Zeitschrift: Entomologica Basiliensia
Herausgeber: Naturhistorisches Museum Basel, Entomologische Sammlungen
Band: 3 (1978)

Artikel: Coleoptera: Fam. Cucujidae
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DOI: https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-980688

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Ergebnisse der Bhutan-Expedition 1972 des Naturhistorischen Museums in Basel

Coleoptera: Fam. Cucujidae

by T. Sen Gupta

Abstract: *Pediacus* Shuck. is a small genus belonging to the family Cucujidae. HETSCHKO (1930) listed fifteen species under this genus from the World. So far two species namely, *P. montivagus* Champion (Kumaon: U.P.: India) and *P. rufipes* Grouvelle (Nilgiri Hills: Tamil Nadu: India) are known from the Indian subregion. In the present study two more new species are described below from Bhutan and a key to the Indian species of *Pediacus* is given.

Pediacus elongatus n. sp.

General appearance (Fig. 1): narrow elongate, flat, moderately shiny, dorsal surface distinctly punctured, head and pronotum reddish brown and elytra darker.

Exposed part of head transverse, reddish brown, glabrous, punctaation on vertex distinct, moderately coarse and close, clypeus narrow and depressed. Eyes black, rather large, projected and finely faceted. Antenna slender and long, segments elongate, scape moderately large, slightly longer than broad, pedicel smaller than scape, segment 3 one and half times longer than pedicel, segments 4–7 elongate and equal, segment 8 smaller than segment 7, segments 9–11 forming an elongate club, segments 9 and 10 equal and slightly transverse and segment 11 as broad as 10, elongate and narrowed at apex. Prothorax as broad as long, rather distinctly narrowed in front, with 4 lateral teeth, disc with two pairs of depressions and a narrow median longitudinal impunctate poorly developed ridge, punctuation similar to that on vertex of head, all the four teeth on lateral margin prominent and margin between teeth are rather distinctly sinuate. Scutellum transverse, reddish brown and punctured. Elytra parallel-sided, lateral explanate margin narrow, blackish brown, covered with fine, sparse, short whitish pubescence, punctuation more or less similar to that on pronotum but slightly sparser. Legs reddish brown. Ventral surface uniformly reddish brown and sparsely punctured.

Measurements: Total length 4.1 mm, width of head across eyes.

8 mm, length of antenna 1.4 mm, width of prothorax across posterior one-third .95 mm, length of elytra 2.8 mm and width across middle 1.3 mm.

Holotype ♂, Bhutan, 87 km Phuntsholing-Thimphu, deposited in Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, Basel, Switzerland.

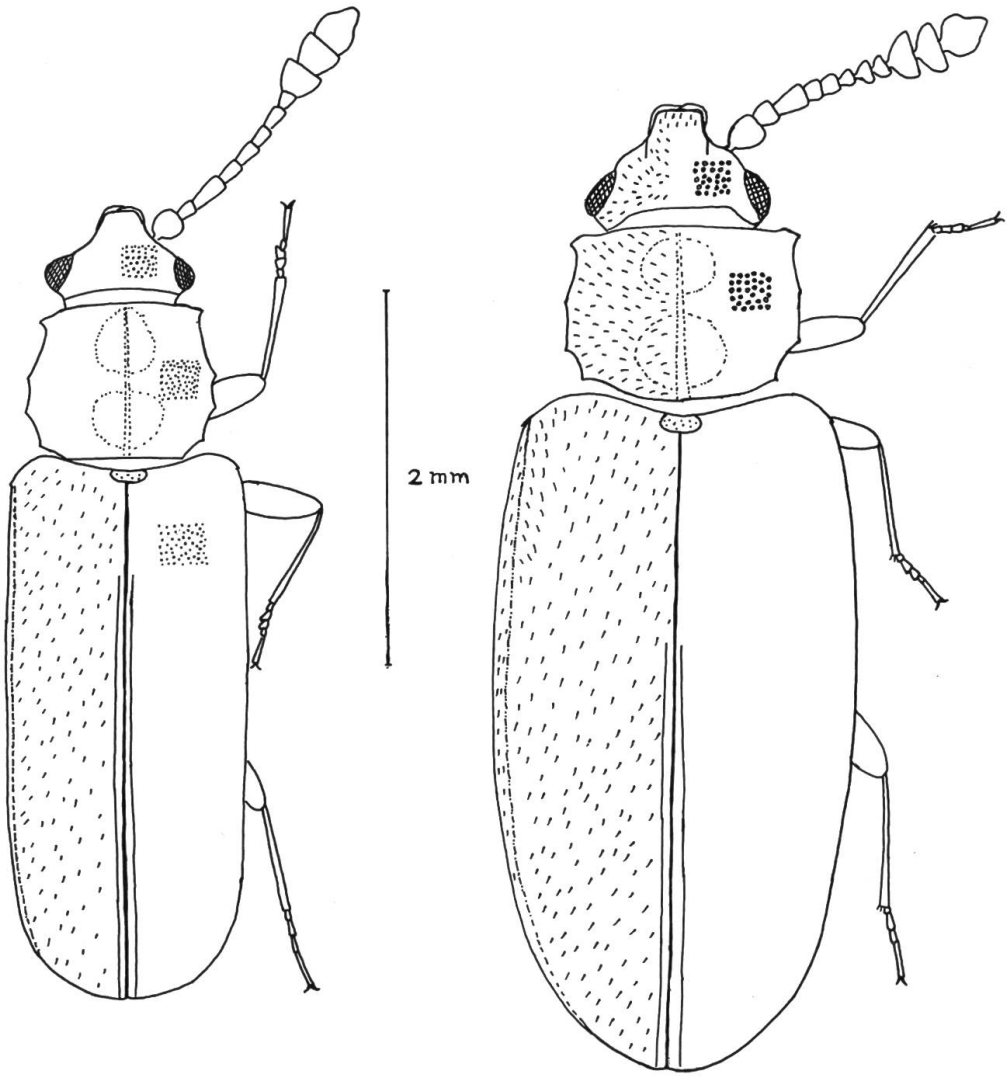

Fig. 1. Pediacus elongatus ♂.

Fig. 2. Pediacus bhutanicus ♂.

Pediacus bhutanicus n. sp.

General appearance (Fig. 2) moderately broadly elongate, flat, pronotum and elytra dark reddish brown, and head and antenna slightly darker.

Exposed part of head as broad as long, slightly blackish red, frontoclypeal region rather broad and depressed, vertex strongly and closely punctured, covered with fine, short, whitish pubescence, directed towards middle line, that on clypeus directed towards front. Eyes black, moderately large, slightly projected and finely faceted. Antenna rather short, scape rather small, pedicel smaller than scape, segment 3 elongate and one and half times longer than pedicel, segments 4 and 5 short, as broad as long and equal, segment 6 smallest, segments 7 and 8 short, slightly transverse and equal, segments 9–11 forming a well developed club, segments 9 and 10 strongly transverse and equal segment 11 as long as broad, slightly narrower than segment 10 and narrowed at apex. Prothorax transverse, reddish brown, with 4 lateral teeth, disc with two pairs of depressions and a median longitudinal impunctate narrow ridge, which is slightly broad at base and progressively narrowed in front, punctation deep, coarse similar to that on vertex of head, pubescence fine and directed towards middle line, front angle projected outwardly like a pointed tooth, lateral margin between anterior two teeth straight and slightly narrowed in front, margin between second and third teeth straight and parallel-sided, posterior two teeth are prominent and margin between them rather strongly sinuate. Scutellum reddish brown, transverse and punctured. Elytra reddish brown, broadest at middle, slightly narrowed in front and behind, lateral explanate margin well developed and distinct; punctuation rather indistinct, covered with sparse, short pubescence directed outwardly, that of lateral sides directed inwardly and posteriorly. Ventral surface blackish brown, densely and moderately coarsely punctured and finely pubescent. Legs reddish brown and finely pubescent.

Measurement: Total length 5.1 mm, width of head across eyes 1 mm, length of antenna 1.25 mm, width of pronotum across middle 1.25 mm, length of elytra 3.7 mm and width across middle 1.87 mm.

Holotype ♂, Bhutan, 87 km Phuntsholing-Thimphu, deposited in Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, Basel, Switzerland.

Key to the species of *Pediacus* from the Indian subregion

1. Front angle of prothorax truncated, lateral teeth of prothorax less prominent and poorly developed 2
   Front angle of prothorax projected and toothed, lateral teeth of prothorax prominent and more developed 3
2. Prothorax broadest at front and narrowed posteriorly, disc of pronotum with single broadly elongate depression, antennal club poorly developed and segments 9 and 10 slightly transverse . . . . . **montivagus** Champion
   Prothorax broadest at middle and narrowed in front and behind, disc of pronotum with two pairs of depressions, antennal club well developed and segments 9 and 10 strongly transverse . . . . . **rufipes** Grouvelle
3. Prothorax distinctly narrowed in front and almost as broad as long, antenna slender, segments elongate, segment 8 smallest, club narrow, elytra parallel-sided, species narrower . . . . . **elongatus** n. sp.
   Prothorax almost parallel-sided and transverse, antenna thicker and segments short, segment 6 smallest, club well developed and segments 9 and 10 strongly transverse, elytra broadest at middle and narrowed in front and behind, species broader . . . . . **bhutanicus** n. sp.

Acknowledgement: Author is grateful to Director, Zoological Survey of India for Laboratory facilities.

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