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Ergebnisse der Bhutan-Expedition 1972 des Naturhistorischen Museums in Basel

Coleoptera: Fam. Cryptophagidae, Genus *Himascelis*

by T. Sen Gupta and T.K. Pal

Abstract: Ten specimens of the genus *Himascelis* Sen Gupta (Atomariinae) collected from Darjeeling district of West Bengal, Kashmir, Nepal and Bhutan are examined. *H. nigratus* Sen Gupta is synonymised with *H. brunneus* Sen Gupta and one species, *H. kashmirensis*, is described as new to science.

One of us (SEN GUPTA, 1978) erected the genus *Himascelis* for the two species *brunneus* and *nigratus*, from Himachal Pradesh and Darjeeling district of West Bengal respectively. He separated the species *nigratus* from *brunneus* by its blackish brown colour, smaller puncturation, antennal segment 3 slightly longer than segments 4–6 and the elytra being broadest across anterior one-third. In the present study we examined some more examples of this genus from Darjeeling, Kashmir Nepal and Bhutan including the male genitalia (Fig. 1). It is observed that the differences mentioned above between the species *nigratus* and *brunneus* are not constant. Moreover, the aedeagus, which was not studied earlier, is identical. Therefore, these two species have been merged here into one and *nigratus* is synonymised with *brunneus*.

1. *Himascelis brunneus* Sen Gupta

Himascelis brunneus SEN GUPTA, 1978, Oriental Ins. 12 (2): 277–279 (Himachal Pradesh: India)

Himascelis nigratus SEN GUPTA, 1978, Oriental Ins. 12 (2): 279 (Darjeeling dist., W.B.: India) **Syn. nov.**

This species can be recognised by its prothorax being broad (1.00:1.77), lateral margin not uniformly curved, more than three times wider than front margin: elytra slightly elongate (1.19:1.00). Aedeagus (Fig. 1) inverted cucujoid-type, median lobe markedly elongated and its apex broadly pointed; articulated parameres well developed and moderately long. Length: 1.35–1.45 mm.

Specimens examined: India: West Bengal, Darjeeling district, Chimkhona (Ghum), 2200 m, 1 ex., 4. VI. 1975, W. Wittmer; Lebong, 1600/1800 m, 1 ex., 8. V. 1975, W. Wittmer; Kashmir, Daksum,

2400–2700 m, 2 ex., 9–13.VII.1976, W. Wittmer. Nepal: Thodung via Those, 3100 m, 1 ex., 29–31.V.1976, W. Wittmer & C. Baroni. Bhutan: 3100 m, 1 ex., 1.IX.1976, Dorjee Khandu; Dorjula, 3100 m, 3 ex., 2.IX.1976, Dorjee Khandu.

Distribution: India: West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Kashmir; Nepal; Bhutan.

2. *Himascelis kashmirensis* n. sp.

This species differs from *H. brunneus* by the base of its prothorax being less than two times wider than apex, prothorax less transverse (1:1.37) and elytra more elongated (1.41:1). General appearance (Fig. 2) elongate-oval, convex, reddish brown, rather shiny with moderately dense, short and recumbent pubescence.

Head short, narrowed in front, partly exposed with its posterior part concealed under prothorax and with a transverse angular ridge, clypeus broadly transverse and its apical margin rounded, vertex with

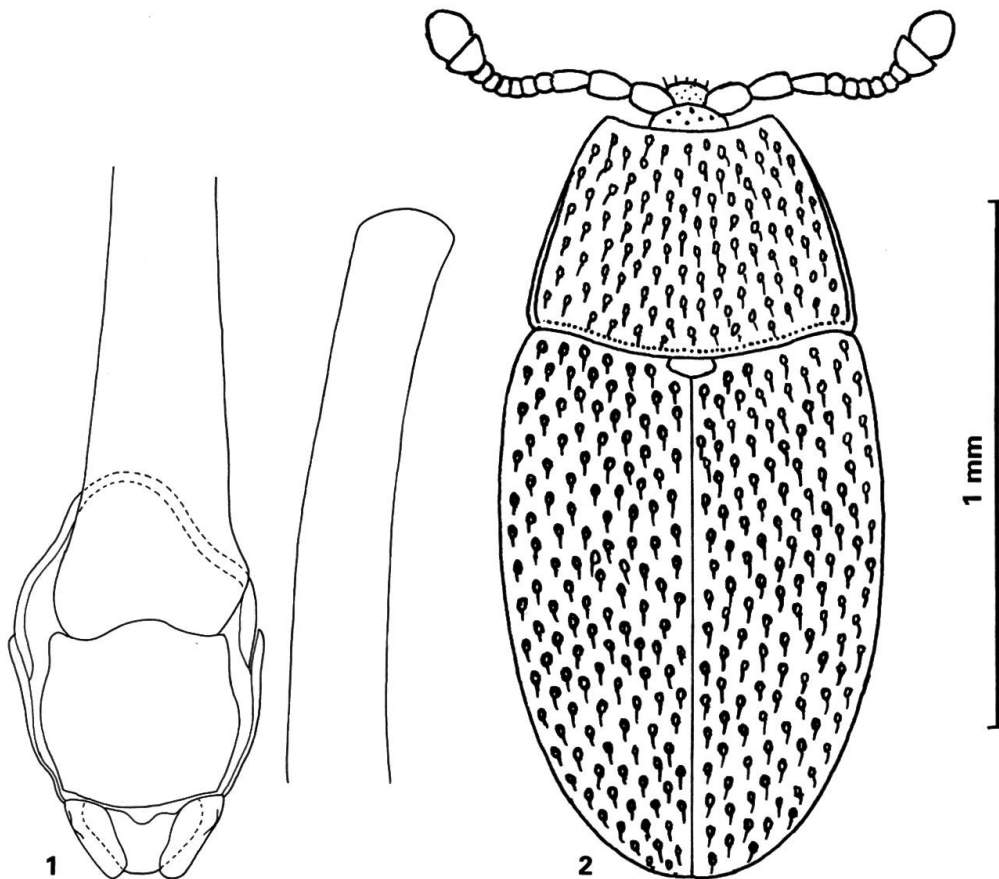


Fig. 1: Aedeagus of *Himascelis brunneus* Sen Gupta. Fig. 2: Dorsal view of *Himascelis kashmirensis* n. sp.

minute and sparse punctures and pubescence projected posteriorly, eyes minute and hardly visible from dorsal side. Antenna moderately long, antennal insertions dorsal and in small depressions; scape moderately large, pedicel and segment 3 about as long as scape and narrower, segments 4–9 short, subequal and about as broad as long or slightly transverse, segment 10 transverse and segment 11 about as broad as long.

Prothorax transverse (1.00:1.37), gradually widening posteriorly, front angles slightly projected and acute, hind angles slightly obtuse, front margin emarginate, lateral margins outwardly curved and basal margin bisinuate, pronotum convex and finely bordered, moderately, densely and uniformly punctured, width of each puncture narrower than space between the punctures, pubescence moderately dense and projected posteriorly.

Scutellum transversely triangular and impunctate.

Elytra broadly elongate (1.41:1.00), widest beyond middle, lateral margins uniformly curved, puncturation coarser than that of pronotum, pubescence moderately dense and projected posteriorly.

Measurements: Total length: 1.36 mm, length of antenna: 0.38 mm, width of prothorax across front margin: 0.26 mm and across base: 0.51 mm, length of elytra: 0.86 mm and width: 0.60 mm.

Holotype ♀, India: Kashmir: Daksum, 2400–2700 m, 9.–13. VII. 1976, W. Wittmer. (Nat. Hist. Mus., Basle).

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Literature

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