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Ergebnisse der Bhutan-Expedition 1972
des Naturhistorischen Museums in Basel

Coleoptera: Fam. Lathridiidae Subfam. Corticariinae

By Colin Johnson

Abstract: 10 species are enumerated from Bhutan of which the following 4 proved new: *Corticaria aculeata*, *Cortinicara bhutanica*, *Corticarina bhutanensis*, *C. bruta*.

For the opportunity to study this interesting material from Bhutan, the writer would like to thank his colleague Dr. W. Wittmer.

All the types are deposited in the Natural History Museum, Basel, and Paratypes of *Corticaria aculeata*, *Cortinicara bhutanica* and *Corticarina bhutanensis* are also in my collection.

Studies on the Corticariinae of the Indian subcontinent have only recently commenced, and results are still being published. A list of these will be found in the references. As new localities are investigated, they provide further data on distribution, as well as producing the inevitable new species from such a poorly known part of the world. Bhutan is no exception to this. The Basle expedition collected forty-eight specimens comprising ten species, four of which are new, as well as two unassociated females of *Corticarina* which cannot be determined at present.

Migneauxia orientalis Reitter

Migneauxia orientalis REITTER, 1877, Mitt. Münch. Ent. Ver.: 139; Dajoz 1966, Rev. Ecol. Biol. Sol. 3: 627; JOHNSON, 1977c, Rev. Ecol. Biol. Sol. 14: in press.

BHUTAN – Samchi, 300 m, 7.–11. v. 1972, 1 ♂.

Distribution: Widespread in Asia: India, Ceylon, Burma, Indo-China and Japan. Imported into Denmark and Colombia. A number have also been seen from Nigeria (Ile-Ife, leg. Medler).

Corticaria nebulosa Champion

Corticaria nebulosa CHAMPION, 1922, Entomologist's mon. Mag. 58: 71; JOHNSON, 1977a, Entomologist's mon. Mag.

BHUTAN – Dorjula, 3100 m, 6. vi. 1972, 1 ♂.

Distribution: Himalayan species – north India (Kumaon Hills) and Nepal.

Corticaria aculeata sp. n. (Figs. 1–5)

Length 2.2–2.4 mm. Head and pronotum blackish, elytra dark brown; legs and antennae brown; underside blackish, except for the dark brown abdomen. Elytral pubescence rather long, 0.064–0.072 mm, not flat but curved and a little outstanding. Body moderately convex, shape as in fig. 1.

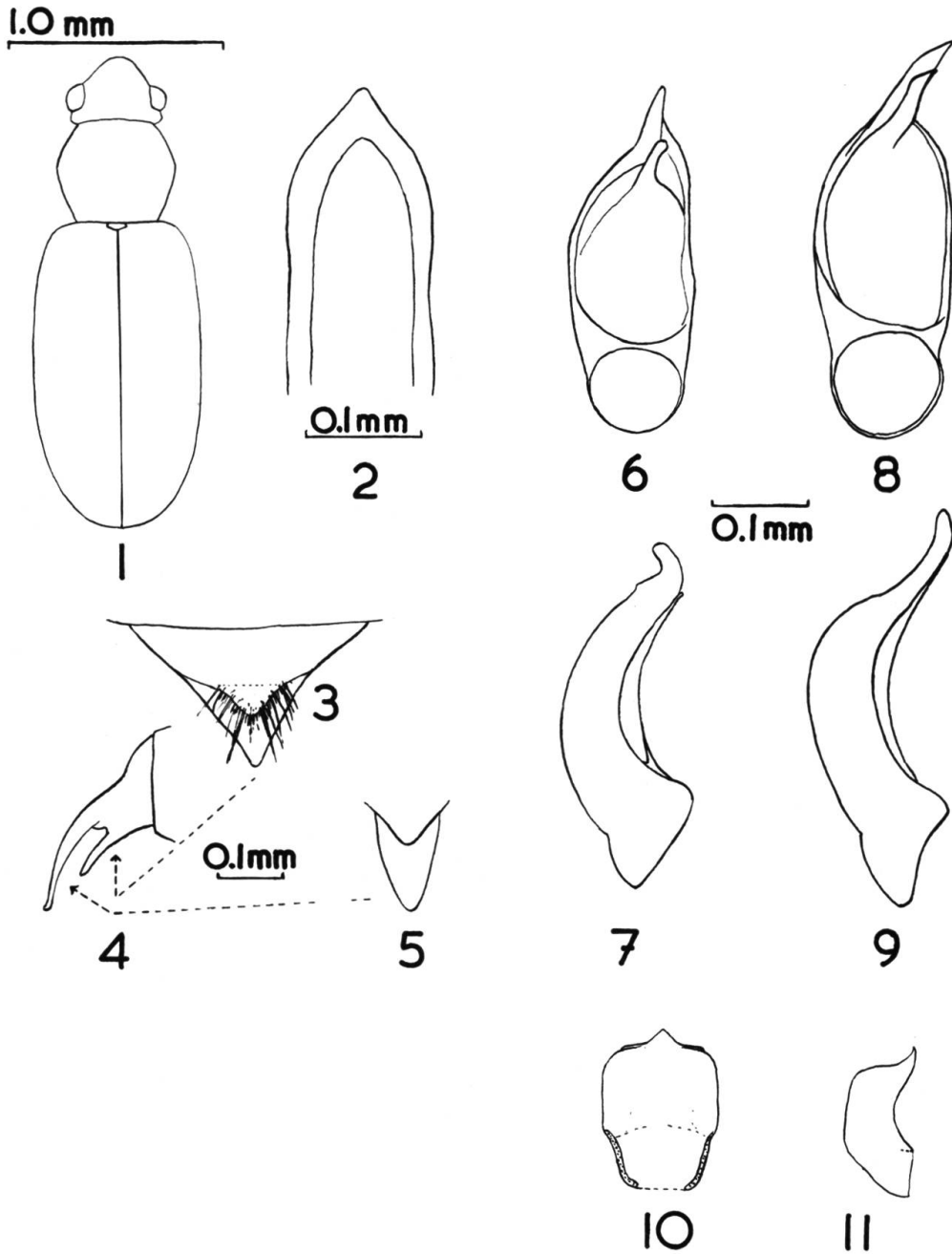
Head only a little narrower than the pronotum, the frons thus very broad; head breadth 0.46–0.48 mm; punctures very slightly smaller than those on the pronotum, but otherwise similar. Temples well-developed, about half the length of the eyes, somewhat angled behind and clearly narrower than the eyes. Antennae 0.75–0.77 mm, the club gradual and rather narrow, 9 a little conical and about as long as broad (♂) or a trifle longer than broad (♀), 10 more rounded at the sides and slightly broader than long (♂) or about as broad as long (♀).

Pronotum broadest just slightly in front of the middle, breadth 0.56 mm, 1.13 times as broad as long; surface a little shining and shagreened, closely covered with moderate sized punctures; with a strong, post-median, circular depression; obviously narrower than the elytra; sides obsolete crenulate.

Elytra long, narrow and nearly parallel-sided, 2.81–2.90 times as long as the pronotum, and 1.67–1.74 times as long as together broad, breadth 0.80–0.86 mm; about as convex as the pronotum; striae conspicuous, coarsely and closely punctured, the interstices nearly twice the width of the striae, and with spaced, fine points; surface without distinct shagreenation; with a humeral callus. Fully winged species. Sternites finely and sparsely punctured. Legs rather long.

Male: front and middle tibiae slightly bent just before the apex where there is a small tooth on the inner edge; basal segment of the front tarsi dilated, twice as wide as the following; apical sternite bilaminar, the ventral plate triangularly prolonged ventrad and with long pubescence at the apex, the dorsal plate excessively prolonged and acuminate, also directed ventrad (figs. 3–5); aedeagus fig. 2.

BHUTAN – Chimakothi: 1900–2300 m, 14.v.1972 holotype ♂, 22.v.1972 paratype ♀.



Figs. 1-5. *Corticaria aculeata* sp. n.: 1, habitus; 2, aedeagus; 3, last visible sternite; 4, last visible sternite, lateral; 5, last visible sternite, apex of dorsal plate. (Arrows indicate angle of viewing.) Figs. 6-7. Aedeagus of *Corticarina bhutanensis* sp. n.: 6, ventral; 7, lateral. Figs. 8-9. Aedeagus of *Corticarina brutata* sp. n.: 8, ventral; 9, lateral. Figs. 10-11. Aedeagus of *Corticarina bhutanica* sp. n.: 10, ventral; 11, lateral.

Notes: This species is abundantly distinct from all other Himalayan ones on account of the body shape, antennal structure, colour, and striae puncturation. In the writer's key (Johnson 1977 a) it runs down with difficulty, as the pronotum is not so transverse and the temples are rather long, to the vicinity of *orientalis* Champion, with which it has little in common. The male secondary sex characters are unique amongst the known species of the Himalaya.

The only other *Corticaria* species with similar bizarre male characters is the west Palaearctic *crenulata* (Gyllenhal) (= *spectabilis* Dajoz), and this is clearly the nearest relative to *aculeata*. Gyllenhal's species differs in the following features: antennal club shorter; head small, with small temples; pronotum very ample and more transverse; elytral interstitial hairs shorter; femora more robust; apical sternite of the male without the ventral plate, but otherwise similar; aedeagus long and narrow.

***Corticaria rufa* Johnson**

Corticaria rufa JOHNSON, 1977 a, Entomologist's mon. Mag.

BHUTAN – 20 km south of Thimphu, 18.v.1972, 1 ♀.

Distribution: Himalayan species; described on a unique male from west Nepal.

***Corticaria gibbosa* (Herbst)**

Latridius gibbosus HERBST, 1793, Käfer V: 5, t. 44, f. 2.

Corticaria gibbosa; REITTER, 1880, Verh. Nat. Ver. Brunn (Best. Tab.3): 28; STRAND, 1937, Norsk ent. Tidsskr. 5: 23, f. 22; PEEZ, 1967, in Freude, Harde und Lohse, Die Käfer Mitteleuropas 7: 188; JOHNSON, 1972, Entomologist 105: 100–101.

Corticaria gibbosa; JOHNSON, 1975 b, Ent. Scand. 6: 283.

BHUTAN – Thimphu, 27.iv.1972 12 ex., 31.v.1972 1 ex., 2440 m, 30.iv.1972 1 ex.; Taksang, Thimphu, 2200–2400 m, 2.v.1972 2 ex.; 20 km south of Thimphu, 18.v.1972 1 ex.; Chimakothi, 22.v.1972 4 ex., 1900–2300 m, 20.–24.v.1972 1 ex.; 21 km east of Wangdi Phodrang, 1700–2000 m, 1 ex.; 87 km from Phuntsholing, 30.iv.1972 1 ex., 21.–23.v.1972 2 ex.

Distribution: Holarctic species: Europe across Asia to eastern Siberia and Japan; Canada and U.S.A. North India, Nepal, Kashmir, Pakistan and Ceylon.

Cortinicara bhutanica sp. n. (Figs. 10–11)

Length 1.28–1.36 mm; pronotal breadth 0.35–0.37 mm; elytral breadth 0.61–0.64 mm; antennal length 0.40–0.43 mm.

Very similar to small brown specimens of *gibbosa* (Herbst). However, the antennal club is a little broader and shorter than in that species, segment 9 being more cup-shaped and 10 more transverse. The male has a profound (especially basally) oblong impression in the middle of the last visible sternite, and the aedeagus is characteristic, figs. 10–11.

Compared with *subgibbosa* (Johnson), that species has a still broader and more abrupt antennal club, with segment 10 in particular more strongly transverse, but otherwise the two species seem to be much the same externally.

BHUTAN – Kamjee: 850 m, 13.v.1972, holotype ♂, 1 ♂ 1 ♀ paratypes, 1300 m 24.iv.1972 1 ♀ paratype.

Corticarina bhutanensis sp. n. (Figs. 4–5)

Length 1.63–1.76 mm; pronotal breadth 0.50–0.54 mm; elytral breadth 0.72–0.77 mm; antennal length 0.53–0.56 mm. Blackish species, elytra brown-black; legs brown, more-or-less infuscated; antennae with the basal segment and the apical half darkened, at least segments 2 and 3 yellowish. Antennal segments rather short; 8 broader than long, 9 approximately as broad as long, 10 very slightly broader than long, the club rather abrupt. Pronotum 1.24–1.34 times as broad as long, broadest a trifle in front of the middle, the sides moderately curved; post-median depression well-marked, lateral impressions absent; surface shining, closely punctured, the interstices somewhat ridge-like, ground sculpture absent; hind angles with a small tooth. Elytra 2.84–3.00 times as long as the pronotum and 1.50–1.53 times as long as together broad, the sides almost moderately curved; elytral pubescence curved but not flat, the longer hairs c. 0.048–0.056 mm and distinctly overlapping. Humeral callus present. Fully winged species. Male: anterior tibial tooth strong and situated almost at the apical quarter; aedeagus figs. 4–5.

BHUTAN – Chimakothe, 22.v.1972, holotype ♂, 2 ♀ paratypes.

Notes: From other dark and fully winged species having a broad pronotum, an abrupt antennal club and a similar form of aedeagus, i.e.

nigra Johnson and *subcognata* Johnson, *bhutanensis* may be distinguished by its shining pronotum which lacks obvious microsculpture, and by its larger size. Unlike *nigra*, there are no lateral impressions on the pronotum. This particular group however is proving numerous in oriental species, and will soon require revision.

***Corticarina bruta* sp. n.** (Figs. 6–7)

Length 1.85 mm; pronotal breadth 0.53 mm; elytral breadth 0.77 mm; antennal length 0.59 mm. Blackish species, elytra brown-black; legs dark brown, the femora infuscated; first antennal segment dark, the apical half of the antennae infuscated, the rest yellowish-brown. Antennal segments somewhat short; 9 as broad as long, 10 slightly broader than long, the club abrupt. Pronotum long, 1.18 times as long, broadest about the middle, the sides moderately curved; post-median depression well-marked, lateral impressions absent; surface rather shining, slightly but distinctly shagreened, the punctures rather close but not deep; hind angles strongly toothed. Elytra 2.81 times as long as the pronotum and 1.52 times as long as together broad, the sides very feebly curved and almost straight; elytral pubescence flat, the interstitial hairs c. 0.048 mm and barely overlapping; humeral callus present. Fully winged. Male: anterior tibial tooth moderate in size, situated at about the apical third; aedeagus figs. 6–7.

BHUTAN – Gogona, 3100 m, 10.–12. vi. 1972, holotype ♂.

Notes: Amongst other Himalayan species of a dark colour and with an abrupt antennal club, *bruta* can be separated by its large size, long and little transverse pronotum, and very feebly curved elytra. From *bhutanensis*, these characters will also separate it, in addition to those of the distinct pronotal shagreenation and strongly toothed pronotal hind angles. Males may be further separated by the position of the front tibial tooth, and the form and size of the aedeagus.

***Corticarina biharensis* Johnson**

Corticarina biharensis JOHNSON, 1977b, Entomologist's mon. Mag.

BHUTAN – Thimpu, 31. v. 1972, 1 ♀.

Distribution: Only known from the type locality, Chaibasa, Bihar, India.

Melanophthalma franzi Johnson

Melanophthalma franzi JOHNSON, 1972, Entomologist 105: 109.

BHUTAN – Phuntsholing, 2–400 m, 5.v.1972, 4 ex.; Samchi, 300 m, 7.–11.v.1972, 1 ex.; Chimakothi, 22.v.1972, 2 ex.; Kamjee, 850 m, 13.v.1972, 1 ex.

Distribution: Northern parts of the subcontinent from the Punjab across Uttar Pradesh to Nepal. The most southerly known locality is in Pakistan, near Karachi.

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