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A new species of *Lamellipalpus* Maulik, 1921 from Vietnam (Coleoptera, Lampyridae)

by Michel Brancucci & Michael Geiser

Abstract. *Lamellipalpus constantini* sp.nov. is described from North Vietnam. It is the sixth known species of this genus and the second one described from Southeast Asia. The position of the genera *Lamellipalpus* Maulik, 1921 and *Lamellipalodes* Maulik, 1921 within the family Lampyridae is briefly discussed.

Key words. Coleoptera – Lampyridae – *Lamellipalpus* – Vietnam – new species – distribution

Introduction

The genus *Lamellipalpus* was described by MAULIK (1921) for a species from Myanmar, *L. nigripennis* Pascoe, 1887, originally placed by its author in the genus *Eugeusis* Westwood, 1853. Maulik designated this species as the type species of his new genus and in the same paper described two more species, *L. bombayensis* Maulik, 1921 from India (Bombay) and *L. manipurensis* Maulik, 1921 also from India (Manipur). Two species were subsequently added to the genus: *L. sallei* Pic, 1924 and *L. brendelli* Wittmer, 1995.

Material

The material studied is deposited in the collections of the Natural History Museum, Basel (NMB).

Taxonomy

Lamellipalpus constantini sp.nov.

(Figs 1–2)

Type locality: Cuc Phuong National Park, North Vietnam.

Type material. Holotype ♂ (NMB): N Vietnam, Cuc Phuong National Park, 21–22.V.1996, P. Pacholátko & L. Dembický.

Description. Oblong, testaceous with the palpi, antennae and elytra dark brown to black (Fig. 1). Underside completely testaceous.

♂. Head depressed, strongly transverse, short; the distance from eye to pronotum equal to the diameter of an eye. Eyes medium-sized; diameter about 1/3 of the interocular space. Surface shining, covered with fine punctures and very fine and long yellow setae. Mandibles long, slightly bent. Last segment of the maxillary and labial palpi flattened and elongate, only slightly longer than mandibles, with a fine pubescence; setae dense, fine and testaceous. Antennae short, 1st and 3rd joints elongate, 2nd very small, 4th somewhat longer than broad, 5th–11th hardly longer than broad.



Fig. 1. *Lamellipalpus constantini* sp.nov.: habitus (photo Robert Constantin).

Pronotum testaceous, strongly transverse, depressed posteriorly before angles. Posterior angles protruding. Entire surface shining with small punctures, each with a long and very fine seta. Scutellum small, triangular and testaceous.

Elytra dark brown to black, broadest behind middle, with 3 distinct costae and coarsely punctured. Punctures large and closer together than their own diameter. Pubescence dense; setae short, fine and black. Elytral margins broadened and strongly bordered.

Underside completely testaceous, finely and densely pubescent.

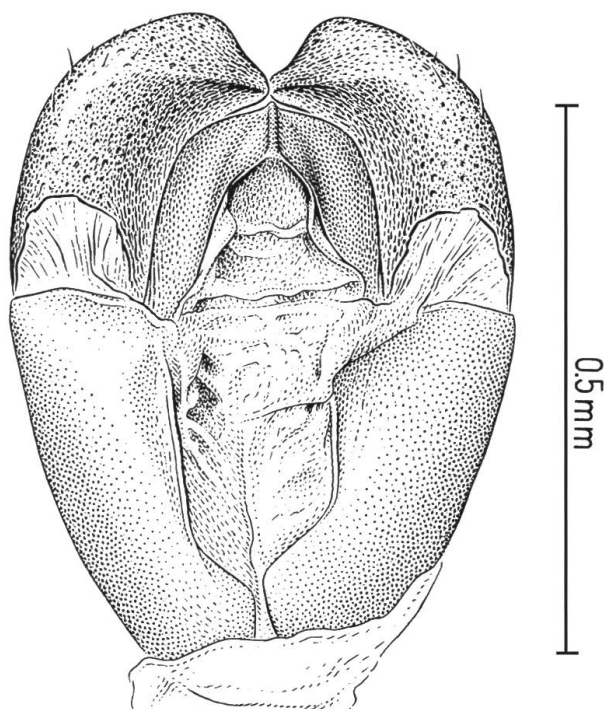


Fig. 2. *Lamellipalpus constantini* sp.nov.: aedeagus.

Aedeagus: lateral lobes narrow, rounded posteriorly. Median lobe sharpened posteriorly (Fig. 2).

♀: Unknown.

Total length: 8.5 mm, length without mandibles and palpi: 7.5 mm.

Distribution. North Vietnam.

Derivatio nominis. The species is dedicated to our friend and colleague Robert Contantin (Saint-Lô, France) for his great help in producing wonderful photographs.

Differential diagnosis. This species is closely related to *L. nigripennis*. In the latter species, the head is even shorter, and the distance from eye to pronotum is distinctly shorter than the eye diameter. Furthermore, the palpi in *L. nigripennis* are testaceous and covered with a dense but very fine and very short pubescence, and are strikingly longer than the mandible.

Checklist of *Lamellipalpus* species

<i>L. brendelli</i> Wittmer, 1995	West Thailand
<i>L. constantini</i> sp.nov.	North Vietnam
<i>L. bombayensis</i> Maulik, 1921	India (Bombay)
<i>L. manipurensis</i> Maulik, 1921	India (Manipur)
<i>L. nigripennis</i> (Pascoe, 1887)	Myanmar and India (Assam)
<i>L. sallei</i> Pic, 1924	India (?)

Discussion

MAULIK (1921) considered his new genus *Lamellipalpus*, together with the closely related genus *Lamellipalpodes* which was described at the same time, as members of the family Drilidae. They remained in that family until CROWSON (1972) placed them both, without argumentation, in the Lampyridae, subfamily Ototretinae. Even McDERMOTT (1964, 1966), a few years before that, had not considered them to be Lampyridae. The reason for this hesitation was probably best illustrated by BRANHAM & WENZEL (2001) in their attempt to determine the phylogenetic relationships between the different groups of the Cantharoidea. They remarked a certain incoherence of the previously accepted classification.

The position of *Lamellipalpus* and *Lamellipalpodes* within the subfamily Ototretinae, together with other genera such as *Drilaster* Kiesenwetter, 1879 (= *Ototreta* Olivier, 1900) and *Picodrilus* Wittmer, 1938, cannot now be doubted and is confirmed by their habitus and particularly by their characteristic aedeagus. BRANHAM & WENZEL (2001) consider the subfamily Ototretinae to be polyphyletic and to be excluded from the Lampyridae, and they placed it as *incertae sedis* within the Elateroidea. However, the assignment of these genera to the Lampyridae as proposed by Crowson has been accepted by subsequent authors such as LAWRENCE & NEWTON (1995) and WITTMER (1995) and is now widely accepted.

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