

A new species of *Agrosteomela* Gistel, 1857 from Nepal (Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, Chrysomelinae)

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A new species of *Agrosteomela* GISTEL, 1857 from Nepal (Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, Chrysomelinae)

by Mauro Daccordi

Abstract. A new *Agrosteomela* species, *A. medvedevi* sp.nov., closely related to *A. fallaciosa* (STÅL, 1862), is described from Nepal. A key to the species of the genus *Agrosteomela* GISTEL, 1857 is provided.

Key words: Coleoptera – Chrysomelidae – Nepal – taxonomy – new species

Thanks to the kindness of Dr. M. Brancucci, head of the entomological department at the Museum of Natural History in Basel, I received a specimen of a new species of the genus *Agrosteomela* GISTEL, 1857 collected in Nepal. The description of the new species and a key to all the species known in this genus is given below.

Agrosteomela (Agrosteella) medvedevi sp.nov.

Material examined. Holotype male: “East Nepal, Arun Valley, Chichila, Mure, 1950–2000 m, 1-VI-1983, leg. M. Brancucci”. Deposited in Natural History Museum Basel, Switzerland.

Description. Colour bright metallic green with elytra dark reddish brown, without iridescence. The first two antennal segments reddish apically; clypeus with fulvous anterior margin, labrum almost black. Abdomen red apically and laterally; this iridescent colour is not distinctly different from that of the metallic coloured parts.

Head flattened; clypeus divided from frons by impressed line, finely and sparsely punctate; frons with longitudinal impressed line, more densely punctate when compared with clypeus; first antennal segment thickened, second small, slightly longer than broad, third thin and elongated, about twice as long as second, fourth segment shorter than third and subequal in length to each of the following segments.

Prothorax transverse (4.8 mm × 2.6 mm), anterior margin widely emarginate with protruding anterior angles; central area of surface smooth, with a few moderately pronounced punctures in the middle and basally; each side has an oblique depressed area with pronounced and deep punctures (Fig. 2). Scutellum triangular, rounded apically, impunctate.

Elytra basally broader than prothorax, slightly widened posteriorly, with humeral tubercle weakly developed lacking postbasal impression; rows of punctures distinctly geminate, scutellar row very long, punctures in rows very distinct with interspaces flattened, impunctate, but with transparent dark spots.

Underside shiny, almost impunctate and very finely pubescent, anterior process of metasternum between mid coxae flat, broad, without covering mesosternum, distinctly marginate anteriorly and more sharply laterally.

Aedeagus double curved in lateral view, apically curved slightly upwards, thickened in middle; in dorsal view with long, broad apical protuberance; underside with

deep groove in apical half, strongly narrowed anteriorly; side margin also with a deep depression (Figs 3–4).

Length: 11.3 mm.

Width: 6.4 mm.

Differential diagnosis. Because of the structure of metasternum, this species belongs to the subgenus *Agrosteella*, proposed by MEDVEDEV (1987) for *Agrosteomela fallaciosa* (STÅL, 1862), the only known representative of the subgenus. The new species differs from it in the shape of the prothorax, the structure of the metasternum and especially in the different form of the aedeagus.

Name derivation. I take great pleasure in naming this species for my friend and colleague Prof. Lev Medvedev, eminent specialist in the Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae.

Key

The species of the genus *Agrosteomela* may be identified using the following key:

- 1(6) Anterior metasternal process long and convex, strongly elevated, reaching anterior margin of middle coxae and covering mesosternum. Punctures of elytral rows very weak (subgenus *Agrosteomela* s.str.)
- 2(3) Abdominal sternites largely or entirely metallic green. Apex of aedeagus rounded (Fig.5). Prothorax green, elytra reddish brown. Himalaya region: northern India, Nepal, Bhutan and Vietnam. Feeding on *Alnus nepalensis*. *indica indica* (HOPE, 1831)
- 3(1) Abdominal sternites reddish at least in apical half. Apex of aedeagus truncate (Fig.8) 4
- 4(5) Prothorax bluish, elytra reddish, shiny, but not iridescent metallic. Southern China (Fujian, Jiangxi, Hubei, Yunnan) *indica chinensis* (WEISE, 1922)
- 5(4) Prothorax green, elytra reddish brown with iridescent sheen. Southern China (Sichuan, Guizhou, Yunnan, Taiwan), North Vietnam. *indica impressiuscula* (FAIRMAIRE, 1878)
- 6(1) Anterior metasternal process between mid coxae short, broad and flat, not elevated above mesosternum and reaching only to middle of mid coxae. Punctures of elytral rows very distinct, moderately strong. (subgenus *Agrosteella* MEDVEDEV, 1987)
- 7(8) Prothorax with lateral margins almost straight (Fig.1), lateral callus comparatively well developed. Metasternal process not margined anteriorly. Aedeagus with short apical protuberance, without deep impressions on underside and lateral sides, with apex curved distinctly downwards (Figs.6–7). Northern India, Nepal, Vietnam. *fallaciosa* (STÅL, 1862)
- 8(7) Prothorax with lateral margins strongly rounded (Fig.2). Lateral callus very feebly developed and does not reach anterior margin. Metasternal process distinctly margined anteriorly. Aedeagus with long apical

protuberance, deeply grooved on underside and laterally, with apex curved lightly upwards, much thicker in lateral view (Figs 3–4). Nepal.
 *medvedevi* sp.nov.

Discussion

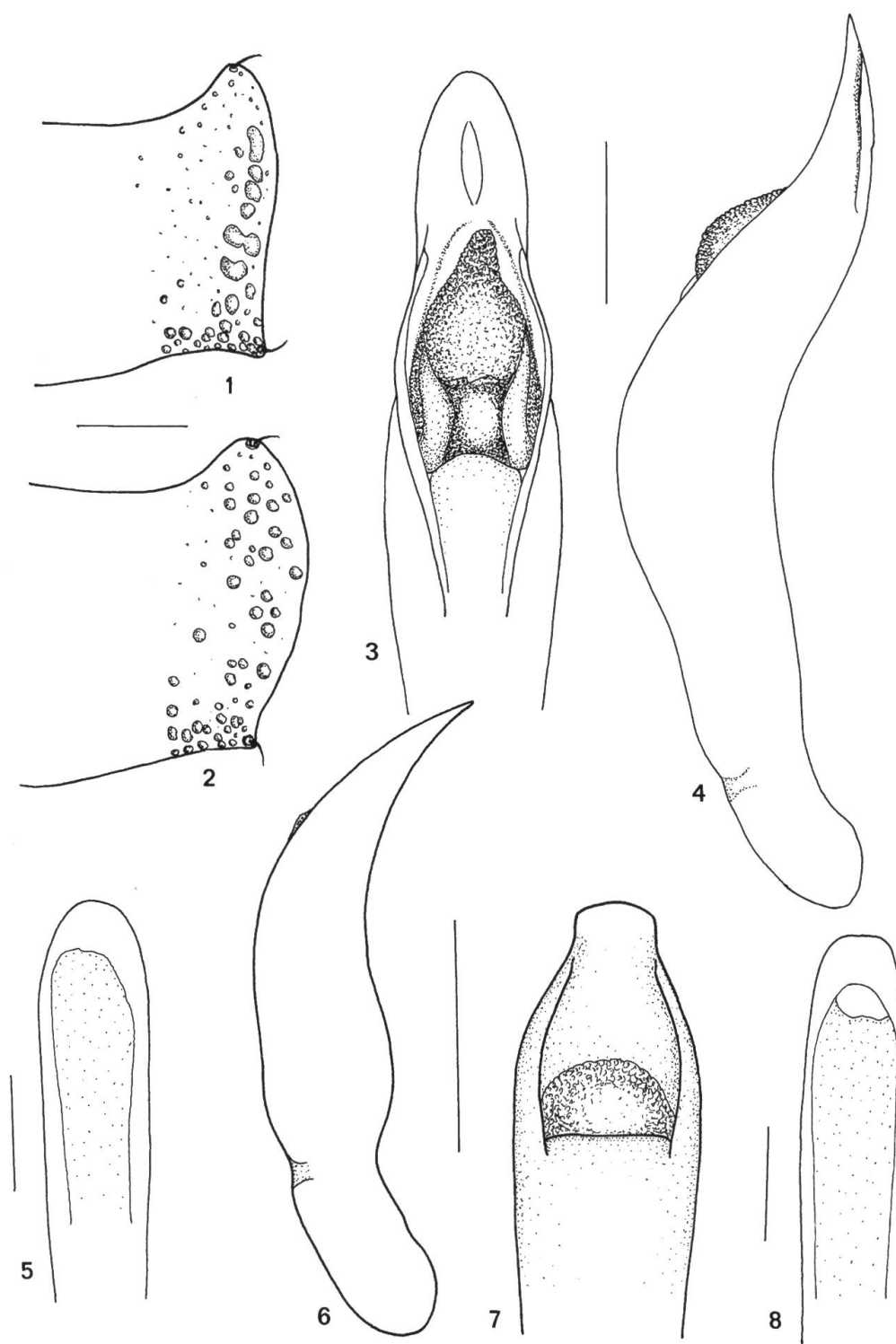
Agrosteomela indica (HOPE) seems to be a rather variable and widely distributed species. GRESSITT & KIMOTO (1963) proposed 3 subspecies for it, but later the same authors (1979) synonymised 2 of these with *A. indica indica*. I cannot accept this opinion, because the Himalayan populations (“typical” *A. indica*) differ from both the Chinese ones in the shape of the aedeagus (see key above). However it is possible that *A. indica chinensis* (WEISE) will be considered a synonym of *A. indica impressiuscula* (FAIRMAIRE). Both forms were recorded for Yunnan but they might be distributed in different parts of this large and mountainous province.

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Figs 1–8: 1, *Agroteomela fallaciosa* (STÅL): Sides of the prothorax. 2, *Agroteomela medvedevi* sp.nov.: Sides of the prothorax. 3, *Agroteomela medvedevi* sp.nov.: Aedeagus, dorsal view. 4, *Agroteomela medvedevi* sp.nov.: Aedeagus, lateral view. 5, *Agroteomela indica indica* (HOPE) from Nepal: Aedeagus, dorsal view. 6, *Agroteomela fallaciosa* (STÅL): Aedeagus, lateral view. 7, *Agroteomela fallaciosa* (STÅL): Aedeagus, dorsal view. 8, *Agroteomela indica chinensis* (WEISE) from Taiwan: Aedeagus, dorsal view. All scales: 1 mm.