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A new species of *Platambus*, subgenus *Agraphis*, from North Vietnam (Coleoptera, Dytiscidae)

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A new species, *Platambus regulae* n. sp., is described from North Vietnam (Hoang Lien Son, Tonkin). It is the fifth known species of the subgenus *Agraphis*. Additional notes are given to modify my key to *Platambus*-species (BRANCUCCI, 1990).

Since the publication of my last paper (BRANCUCCI, 1990), I have found a series of *Platambus* in material collected by Czechoslovakian colleagues during an expedition to North Vietnam in 1990. The specimens appear to belong to a new species, which is described here as *Platambus regulae* n. sp. The new species belongs to the subgenus *Agraphis* GUIGNOT, and is the fifth species to be assigned to this subgenus which otherwise includes *P. (A.) sawadai* (KAMIYA) from Japan, *P. (A.) punctatipennis* BRANCUCCI from China, *P. (A.) kempi* VAZIRANI from India (Darjeeling Distr.) and Sikkim, and *P. (A.) khukri* BRANCUCCI from Nepal. For revisionary papers, see BRANCUCCI (1988, 1990).

Platambus regulae n. sp. Figs 1–8.

Body broadly oval, completely black except labrum, anterior part of clypeus and two postmedian rounded patches on the elytra (Fig. 1).

Head black, ferruginous-brown on labrum and on anterior part of clypeus. Antennae and palpi ferruginous-brown. Reticulation consisting of polygonal meshes with numerous minute punctures on inner surface and sparsely covered by larger punctures. A row of punctures alongside eyes and two close-set punctures beside eyes deeply impresses (frontal grooves). Fronto-clypeal grooves deep, formed by the confluence of several punctures.

Pronotum completely black. Reticulation weakly-impressed; meshes with minute punctures on their inner surface and with sparse larger ones at intersections of the meshes, particularly large and numerous laterally. Reticulation particularly impressed on lateral margins. Anterior row of punctures not interrupted at middle. Punctures very large, mostly isolated on disc, more confluent at sides. Posterior row of punctures broadly interrupted at middle; punctures deep, large and confluent. Lateral margin distinctly bordered.

Elytra black with a large postmedian lateral ferruginous-brown patch. Epipleuron dark brown to black. Elytral reticulation very weakly impressed, consisting of small polygonal meshes with one to several very minute punctures on their inner surfaces and with somewhat larger and sparser punctures at their intersections. Entire surface irregularly covered with very large deep

punctures. In the first interspace, punctures grouped in two rows; in the second interspace punctures denser and irregularly distributed. Sutural row of punctures almost complete; punctures of medium size, placed close together and in a straight line. Discal row of punctures not reaching base; punctures sparse on anterior half.

Underside dark brown. Legs ferruginous except the posterior ones which are dark brown. Prosternal process broad, flat, broadly bordered laterally, produced into a long and stout point (Fig. 2). Metasternal wings broad (Fig. 3). Metacoxae covered with very large and confluent punctures. Metacoxal lines deeply impressed. Metatrochanters slightly pointed in distal part. Metafemora covered with an elongate reticulation. Ventral surface of metatibiae with 8–10 very large punctures on the outer half.

♂. Pro- and mesotarsus slightly dilated, with small pads on tarsomeres 1–3. Anal sternite distinctly reticulated on anterior half with minute punctures on the inner surfaces of the meshes, coarsely covered with large and confluent punctures posteriorly. Median part with a longitudinal depression ending in a deep depression medially just behind the margin (Fig. 4). Posterior margin excavated at middle, finely bordered on both sides of middle. Parameres with basal portion short, slightly transverse, and apical portion elongated (Fig. 6). Aedeagus, in lateral view, slightly curved and evenly tapered up to the apex where it ends narrowly (Fig. 7). In dorsal view, it is broadest behind middle and evenly tapered as far as the apex where it is narrowly rounded (Fig. 8).

♀. Similar to ♂, except for anal sternite which is distinctly reticulate, more coarsely so at sides, and covered with small punctures. Posterior margins rounded apically, finely bordered (Fig. 5).

Total length: 7.4–7.8 mm; width: 4.3–4.5 mm.

Holotype ♂ (MB) and 8 paratypes (3 ♂ and 5 ♀; MB); locality: N Vietnam (Tonkin), Hoang Lien Son, SA PA, 11.–15.V.1990, P. Pacholátko. 2 paratypes ♀ (MB); same locality as holotype but collected by Vít. Kubán, 4 paratypes (2 ♂ and 2 ♀); same locality, 29.V.–9.VI.1991, J. Strnad.

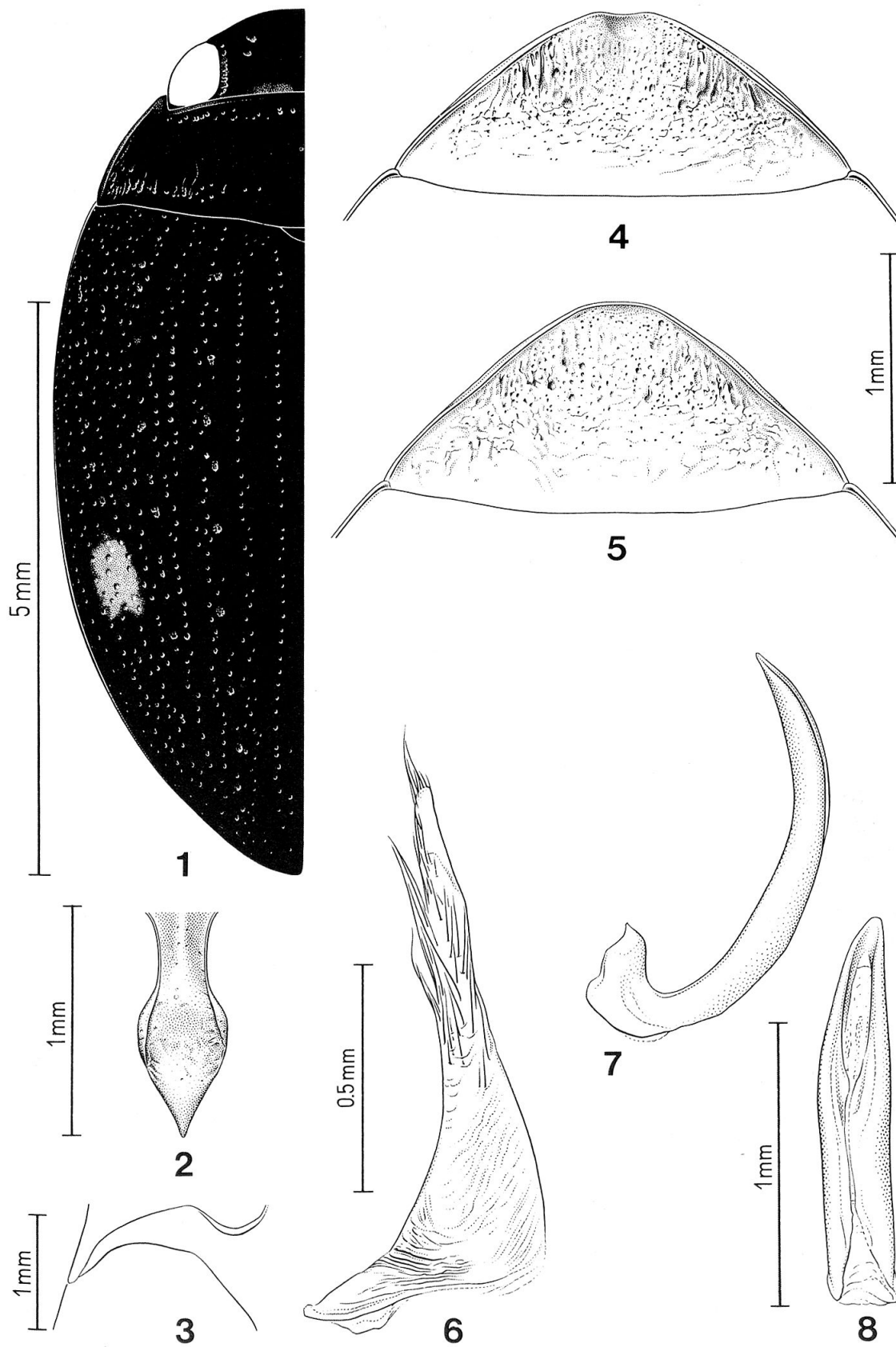
Derivation of specific epithet: The species name is derived from *Regula*, a characteristic Swiss Christian name, and is dedicated to Mrs Regula Habermür in gratitude for her continuous support.

Affinities: Because of its size and its rounded form, this species comes near to *Platambus khukri* BRANCUCCI. It can be easily distinguished by the aedeagus, which is evenly tapered in lateral view and symmetrical in dorsal view, and by the puncturation of the elytra, which is much more sparse and less evenly distributed. It can be distinguished from *P. punctatipennis* BRANCUCCI by its larger size and by the larger punctures of the elytra. The anal sternite of the ♂ is reminiscent of that of *P. punctatipennis* BRANCUCCI.

Collecting notes: These specimens were collected partly at light, partly in 10 cm depth of water in an embayment of the river.

My previous key (BRANCUCCI, 1990) should be modified as follows:

1. Larger specimens (6.9–8.2 mm). Punctures on elytra varied in size, unevenly distributed, partly arranged in rows 2a
- 1'.
- 2a. Larger punctures on sutural region sparse, in rather a straight line in the first interspace. Small punctures, minute, only visible under strong magnification. Length: 7.4–7.8 mm. North Vietnam *P. regulae* n. sp.



Figs. 1-8. *Platambus regulae*: 1 = left half of body, 2 = prosternal process, 3 = metasternal wings, 4 = anal sternite of ♂, 5 = anal sternite of ♀, 6 = paramere, 7 = aedeagus, lateral view, 8 = aedeagus, dorsal view.

- Larger punctures on sutural region dense, irregularly distributed. Small punctures denser, not so small, and distinctly visible 2

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