution to the knowledge of Staphylinidae.

Securipalpus rudepunctatus Schub.

Securipalpus rudepunctatus SCHUBERT, 1908, Dtsch. ent. Z.: 613.

Algon rudepunctatus; BERNHAUER and SCHUBERT, 1916, in Junk and Schenkling, Col. Cat., pars 67, Staphylinidae V: 415.

Securipalpus rudepunctatus; CAMERON, 1932, Fn. Brit. Ind. III: 275.

Algon rudepunctatus; SCHEERPELTZ, 1933, in Junk and Schenkling, Col. Cat., pars 129, Staphylinidae VII: 1426.

Locality. 20 km S. Thimphu, 2300 m, 18.V.72 (1).

Type material. The species was described from a single female specimen from Kulu (Himachal Pradesh, India). The specimen (holotype) is deposited in the collection Schubert in the Museum für Naturkunde an der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. It is labelled as follows: large yellowish-grey round label/“Kulu 7”/“*Securipalpus* n.g. *rudepunctatus* m. type”/“*rudepunctatus* m.” It is very well preserved and intact.

Distribution. Known at present only from the State of Himachal Pradesh, India, and from Bhutan; probably widely distributed along the southern slopes of the Himalayas.

Discussion. Since the only previously known specimen (holotype) was a female, the description of the secondary male sexual characters and the aedeagus follows.

Male. First four segments of protarsi more dilated than in female. Sixth abdominal sternite narrowed apically, apical margin with a wide and shallow, arcuate emargination; small area before emargination smooth and feebly flattened. Aedeagus small, median lobe gradually, moderately widened anteriorly and then strongly narrowed into a sharp-pointed apical portion, in lateral view with a large and sharp apical hook. Paramere elongate, narrower than median lobe, apically truncato-emarginate, four bristles at apical margin on each side of emargination, two slightly longer bristles at each lateral margin near apex; sensory tubercles on underside of paramere numerous, forming two lateral longitudinal groups (Fig. 1).

This male specimen differs in a few details from the female holotype: it is distinctly smaller (8.0 mm against 10.0 mm in the holotype), with the antennae slightly shorter, the femora and tibiae darker, and with the smooth impunctate area at posterior elytral margin more extensive. Despite these minor differences, most of which are perhaps only differences between the two sexes, I believe that the two specimens are conspecific.

The monotypic genus *Securipalpus* Schub. was considered in the past by some authors (see above) as identical with *Algon* Shp. The two genera are no doubt very closely related, however, I believe that *Securipalpus* should be considered a separate genus. The short, apically thickened antennae with transverse outer segments, the distinctly sulcate ventrolateral portion of the head just below the obtuse posterior angles, the very peculiar punctuation of the elytra, and the three first abdominal tergites bearing a distinct basal impression, will readily distinguish *Securipalpus* from all species of *Algon* known to me.

The original Schubert's description contains one misleading character, which unfortunately has been used by Cameron (1932: 265)

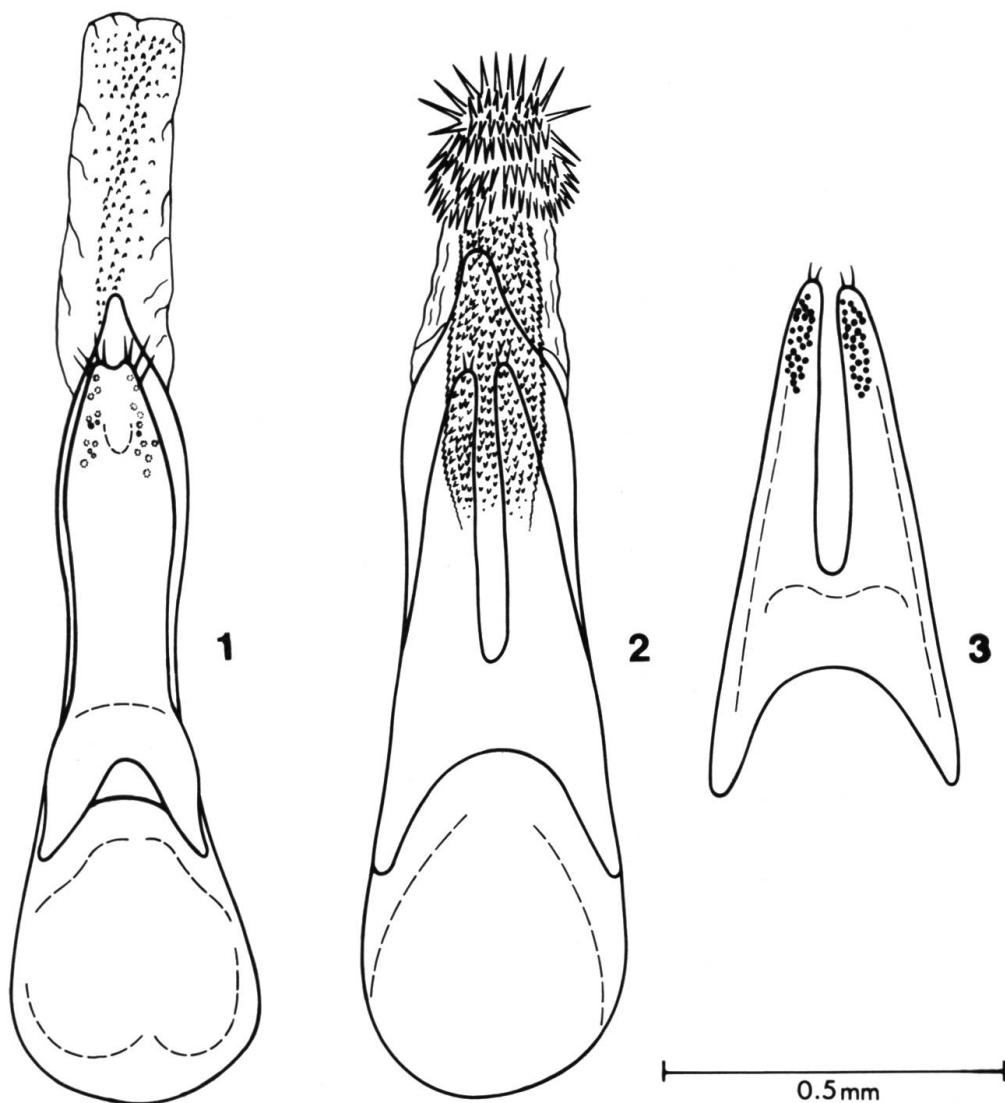


Fig.1. *Securipalpus ruedepunctatus*: aedeagus, ventral view. Figs.2-3. *Quedius akalita*: 1, aedeagus, ventral view; 2, underside of paramere.

to separate *Securipalpus* from *Algon*. Schubert (1908: 613) described middle coxae as separated («*Pedes intermedii distantes*») whereas in fact the middle coxae are clearly contiguous in the holotype.

Quedius (Microsaurus) apicornis Epp.

Quedius apicornis EPPELSHEIM, 1895, Dtsch. ent. Z.: 391.

Quedius apicornis; SMETANA, 1975, Oriental Ins. 9: 325.

Localities. Sampa-Kotoka, 1400–2600 m, 9. VI. 72(1); Nobding, 41 km O Wangdi Phodrang, 2800 m, 17. VI. 72 (2); Dechhi Paka, 3300 m, 19.–20. VI. 72 (1).

Distribution. Central Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan.

Quedius (Microsaurus) placidus Cam.

Quedius placidus CAMERON, 1932, Fn. Brit. Ind. III: 282.

Localities. Tongsa, 2150 m, 24. VI. 72 (1); Tangu, 22 km N Thimphu, 30. VI. 72 (1).

Distribution. India (W. Bengal) and Bhutan.

Quedius (Raphirus) decipiens Cam.

Quedius decipiens CAMERON, 1944, Proc. R. ent. Soc. London, B, 13: 14.

Quedius decipiens; SMETANA, 1975, Oriental Ins. 9: 333.

Locality. Sampa-Kotoka, 1400–2600 m, 9. VI. 72 (1).

Distribution. Central Nepal, India (W. Bengal) and Bhutan.

Quedius (Raphirus) spec.

Locality. Golakha, 1780 m, 29. IV. 72 (1).

This is a female specimen of a small species (length 4.0 mm), which cannot be identified from a single female. It is probably a new species.

Quedius (Indoqedius) akalita spec. nov.

Black, shiny, abdomen strongly iridescent, elytra iridescent, bright metallic greenish-blue. Maxillary palpi piceous-black with last segment dark testaceous; antennae with basal segments blackish with iridescence and paler basal portions, segments gradually becoming slightly paler towards apex, changing into almost testaceous colour (last segment); legs piceous-black, iridescent, tarsi slightly paler. Head rounded,

transverse (index width: length = 1.21); eyes very large, convex and prominent, temples considerably shorter than length of eyes seen from above (index 0.33); no additional setiferous punctures between anterior frontal punctures; posterior frontal puncture situated at posteromedial margin of eye, two fine punctures between it and anterior frontal puncture close to medial margin of eye; one puncture between posterior frontal puncture and posterior margin of head; surface polished, almost without any microsculpture. Antennae filiform, all segments elongate, longer than wide, third segment longer than second, penultimate segment about 1.4 longer than wide. Pronotum feebly wider than long (index 1.12), widest at about posterior fourth, very broadly arcuate basally, distinctly narrowed in front, front angles obtuse; dorsal rows each with only one puncture, sublateral rows missing, large lateral puncture situated at lateral margin; surface polished, almost without any microsculpture. Scutellum large, densely and coarsely punctate and pubescent, without microsculpture. Elytra moderately long, slightly arcuately widened at about posterior third, at suture about equally long, at sides longer than pronotum at midline (index 1.23); punctuation coarse and moderately dense, interspaces in average slightly smaller than diameters of punctures; pubescence dark, hairs coarse; surface without microsculpture. Abdomen with fifth visible tergite with distinct whitish apical seam; punctuation and pubescence of abdominal tergites considerably finer than that on elytra, rather evenly covering tergal surface, moderately dense on basal two tergites but gradually becoming sparser towards apex of abdomen.

Male. First four segments of protarsi strongly dilated. Apical margin of sixth sternite with a moderately wide, shallow subangulate emargination, small area before emargination flattened and smooth. Aedoeagus small and rather short, median lobe slightly constricted in middle portion, apically tapered into short and narrow, obtuse apical portion. Paramere clearly not reaching to apex of median lobe, strongly, almost conically narrowed in front, split into two narrowly separated and rather sharp-pointed branches; two very short and fine bristles on apical portion of each branch; sensory tubercles on underside of paramere forming one dense longitudinal group on apical portion of each branch. For details, and for shape of internal sac see Figs. 2, 3.

Female unknown.

Length 9.0 mm (abdomen slightly extended).

Type material. Holotype (male): "Thimphu 16.4.-27.4. 2400 m"/ "Nat.-Hist. Museum Basel-Bhutan Expedition 1972". In the collection of the Naturhistorisches Museum in Basel, Switzerland.

Distribution. Known only from Bhutan.

Bionomics. No details are known about the habits of this species.

Discussion. The species is very well characterized, in addition to the characters on the male copulatory organ, by its colouration; it is the only species of the subgenus *Indoquedius* with greenish-blue elytra.

Etymology. The specific name means "unknown" in Sanskrit.

Acylophorus (Acylophorus) spec.

Locality. Samchi, 300 m, 7.-11. V. 72 (1).

The specimen is a female; specific determination is not possible at present.

***Anchocerus punctatissimus* spec. nov.**

Piceous-black, median portion of anterior margin of pronotum, elytral humeri, apical margins of abdominal tergites and apex of abdomen slightly paler, rather dark piceo-rufous; maxillary palpi testaceous, antennae darker testaceous, legs rufo-brunneous with slightly paler tarsi. Head rounded, wider than long (index 1.25), slightly widened behind eyes and then rather strongly narrowed towards neck, widest at about posterior fourth; eyes small and flat, temples considerably longer than length of eyes seen from above (index 0.50); anterior frontal punctures situated close together on median portion of frons, distance between them distinctly smaller than distance of each puncture from median margin of eye; posterior frontal puncture situated close to posterior margin of head, one puncture posteromediad of it; large setiferous puncture at posterior margin of eye missing; surface without microsculpture, densely covered with extremely fine and superficial punctation with intermixed coarser punctures which gradually become more frequent towards lateral portions of head. Antennae strongly geniculate, scape almost as long as three following segments combined, 2nd segment almost twice as long as 3rd, 4th slightly shorter than 3rd, segments 5-8 longer than wide, gradually becoming shorter and wider towards apex, segments 9-10 about as long as wide, last segment short, much shorter than two preceding segments combined. Pronotum wider than long (index 1.19), widest at about posterior third, basally broadly arcuate, moderately narrowed in front,

front angles rounded; dorsal rows each with only one puncture situated just before middle of pronotum; sublateral rows each reduced to just one very fine puncture distant from anterior margin and situated rather laterally; large lateral puncture doubled; surface without microsculpture, punctuation similar to that on head, however intermixed coarser punctures finer and difficult to see, especially laterally. Scutellum punctate on apical portion, without microsculpture. Elytra at base narrower than pronotum and rather short, at suture shorter (index 0.78), at sides about as long as pronotum at midline; punctuation rather dense and moderately coarse, interspaces in average about as large as diameters of punctures; pubescence fine, dark; surface between punctures shiny, with microscopical punctulae. Abdomen with fifth visible tergite with very fine whitish apical seam; punctuation dense, rather coarse and more or less aciculate on basal portions of tergites, gradually becoming distinctly sparser, finer and hardly aciculate towards apical margin of each tergite, sixth visible tergite only sparsely and finely punctate; pubescence in general dense, dark and long; surface slightly iridescent, with extremely fine and dense microsculpture of incomplete transverse waves.

Male unknown.

Length 9.0 mm (abdomen slightly extended).

Type material. Holotype (female): "Changra 18 km S. Tongsa, 1900 m, 22/6" / "Nat.-Hist. Museum Basel – Bhutan Expedition 1972". In the collection of the Naturhistorisches Museum in Basel, Switzerland.

Distribution. Known only from Bhutan.

Bionomics. No details are known about the habits of this species.

Discussion. The species differs from all species of this genus known at present by the dense and extremely fine punctuation of the head and pronotum. It seems to be most closely related to *monticola* Cam., based on the chaetotaxy of the head (the large setiferous puncture at the posterior margin of the eye missing).

To clarify the relation of *punctatissimus* to the type species of *Anchocerus* Fauv., *A. birmanus* Fauvel, 1905, I studied the original series of this species deposited in the collection Fauvel in the Institut Royal des sciences naturelles de Belgique, Bruxelles, Belgique. It consists of three female specimens, which are labelled as follows: Spec. No. 1: "Tenasserim Kawkareet Fea Gen. Febbr. 1887" / "Birmanie Helfer" / "1 ♀ coll. Helfer (Mus. Prag)" / "Anchocerus birmanus Fvl."/

“Anchocerus Fvl.”/(last two labels in Fauvel’s handwriting) “R.I. Sc. N.B. 17.479 Coll. et del. A. Fauvel”/“Syntype” (red print). Spec. No. 2: “Malang Java”/“Coll. et det. A. Fauvel Anchocerus birmanus Fauv. R.I. Sc. N.B. 17.479”/“Syntype” (red print). Spec. No. 3: “Buitenzorg Jardin botanique”/“Coll. et det. A. Fauvel Anchocerus birmanus Fauv. R.I. Sc. N.B. 17.479”/“Syntype” (red print).

The three specimens of the original series do not seem to be conspecific. The specimens No. 2 and 3 (both from Java) are much smaller than the first specimen from Burma (Tenasserim), and differ in a few details (the head is narrower and less dilated behind the eyes, the punctuation of the elytra is less dense, and the punctuation of the abdominal tergites is finer and less dense); they probably belong to another, closely related species. The first specimen of the series from Tenasserim, bearing labels in Fauvel’s handwriting, is hereby designated as the lectotype of *birmanus*; the label “Lectotype Anchocerus birmanus Fvl. A. Smetana des. 1975” has been attached to this specimen.

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