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The genus *Derosphaerus* Thomson, 1858 in the Nepal Himalayas (Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae)

by Wolfgang Schawaller¹⁾

Abstract. Five species of the tenebrionid genus *Derosphaerus* Thomson, 1858 are recorded for the first time from the Nepal Himalayas, and figured. A checklist of all Palaearctic species of *Derosphaerus* is compiled.

Key words. Coleoptera – Tenebrionidae – *Derosphaerus* – new records – Nepal – Himalayas

Introduction

The present paper is a continuation of revisions of tenebrionid genera from the Nepal Himalayas (former contributions, for example: SCHAWALLER 2002, 2006a, 2006b) and deals with the genus *Derosphaerus* Thomson, 1858 (type species *Derosphaerus globicollis* Thomson, 1858). Species of this genus have remained unknown from Nepal to date, so the 5 species herein are recorded for the first time from that country, and thus from the Central Himalayas. The genus contains about 100 species, occurring in the southeastern Palaearctic region in the wider sense that includes all of China (see species list below), in the Oriental, Papuan-Australian as well as the African-Madagascan regions. KASZAB (1987) revised the Papuan-Australian species and also provided a preliminary diagnosis for the genus. The species of the other regions have never been revised, so definite species identifications remain problematical and the distributional ranges of all species are almost unknown. Further, newly collected species with particular characters may well modify the generic limits (SCHAWALLER 2005).

Knowledge of the biology and distribution of the Himalayan species is quite restricted. According to my own field observations, all congeners populate arboreal habitats and can be collected during the night on the bark of old trees, not only in mature dense forests (if any), but also in open cultivated land. All Nepalese species have a wider distributional pattern in the Oriental region. As yet, 3 species are known exclusively from the lowland *Shorea* forests in the Terai up to 500 m, 2 species have been collected in the lower montane altitudinal belt from 500 up to 2700 m.

Abbreviations

BMNH	.....	Natural History Museum, London (Max Barclay)
CAPE	.....	Andreas Pütz collection, Eisenhüttenstadt
HNHM	.....	Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest (Dr. Ottó Merkl)
MNHG	.....	Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Genève (Dr. Ivan Löbl)
MHNL	.....	Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Lyon (Dr. Harold Labrique)
NHMB	.....	Naturhistorisches Museum, Basel (Dr. Michel Brancucci)
NME	.....	Naturkundemuseum, Erfurt (Matthias Hartmann)
SMNS	.....	Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart
ZSM	.....	Zoologische Staatssammlung, München (Dr. Martin Baehr)

¹⁾ Contributions to Tenebrionidae no. 67. – For no. 66 see: *Annales Zoologici* 57, 2007.

Species recorded for the first time from the Nepal Himalayas

Derosphaerus aeruginosus (Fabricius, 1787) (Fig. 2)

Material examined. Nepal, Birganj, Lothar, 450 ft. (150 m), 16.IX.1967, 1 ex. SMNS.

Derosphaerus asperipennis Allard, 1896 (Fig. 4)

Material examined. Nepal, Khandbari Distr., above Ahale, 2300 m, 27.III.1982, leg. A. Smetana, 1 ex. SMNS (duplicate from MHNG). – Nepal, Solukumbu Distr., Junbesi, 2700 m, 11.V.1997, leg. M. Hauser & W. Schawaller, 1 ex. SMNS. – Nepal, Dailekh Distr., Talpokhari S Dailekh, 1800 m, 29.V.1998, leg. W. Schawaller, 3 ex. SMNS. – Nepal, Dailekh Distr., N Dailekh, 1600 m, 1.–2.VI.1998, leg. W. Schawaller, 1 ex. SMNS. – Nepal, Kosi, Pakhribas, 1700–1900 m, 27.–28.V.2001, Basel Expedition, 1 ex. NHMB. – Nepal, E Jiri, 2000 m, 7.–12.IV.1964, leg. W. Dierl, 1 ex. HNHM (*asperipennis* det. Kaszab, compared with type). – Nepal, Carikhola, Dudh Kosi Valley, 2700 m, 14.V.1964, leg. W. Dierl, 1 ex. ZSM. – E Nepal, Bhedeter Pass, 1500 m, 1.V.1988, leg. S. Bily, 1 ex. MHNL. – E Nepal, Taplejung Distr., 20 km NEE Taplejung, Phumphe, 1850 m, 24.V.2003, leg. A. Weigel, 1 ex. NME. – Nepal, Kathmandu Valley, Godavari, 12.VII.2003, leg. A. Chaudari, 1 ex. NME. – Nepal, Kathmandu, Gokarna, 7.VI.1983, leg. M.J.D. Brendell, 1 ex. BMNH. – N India, Sikkim, Gopaldhara, Rungbong Valley, leg. H. Stevens, 1 ex. BMNH. – N India, Assam, Lohit Valley, 1000–3000 ft., 15.III.1933, leg. F. Kingdon Ward, 1 ex. BMNH. – N India, Kumaon, Bhimtal, 1976, 1 ex. SMNS. – SE Tibet, Rong Tö Valley, 6000–7000 ft., 25.–30.IV.1933, leg. F. Kingdon Ward, 1 ex. BMNH.

Derosphaerus cribrum Fairmaire, 1896 (Fig. 3)

Material examined. Nepal, Simra, Adhabhar, 600 ft. (200 m), 15.VIII.1967, 1 ex. SMNS. – Nepal, Sankhua Sabha, Tumlingtar, 300 m, 28.V.1997, leg. M. Hauser & W. Schawaller, 1 ex. SMNS. – Nepal, Chitwan NP, Sauraha, 20.–25.V.1992, leg. I. Jeniš, 1 ex. ZSM (*niger* Wiedemann det. Bremer). – Nepal, Chitwan NP, Sauraha, Rapti River Bank, 180 m, 18.IV.2000, leg. Wolf, 1 ex. NME. – Nepal, Chitwan NP, Sauraha, 3.–5.VI.1983, leg. M.J.D. Brendell, 2 ex. BMNH.

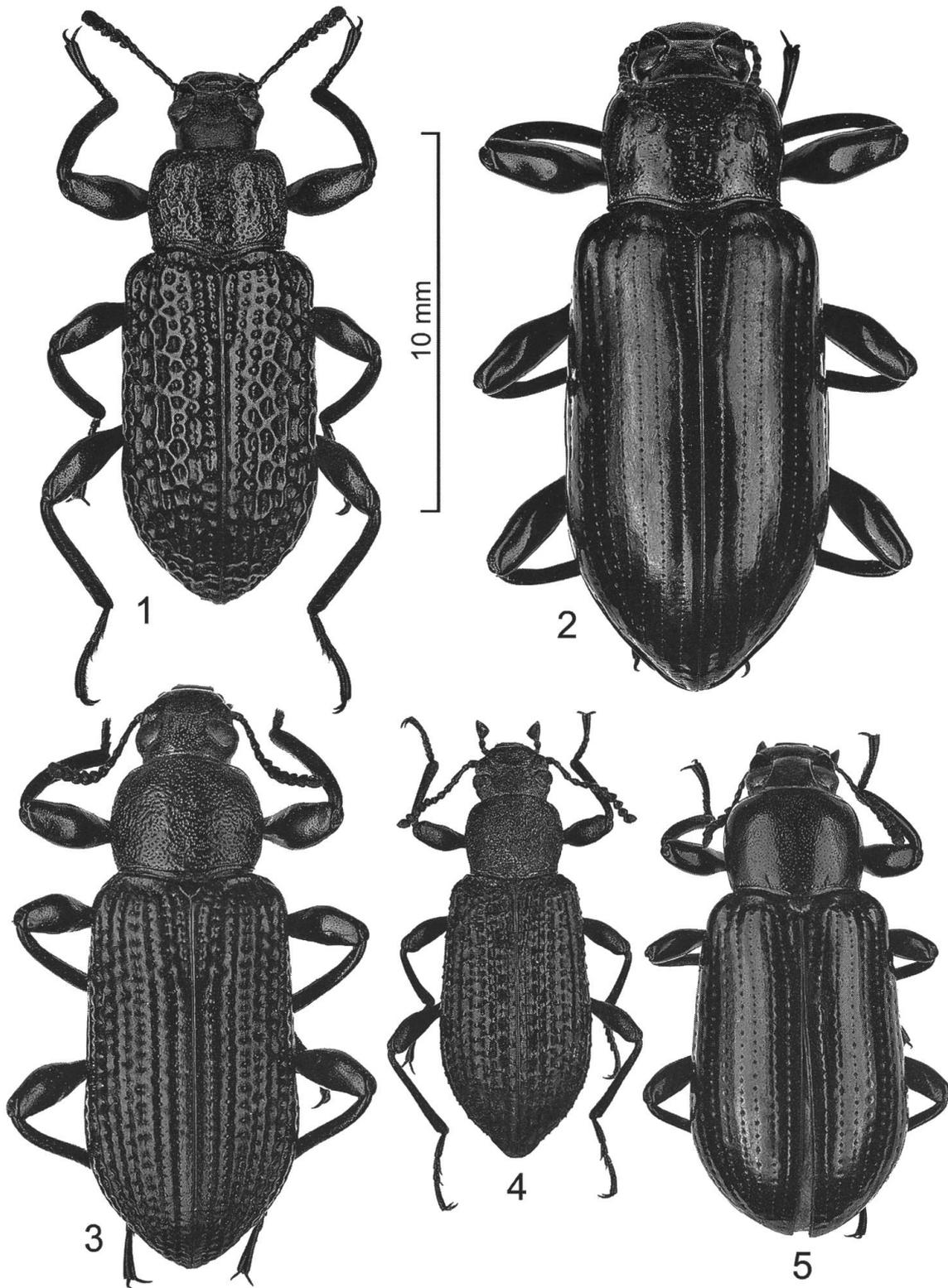
Remarks. Probably a synonym of *Derosphaerus niger* (Wiedemann, 1819), described from Bengal.

Derosphaerus exularis (Gebien, 1913) (Fig. 5)

Material examined. Nepal, Chitwan Distr., Chitwan NP, Sauraha, 150 m, 31.V.–4.VI.1997, leg. M. Hauser & W. Schawaller, 1 ex. SMNS. – Nepal, Taplejung Distr., Kabeli River S Taplejung, Angbung bridge, 450 m, 3.V.2001, leg. A. Weigel, 1 ex. NME. – N India, Assam, coll. F. Bates, 3 ex. BMNH. – N India, Darjeeling, Tista Valley, leg. J.C.M. Gardner, 1 ex. BMNH. – NE India, Meghalaya, E Tura, 500–600 m, 13.–18.V.2002, leg. Trýzna & P. Benda, 1 ex. SMNS.

Derosphaerus rugosus Gravely, 1915 (Fig. 1)

Material examined. Nepal, Sankhua Sabha Distr., Tumlingtar, 1300–450 m, 20.VI.1983, leg. M. Brancucci, 1 ex. SMNS (duplicate from NHMB). – N India, Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Vati-Dara, 900 m, 12.IV.1988, leg. N. Dangal, 1 ex. NME. – N India, Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Vati-Dara, 2100 m, 26.V.1986, leg. N. Dangal, 1 ex. NME. – N India, Assam, Kaziranga, VI.1991, leg. S. Jakl, 1 ex. CAPE. – N India, Sikkim, Gopaldhara, Rungbong Valley, 1916, leg. H. Stevens, 1 ex. BMNH. – N India, Assam, Umrongso, 700 m, 3.–8.VI.2002, leg. P. Benda, 1 ex. SMNS. – NE India, Meghalaya, E Tura, 500–600 m, 2.–5.V.2002, leg. P. Benda, 3 ex. SMNS.



Figs 1–5. Dorsal view of the *Derosphaerus* species from the Nepal Himalayas: 1, *D. rugosus*; 2, *D. aeruginosus*; 3, *D. cribrum*; 4, *D. asperipennis*; 5, *D. exularis*.

List of Palaearctic species of *Derosphaerus* Thomson, 1858

Derosphaerus Thomson, 1858

Type species: *Derosphaerus globicollis* Thomson, 1858

syn. *Cholipus* Pascoe, 1866 (type species *Cholipus brevicornis* Pascoe, 1866)

syn. *Encyalesthus* Motschulsky, 1860 (type species *Encyalesthus subviolaceus* Motschulsky, 1860)

syn. *Falsoencyalesthus* Pic, 1923 (type species *Falsoencyalesthus latipennis* Pic, 1923)

syn. *Neandrosus* Pic, 1921 (type species *Neandrosus singularipes* Pic, 1921)

syn. *Notiolesthus* Motschulsky, 1872 (type species *Notiolesthus natalensis* Motschulsky, 1872)

syn. *Pachyurgus* LeConte, 1862 (type species *Ipthinus aeraeus* Melsheimer, 1846)

<i>aeruginosus</i> Fabricius, 1787	Indochina, Nepal, India, Sunda Islands
<i>asperipennis</i> Allard, 1896	SE Tibet, Bhutan, Assam, Sikkim, Darjeeling, Nepal, Uttar Pradesh
<i>crassicus</i> Fairmaire, 1903	Fujian, Indochina
<i>cribripennis</i> Fairmaire, 1891	China
<i>cribrum</i> Fairmaire, 1896	India, Nepal
<i>exularis</i> Gebien, 1913	Nepal, Darjeeling, Assam, Indochina, Ryukyu Islands, Taiwan
<i>foveolatus</i> Marseul, 1876	Japan (Kyushu)
<i>foveoseriatus</i> Fairmaire, 1888	Thailand, Indochina, China
<i>grandipes</i> Fairmaire, 1893	China
<i>instriatus</i> Pic, 1922	China
<i>niger</i> (Wiedemann, 1819)	“Bengal” (? Palaearctic)
<i>nitidus</i> Pic, 1922	Taiwan
<i>rotundicollis</i> Laporte, 1840	Indochina, Taiwan
<i>rugosus</i> Gravely, 1915	Nepal, Darjeeling, Sikkim, Assam, Aborland
<i>sinensis</i> Hope, 1842	China
<i>stevensi</i> Gravely, 1915	Uttar Pradesh
<i>subviolaceus</i> Motschulsky, 1860	E Siberia, Japan, China, Korea
<i>thibetanus</i> Pic, 1922	Tibet
<i>violaceipennis</i> Marseul, 1876	Japan, Korea

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