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New species of Alticinae (Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae) from South Asia

by L. N. Medvedev

Abstract: 2 new genera: *Brancuccia* and *Hesperella*, as well as 9 new species *Brancucciella micheli* (Thailand), *Hesperella violaceipennis* (Thailand), *Phygasia indo-chinensis* (Thailand), *Ph. potanini* (China), *Ph. wittmeri* (China), *Ph. tricolora* (China), *Ph. marginata* (India), *Ph. cyanea* (Birma) and *Pseudodera rufa* (Thailand) are described. A key for the genus *Phygasia* is given.

Key words: Coleoptera Chrysomelidae Alticinae – South Asia – new genera – new species.

Thanks to the amability of Dr. M. Brancucci and Dr. W. Wittmer I studied a very large and interesting material of South Asia in the Basel Museum of Natural History with a lot of new species; some of them from the subfamily Alticinae are described below.

The following abbreviations are used in the paper:

NHMB = Basel Museum of Natural History

ZIP = Zoological Institute, St. Peterburg

LM = author's collection, Moscow.

Brancucciella n.gen.

Generotype – *Brancucciella micheli* n.sp.

Head with well developed subquadrate frontal tubercles, distinctly delimited behind with a sharp impressed line. Interantennal space moderately broad, carinate. Clypeus triangular. Antennae 11-segmented, not thickened apically, as long as a body. Prothorax without any grooves, with obtuse angles, fore angles thickened, side margins with angulation in anterior quarter, bearing pore. Elytra with 9 regular rows of punctures and additional short scutellar row; all interspaces are strongly convex and bear rather long erect hairs. Wings present. Pygidium without longitudinal groove. Fore coxal cavities open. Hind tibia flattened above, with short spur. Segment 1 of hind tarsus a little longer, than next ones combined, about half of tibia length. 3rd tarsal segment entire. Claws appendiculate.

This unusual genus with general appearance of *Epithrix* combines features of *Epithrix* (head, elytra) and *Longitarsus* (prothorax, hind tarsus) and differs from both as well as from all pubescent genera in having entire third tarsal segment.

Brancucciella micheli n.sp.

♀. Pale flavous; scutellum, narrow sutural stripe, humerus, underside and apices of hind femora piceous to black.

Head impunctate, shagreened. Proportions of antennal segments as 15–7–9–11–16–17–18–17–16–16–18. Prothorax 1.6–1.7 times as broad as long, with sides slightly rounded, surface impunctate, densely shagreened. Elytral rows deeply striate, with fine punctures; convex interspaces impunctate, shagreened. First segment of fore tarsus slightly widened in male, long and thin in female. Length of body 2.1–2.3 mm.

Holotype ♀ and 4 paratypes: (NHMB), 2 paratypes (LM): NW Thailand; Mae Hong Shon, Ban Si Lang (19°19' N, 97°59' E), 1200 m, 23–31.V.1991, Dembicky.

I dedicate this nice and unusual beetle to my friend, Dr. Michel Brancucci.

Hesperella n.gen.

Generotype – *Hesperella violaceipennis* n.sp.

Body elongate ovate, narrowed anteriorly. Upperside, including head, covered with adpressed, moderately dense pubescence. Frontal tubercles transverse, obliquely placed and not delimited from eyes (ocular grooves not developed). Interantennal space broad, antennal bases touch inner margin of eye, clypeus triangular, moderately convex. Antennae a little shorter than half of body length, segments 4–11 thickened. Prothorax transverse, narrowed anteriorly, with obtuse fore and hind angles, without any depressions. Elytra confusedly punctate, without basal convexity, with truncate apices, not covering two apical segments of abdomen. Epipleurae broad basally, sharply narrowing in middle part. Fore coxal cavities open. Tibiae cylindrical, with short spur, third tarsal segment bilobed, claws split.

This genus must be placed near *Hespera* Weise, 1889 and especially close to *Pseudespera* Chen, 1985, but differs in having split claws and partly exposed abdomen. In *Hespera* claws are appendiculate, in *Pseudespera* they are split in male and appendiculate in female.

Hesperella violaceipennis n.sp.

♀. Body black, elytra dark violaceous blue, 3 basal segments of antennae and all femora red.

Clypeus sparsely, vertex densely punctate. Proportions of antennal segments are as 10–5–6–8–7–8–8–8–9–8–12, preapical segments only a little longer than broad. Prothorax strongly narrowed anteriorly, with side margins feebly arcuate, surface finely and densely punctate, interspaces microsculptured. Elytra finely and densely punctate.

Length of body 4,9–5,1 mm.

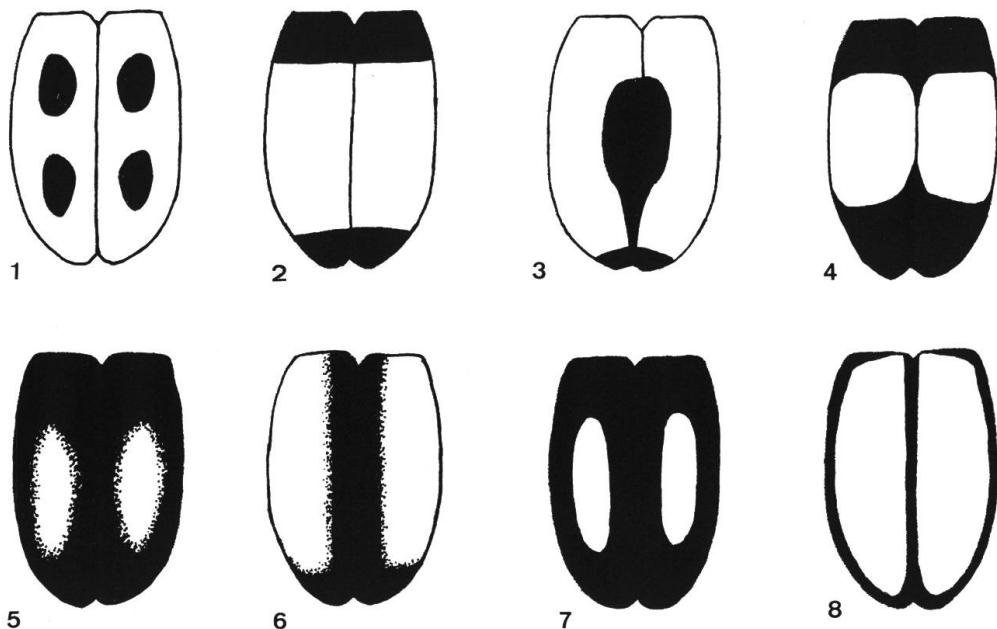
Holotype (NHMB) and 5 paratype (NHMB, 2 spec. LM), females: Thailand, "Thanong Thong Chai", Palong (19°55' N, 99°06' E), 750 m, 26–28.V.1991, V. Kuban.

Genus **Phygasia** Dejean, 1837

In the materials of Basel Museum I found 3 new species of this genus; a few other species, also new I have in my collection. It allows me to make a revision of this very characteristic genus from South Asia, in which males have thickened intermediate segments of antennae and females are often with lateral ridge on elytra, which however seems to be very inconstant and variable.

Key to species

- 1(24) Elytra fulvous or bicolorous.
- 2(7) Elytra fulvous, unicolours.
- 3(6) Prothorax fulvous. Elytra usually without lateral costa.
- 4(5) Antennae, apices of femora, tibiae and tarsi black. Elytra distinctly punctate. Length 5.6–6 mm. Nepal. Assam, Sikkim. **Ph. hookeri** Baly, 1876
- 5(4) Antennae with 3 to 5 basal segments fulvous, rest segments usually more or less darkened to black. Tibiae, tarsi and hind femora mostly darkened to black. Elytra very finely punctate. Aedeagus fig. 9. Length 4.1–5.2 mm. South and east India, Sri Lanka. **Ph. silacea** Illiger, 1807
- 6(3) Prothorax black. Body black or dark piceous with fulvous venter. Elytra with lateral costa. Length 4–6 mm. Russia (Ussuri), Japan, North China, Korea.
- 7(2) Elytra bi- or tricolorous.
- 8(17) Prothorax black or dark piceous.
- 9(10) Elytra fulvous, each with 2 large spots (1.1), not connected with sides (fig. 1). Prothorax fulvous at sides. Elytra without costae. Aedeagus fig. 10. Length 4.6–5.6 mm. North India. **Ph. quadriplagiata** Scherer, 1969



Figs 1–8: Elytra of *Phygasia*: 1, *Ph. quadriplagiata* Scherer, ♂. 2, *Ph. indochinensis* n.sp. ♂. 3, *Ph. dorsata* Baly, ♂. 4, *Ph. ornata* Baly, ♂. 5, *Ph. potanini* n.sp., ♂. 6, *Ph. wittmeri* n.sp., ♂. 7, *Ph. tricolora* n.sp., ♂. 8, *Ph. marginata* n.sp., ♀.

10(9) Dark pattern of elytra connected with sides.
 11(12) Elytra whitish flavous with black base and extreme apex (fig. 2). Aedeagus fig. 11. Length 5.5–6 mm. Thailand.
Ph. indochinensis n.sp.

12(11) Elytra without spots, with dark suture.
 13(14) Elytron flavous with sutural stripe, widened in the middle in large common spot and apices black (fig. 3). Rest parts of body black. Aedeagus fig. 12. Length 5.4–7.5 mm. India, Indochina, west China, Sumatra. **Ph. dorsata** Baly, 1878

14(13) Elytron without common sutural spot, a frontier between light and dark colour washed off.

15(16) Elytra dark pitchy with elongate fulvous patch in the middle (fig. 5). Aedeagus fig. 13. Length 4.2–4.3 mm. China (Szechuan).
Ph. potanini n.sp.

16(15) Elytra pale flavous, broadly darkened along suture and on apex (fig. 6). Aedeagus fig. 14. Length 3.9–5 mm. China (Szechuan).
Ph. wittmeri n.sp.

17(18) Prothorax fulvous or red.

18(19) Elytra fulvous with basal and preapical black or pitchy bands, connected along suture with dark stripe; extreme

apex, as well as prothorax usually red (fig. 4). Underside, femora and 2 basal segments of antennae reddish fulvous. Aedeagus fig. 15. Length 4–6.5 mm. Burma, Indochina, south China, Taiwan. **Ph. ornata** Baly, 1876

19(18) Elytra without transverse bands.
 20(21) Prothorax red, elytra black with broad and elongate flavous stripe on each (fig. 7), underside and legs black. Aedeagus fig. 16. Length 4.1 mm. China (Szechuan).

Ph. tricolora n.sp.

21(20) Prothorax and basic colour of elytra fulvous. Elytra narrowly margined with black or pitchy (fig. 8).
 22(23) Antennae, legs and underside entirely fulvous. Elytra of female without lateral costa. Length 4.5 mm. South India.

Ph. marginata n.sp.

23(22) Antennae with segments 5–11 darkened. Elytra of female with lateral costa. Length 5–5.8 mm. China (Szechuan, Sikang). **Ph. eschatia** Gressitt a. Kimoto, 1963

24(1) Elytra black or metallic, usually without lateral costa.
 25(26) Elytra black, finely punctate. Fulvous; antennae, breast and legs black. Aedeagus fig. 17. Length 5.4–6 mm. South India.

Ph. nigripennis Jacoby, 1904

26(25) Elytra metallic, distinctly punctate.
 27(28) All upperside metallic, underside black. Aedeagus fig. 18. Length 5.2 mm. Burma. **Ph. cyanea** n.sp.

28(27) Head and prothorax fulvous.
 29(30) Antennae and legs dark fuscous. Sides of prothorax rather broadly deplanate. Aedeagus fig. 19. Length 4.2–5 mm. South India. **Ph. violaceipennis** Jacoby, 1903

30(29) Antennae and legs fulvous. Sides of prothorax very narrowly deplanate. Length 4 mm. Sri Lanka.

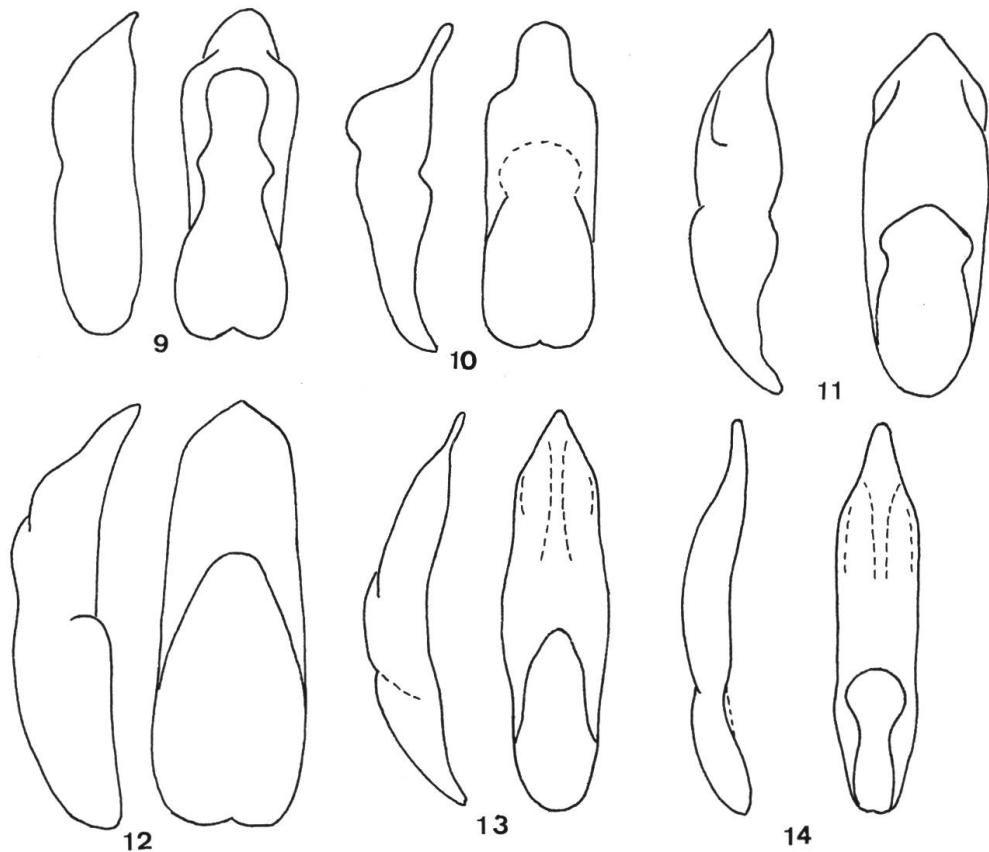
Ph. ceylonensis Scherer, 1969

Phygasia indochinensis n.sp.

Figs 2,11.

♂. Black, antennae sometimes dark pitchy, elytra with very broad whitish flavous band (fig. 2).

Head impunctate, interantennal space with sharp ridge, frontal tubercles triangular. Antennae of male with segments 3–7 flattened and moderately broadened, segments 8–11 more narrow, segment 3 thrice as long as 2. Prothorax 2.1 times as wide as long, with



Figs 9–14: Aedeagus, ventral and lateral: 9, *Phygasia silacea* Ill. 10, *Ph. quadriplagiata* Scherer. 11, *Ph. indochinensis* n.sp. 12, *Ph. dorsata* Baly. 13, *Ph. potanini* n.sp. 14, *Ph. wittmeri* n.sp.

maximal width in anterior quarter, surface shining, very finely and sparsely punctate. Elytra shining, very densely punctate, not costate at sides. First segment of fore and mid tarsi widened in male.

Aedeagus (fig. 11) short, broad and thick.

Length of body 5.5–6 mm.

Holotype, male (NHMB) and 1 paratype, female (LM): Thailand, "Thanong Thong Chai", Chiang Dao, 350 m, 9–14.V.1991, V. Kuban.

***Phygasia potanini* n.sp.**

Figs 5.13.

♂. Dark piceous, each elytron with longitudinal fulvous patch in middle, not sharply limited from dark background (fig. 5).

Head impunctate, interantennal space with moderately sharp ridge, frontal tubercles quadrangular with acute fore angles. Antennae of male with segments 3–7 flattened and strongly widened, compara-

tively short (each of them about 1.3–1.5 times as long as broad), segments 8–11 more narrow, segment 3 about 1.5 times as long as 2. Prothorax 1.5 times as wide as long, with maximal width just before middle, surface shining, very finely punctate, basal groove shallow, poorly delimited on sides. Elytra finely punctate, not costate at sides. First segments of fore and mid tarsi distinctly widened in male.

Aedeagus (fig. 13) moderately long, thin in lateral view, with acute triangular apex, underside with longitudinal grooves on each side before apex.

Length of body 4.2–4.3 mm.

Holotype, male, and 2 paratypes, males: China, Prov. Szechuan, vicinity of Da-Dzin-Lu, 9.VII.1893, G. Potanin (ZIP).

Phygasia wittmeri n.sp.

Figs 6,14.

♂. Black, elytra pale flavous with broad sutural stripe and apex darkened, more or less pitchy; dark coloration poorly limited from light background (fig. 6).

Head impunctate, interantennal space with sharp ridge, clypeus very short, frontal tubercles triangular, sharply delimited, with acute fore angles. Antennae of male with segments 3–7 broad and flattened, next segments more narrow, segment 3 about 1.5 times as long as 2. Prothorax twice as broad as long, with sides feebly rounded and maximal width just before middle; surface shining, indistinctly punctate, with deep basal groove, distinctly delimited on sides. Elytra shining, finely and densely punctate, without lateral ridge. First segment of fore and mid tarsi moderately widened in male.

Aedeagus (fig. 14) comparatively long, with elongate apical part, thin in lateral view, underside with longitudinal grooves laterally.

Length of body 3.9–5 mm.

Holotype, male, and 23 paratypes: (NHMB) China, N Yunnan: Dali, 1600–2000 m, 5–8.VII.1990, 3 paratypes (LM): Yunnan, Cangshan Mts. (25°42' N, 100°08' E), 2000–2500 m, 21.VI.1992, 2 paratypes (LM).

Phygasia tricolora n.sp.

Figs 7,16.

♂. Body black, head (except darkened labrum), 2 basal segments of antennae and prothorax red, elytra black with broad and elongate flavous stripe in middle (fig. 7).

Head impunctate, interantennal space with low ridge, frontal tubercles subquadrangular with acute fore angles, distinctly delimited. Antennae of male with segments 3–7 very feebly widened and practically not flattened, each of them about twice as long as broad, segment 3 almost twice as long as 2. Prothorax 1.7 times as broad as long, slightly cordiform, with maximal width behind fore margin; surface impunctate, basal groove shallow, poorly delimited on sides. Elytra finely and densely punctate, shining, without lateral ridge. First segment of fore and mid tarsi distinctly widened in male.

Aedeagus (fig. 16) thin in lateral view, underside with narrow central groove and impressions before apex.

Length of body 4.1 mm.

Holotype ♂ (LM): China, Szechuan.

Phygasia marginata n.sp.

Fig. 8.

♀. Fulvous, elytra narrowly margined with black, less distinct on fore margin (fig. 8).

Head impunctate, interantennal space with feeble and low ridge; frontal tubercles subquadrate, with acute fore angles. Antennae of female without thickened intermediate segments, their proportions are 10–5–9–7–8–8–8–8–8–10. Prothorax 1.7 times as broad as long, with sides broadly rounded, fore angles obtuse and maximal width before middle; surface shining and impunctate, basal groove feebly, almost indistinctly delimited on sides. Elytra shining, very finely punctate.

Length of 4.5 mm.

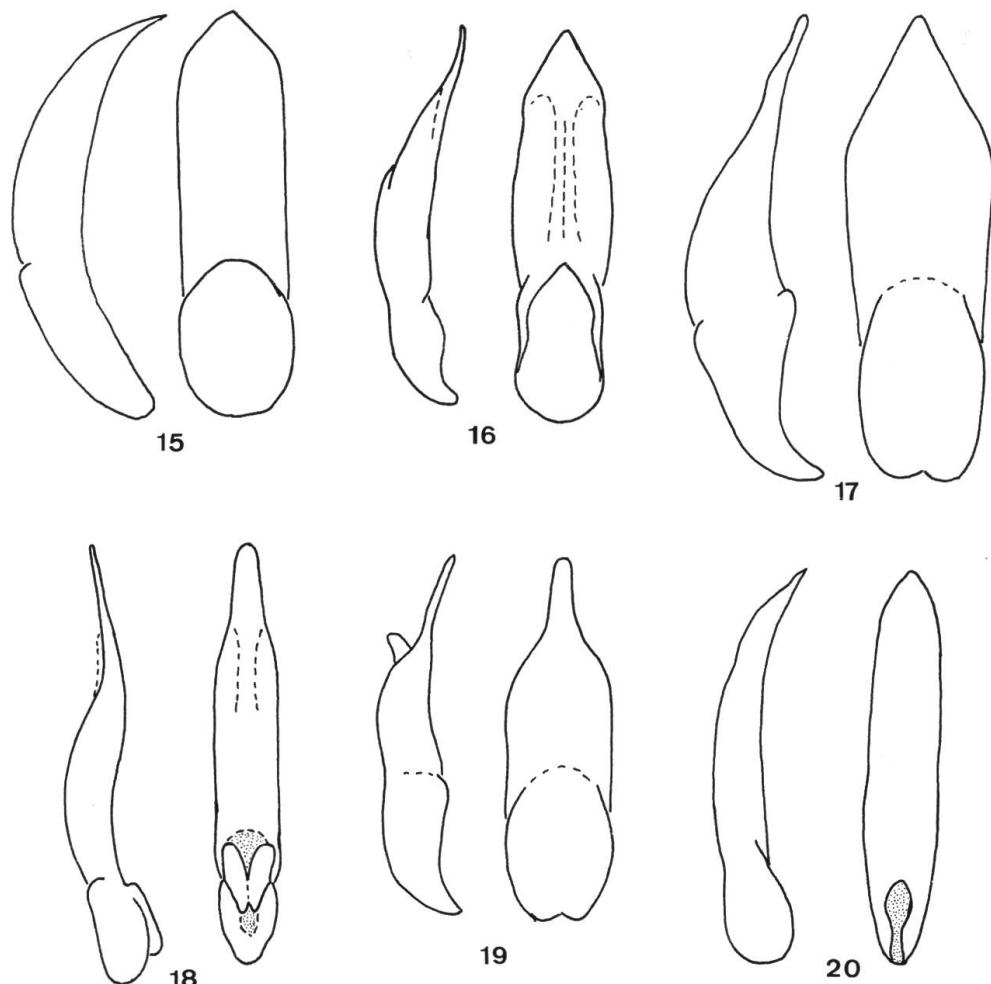
Holotype ♀ (LM): South India: Pondicherry, Karikal, IX.1971.

Phygasia cyanea n.sp.

Fig. 18.

♂. Upperside metallic blue, antennae and underside black.

Frontal tubercles subquadrate with acute fore angles, very deeply limited behind, interantennal space with very feeble ridge, vertex shining, very finely punctate. Antennae of male without thickened and flattened segments, long, proportions of 1–7 segments are as 12–7–12–14–14–12–12, rest absent, segments 4–6 about 4 times as wide as long. Prothorax 1.35 times as broad as long, with side margins feebly arcuate and maximal width just in middle, fore angles thickened, with a large pore, basal groove narrow, deep, sharply limited on sides, surface finely and densely punctate, especially on sides.



Figs 15–20: Aedeagus, ventral and lateral: 15, *Phygasia ornata* Baly. 16, *Ph. tricolora* n.sp. 17, *Ph. nigripennis* n.sp. 18, *Ph. cyanea* n.sp. 19, *Ph. violaceipennis* Jac. 20, *Pseudodera rufa* n.sp.

Elytra densely punctate, with feeble basal convexity, without lateral ridge. Segments 1 of fore and mid tarsi strongly widened in male.

Aedeagus fig. 18.

Length of body 5.2 mm.

This species is not a typical representative of the genus, differing in simple structure of antennae and thickened fore angles of prothorax.

Holotype ♂ (LM): Burma: Tenasserim, ex coll. Helfer.

Pseudodera rufa n.sp.

Fig. 20.

♂. Body reddish fulvous antennae except basal segments and tarsi blackish, mid and hind tibiae often darkened.

Head with very deep frontal furrows, separating elongate frontal tubercles from vertex, the latter is smooth and shining, with a few setiferous punctures at sides. Antennae thin and long, proportions of segments are as 18–7–14–13–12–12–11–10–10–14, preapical segments not less than twice as long as broad. Prothorax 1.5 times as broad as long, distinctly cordiform, with shallow basal groove, surface sparsely punctate, almost smooth in middle, with strong punctures near hind angles. Elytra parallel, without basal convexity, with geminate rows of punctures and smooth, shining interspaces. Segment 1 of fore and mid tarsi very feebly widened in male.

Aedeagus fig. 20.

Length of body 4.5–4.8 mm.

Near *P. apicalis* Chen 1939 and *P. himalayaensis* Scherer 1969, differs in coloration and geminate rows of elytra.

Holotype and 2 paratypes, males: (NHMB) NW Thailand: Soppong-Pai, 1800 m, 1–6.V.1991, Pacholátko, paratype (LM).

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