

Zeitschrift: Entomologica Basiliensia et Collectionis Frey
Herausgeber: Naturhistorisches Museum Basel, Entomologische Sammlungen
Band: 30 (2008)

Artikel: Description of two new species of Falsomalthinus Pic, 1924 from Sumatra (Coleoptera, Cantharidae)
Autor: Brancucci, Michel
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-981051>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 15.04.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

Description of two new species of *Falsomalthinus* Pic, 1924 from Sumatra (Coleoptera, Cantharidae)

by Michel Brancucci

Abstract. The author describes two new species of *Falsomalthinus* Pic, 1924 from Sumatra: *Falsomalthinus dembickyi* sp.nov. and *F. seblatensis* sp.nov. The addition of these species brings the total number of known species in this genus to ten.

Keywords. Coleoptera – Cantharidae – *Falsomalthinus* – Sumatra

Introduction

In the collections of the Natural History Museum of Basel I found a series of cantharid specimens from Indonesia, Sumatra (Kerinci province). They proved to belong to two different species of the genus *Falsomalthinus* Pic, 1924, very different and very easy to recognise on the structure of the aedeagus but very similar in the rest of their characters. For this reason I was not able to assign the females to one or the other species.

A few years ago I revised the genus *Falsomalthinus* (BRANCUCCI 1982). In that paper I recognised 4 species. Since then I have described further species (BRANCUCCI 1984a, 1984b, 2003), bringing the total number of known species to 8 and not 6 as stated in my last paper (BRANCUCCI 2003). The present paper describes two new species. The total number of species of this genus is now raised to ten, and a complete checklist of the species is given below.

Checklist of *Falsomalthinus* species

<i>F. dembickyi</i> sp.nov.	W-Sumatra (Kerinci)
<i>F. flavicolor</i> (Pic, 1924)	Vietnam
<i>F. klapperichi</i> Brancucci, 1984	Sumatra (Aceh)
<i>F. malayensis</i> Brancucci, 1982	West Malaysia
<i>F. pallidus</i> (Pic, 1927)	Borneo
<i>F. satoi</i> Brancucci, 2003	Brunei
<i>F. seblatensis</i> sp.nov.	W-Sumatra (Kerinci)
<i>F. shillongensis</i> Brancucci, 1982	Meghalaya
<i>F. stramineus</i> (Champion, 1924)	South India
<i>F. wittmeri</i> Brancucci, 2003	Brunei

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



Fig. 1. *Falsomalthinus dembickyi* sp.nov.: habitus.

***Falsomalthinus dembickyi* sp.nov.**

(Figs 1–3)

Type material. Holotype ♂ (NHMB); locality: “West Sumatra Prov.: Kerinci, Seblat N.P.; 24 km NE Tapan; Muara Sako - E. env.; 2°05'S 101°15'E; 400–550m, Dembický leg.; 4–18.III.2003.” [white printed label]. “Holotype *Falsomalthinus dembickyi* sp.n. M. Brancucci des. 2008” [red printed label]. Paratypes: 7 ♂ specimens with same data as holotype (NHMB). All paratypes are provided with a red printed paratype label.

Description. Body completely pale yellow-testaceous, eyes black (Fig. 1).

♂. Head very broad, distinctly depressed, covered with a very fine pubescence. With a sharp longitudinal ridge on vertex. Eyes large and prominent, their interspace 1.6 times larger than the greatest eye diameter. Antennae testaceous, the last four joints somewhat darker, of medium length, almost reaching the apex of the elytra. First joint long, the second and the third ones 1.7 times smaller, the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th subequal, 2.2 times smaller, and the four last joints 2 times smaller.

Pronotum distinctly longer than broad, by 1.2 times, strongly depressed on postero-median part. Anterior margin broadly rounded, lateral margins straight. Posterior margin sinuate. Ground smooth, finely pubescent. Anterior lobe visible but not prominent.

Elytra short, somewhat more than 1.7 times as long as their combined width at the shoulder. Posterior margin broadly rounded. Pubescence fine.

Last sternite very large, slightly concave ventrally before and narrowly rounded medially (Fig. 3). Aedeagus triangular, characterised by a median lobe ending in a double stylus and with several apophyses around and on lateral lobes (Fig. 2).

♀: Unknown.

Total length: Holotype: 5.0 mm; paratypes: 4.3–5.1 mm (4.68 mm, n = 6).

Distribution. West Sumatra (Kerinci province).

Derivatio nominis. This species is dedicated to my colleague and friend Luboš Dembický, who collected this species in Sumatra under very difficult conditions.

Differential diagnosis. This species is closely related to *F. seblatensis* sp.nov. The structure of the aedeagus will enable the two to be easily distinguished. As both species occur in the same locality, females cannot be identified.

***Falsomalthinus seblatensis* sp.nov.**

(Figs 4–5)

Type material. Holotype ♂ (NHMB); locality: “West Sumatra Prov.: Kerinci, Seblat N.P.; 24 km NE Tapan; Muara Sako - E. env.; 2°05'S 101°15'E; 400–550m, Dembický leg.; 4–18.III.2003.” [white printed label]. “Holotype *Falsomalthinus seblatensis* sp.n. M. Brancucci des. 2008” [red printed label].

Description. Completely pale yellow, eyes black.

Head very large and broad, depressed, covered with a very fine pubescence. With a sharp longitudinal ridge on vertex. Eyes large and prominent, their interspace 1.4 times as broad as the greatest eye diameter. Antennae of medium length, almost reaching the apex of elytra, the last four joints very slightly darker. First joint long, the second 1.7 times smaller, the 3rd and subsequent joints subequal in length and about 2 times smaller.

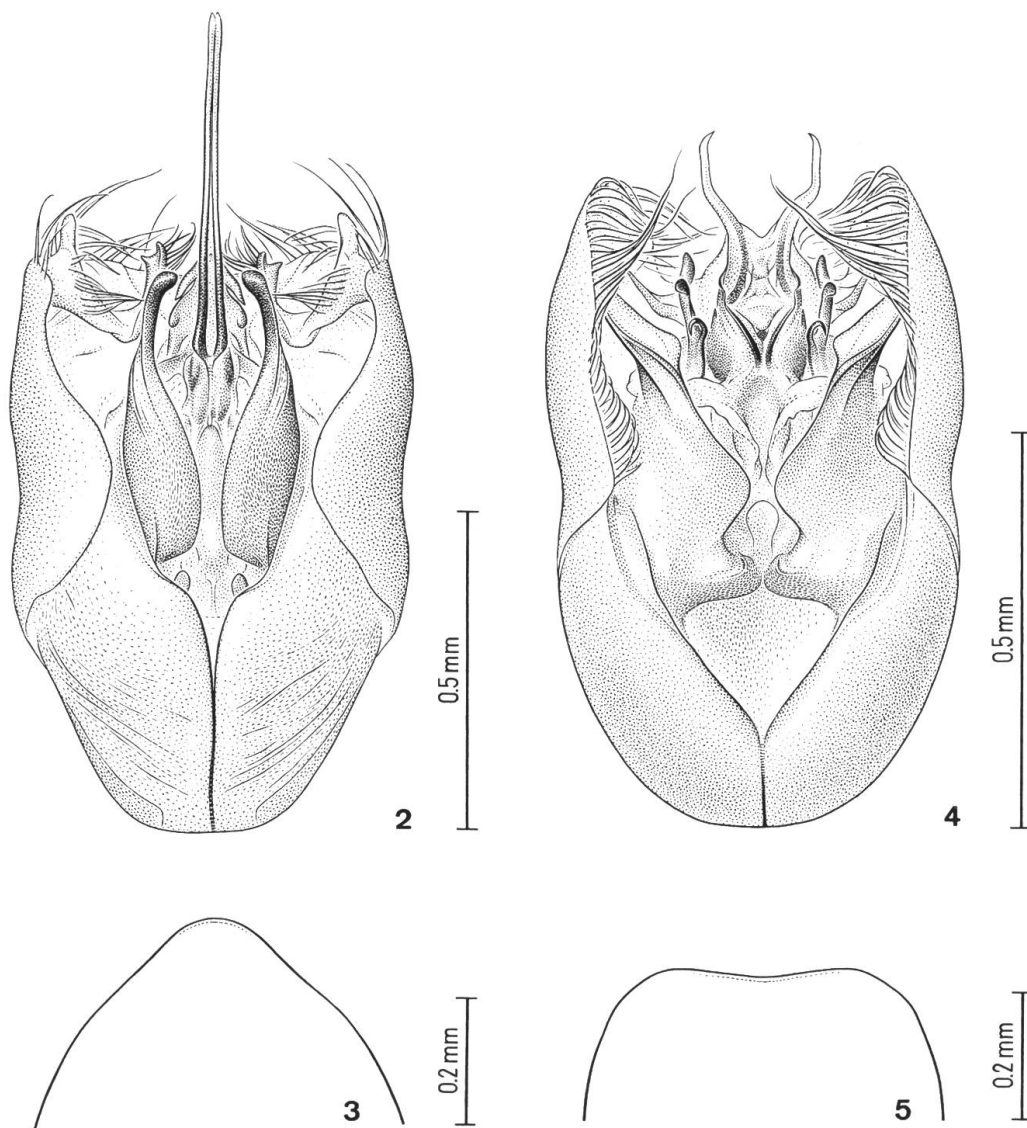
Pronotum slightly longer than broad, by 1.3 times. Anterior margin broadly rounded, lateral margins straight and posterior margin sinuate. Ground surface smooth, finely pubescent. Anterior lobe slightly visible.

Elytra short, 1.7 times as long as their combined width at the shoulder. Posterior margin broadly rounded. Pubescence fine.

Last sternite very large, slightly concave on posterior margin, narrowly rounded medially (Fig. 5). Aedeagus short, bifid and accompanied by different apophyses (Fig. 4)

♀: Unknown.

Total length: 4.6 mm.



Figs 2–5. Figs 2–3, *Falsomalthinus dembickyi* sp.nov.: 2, aedeagus in ventral view; 3, anal sternite in ventral view. Figs 4–5, *Falsomalthinus seblatensis* sp.nov.: 4, aedeagus in ventral view; 5, anal sternite in ventral view.

Distribution. West Sumatra (Kerinci province).

Derivatio nominis. This species was collected in Seblat National Park.

Differential diagnosis. This species is closely related to *F. dembickyi* sp.nov. The aedeagus will enable a rapid and a sure determination to be made.

Conclusion

This paper illustrates once again that very similar species can occur together in the same area, and in this case the aedeagus is the only character which will enable a sure determination to be made. Although I had at my disposal a series of 10 females, I was absolutely unable to separate them into two or more groups. Such a separation would have been a first step towards identifying them, but the next difficulty would have been to determine to which species they actually belonged. The eye interspace is very often of great help for differentiating the species, but in this particular case it is of no use.

Acknowledgements

I should like to thank Adrian Pont (Oxford) for correcting the English of this manuscript and Armin Coray (Basel) for the wonderful drawings.

References

- BRANCUCCI M. (1982): *Révision du genre Falsomalthinus (Col. Cantharidae)*. *Entomologica Basiliensia* 7: 303–311.
- BRANCUCCI M. (1984a): *Un Falsomalthinus nouveau de Sumatra (Coleoptera, Cantharidae)*. *Entomologica Basiliensia* 9: 179–182.
- BRANCUCCI M. (1984b): *F. stramineus (Champion), le deuxième Falsomalthinus du sous-continent Indien (Coleoptera, Cantharidae)*. *Bull. Soc. Ent. Neuch.* 197: 133–136.
- BRANCUCCI M. (2003): *Description of two new Falsomalthinus Pic (Coleoptera, Cantharidae) from Brunei*. *Spec. Bull. Jpn. Soc. Coleopterol., Tokyo* 6: 275–278.

Author's addresses:

Dr. Michel Brancucci
Natural History Museum, Entomology
Augustinergasse 2
CH-4001 Basel
SWITZERLAND
E-mail: michel.brancucci@bs.ch

&
Institut für Natur-, Landschafts- und Umweltschutz (NLU)
Biogeographie
St. Johannstrasse 10
CH-4056 Basel
SWITZERLAND
E-mail: michel.brancucci@unibas.ch

