

***Thorictus taftanus* sp.nov. from Iran (Coleoptera: Dermestidae)**

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HÁVA J. 2008: *Thorictus taftanus* sp.nov. from Iran (Coleoptera: Dermestidae). *Acta Musei Moraviae, Scientiae biologicae* (Brno) **93**: 43–46. – The species *Thorictus taftanus* sp.nov. from Iran is described, illustrated and compared with the similar species *T. angustus* John, 1964.

Key words. Coleoptera, Dermestidae, Thorictinae, *Thorictus*, new species, Iran, Palaearctic region

Introduction

The subfamily Thorictinae consists of two tribes, Thorictini and Thaumaphrastini. The tribe Thorictini contains the three genera *Afrothorictus* Andreae, 1967, *Macrothorictus* Andreae, 1967 and *Thorictus* Germar, 1834. The tribe Thaumaphrastini has only the genus *Thorictodes* Reitter 1895 at present. The genus *Thorictus* contains 158 species and subspecies known from Palaearctic and Afrotropical regions (HÁVA 2003, 2007, 2008). The first catalogue of the Thorictinae was published by HETSCHKO & WASMANN (1925); it was later supplemented by HETSCHKO (1926, 1930). Revisions of *Thorictus* were published by JOHN (1962, 1963, 1965) and JOHN & ANDREAE (1967). Two new species have recently been described by HÁVA (2006) and HÁVA & LACKNER (2005).

Material and methods

Holotype and paratype specimens of the newly presented species described here are provided with a red, printed label: “HOLOTYPE [or PARATYPE, as appropriate] *Thorictus taftanus* sp. n. Jiří Háva det. 2007”.

Locality labels of the material are cited in the original version. The author’s remarks appear in square brackets.

All material was identified or revised by the author.

The following abbreviations refer to the collections in which the examined material is deposited:

JHAC Author’s collections, Prague, Czech Republic
NMPC National Museum, Prague, Czech Republic (V. Švihla)

The following measurements were made: body length – measured from anterior margin of the head to the apex of the elytra; body width – measured between the two anterolateral humeral calli; pronotum length – measured from the top of the anterior margin to scutellum; pronotum width – measured between the two posterior angles of the pronotum. Male genitalia were not studied, because the use of the aedeagus for species discrimination is problematical and poorly developed in this beetle group.

Description

Thorictus taftanus sp.nov. (Figs 1–4)

Type locality. Iran, Sistan va Baluchestan, Kuh-e Taftan [Mts.], Gusheh (28°34'N, 61°00'E).

Type material. Holotype (not sexed): “E Iran, Taftan, Gusheh, 21.4.1973”, “Loc. No. 171, Exp. Nat. Mus. Praha” (NMPC). Paratypes: 2 spec.: the same data as holotype (1 NMPC, 1 JHAC); 7 spec.: “E Iran, 2100m, Taftan, Tamandan, 20.4.1973”, “Loc. No. 167, Exp. Nat. Mus. Praha” (6 NMPC, 1 JHAC).

Description of holotype. Body small, almost parallel (Fig. 1), brown, covered in short, yellow setae on dorsal and ventral surfaces.

Measurements: body length 2.05 mm; body width 0.95 mm; pronotum length 0.67 mm; pronotum width 0.87 mm.

Head (Fig. 2), finely punctate with very short, yellow setae. Labial palpi entirely brown. Antennae brown, with 11 antennomeres, antennal club compact, with 3 antennomeres.

Pronotum as finely punctate as head, covered in short yellow setation. Lateral margin of pronotum very finely dentate. Pronotum in posterior part near scutellum with two very small bumps. Ventral posterior pronotal angles with long setation (Fig. 3). Scutellum invisible from above.

Elytra very finely punctate, covered in short, yellow setae. Each elytron with one small bump in anterior part near scutellum. Epipleuron finely punctate, anterior angles without setation. Prosternum very finely punctate. Mesosternum with foveolate punctures.

Metasternum very finely punctate. Visible abdominal sternites very finely punctate, covered in very short yellow setae. Legs brown, covered in yellow setae. Posterior tibiae very broad (Fig. 4).

Variability. Measurements: body length 1.85–2.06 mm; body width 0.87–0.96 mm; pronotum length 0.65–0.67 mm; pronotum width 0.82–0.87 mm.

Derivatio nominis. The species is named after the type locality.

Biology. Species collected with *Pheidole* sp. ants (J. Macek det.).

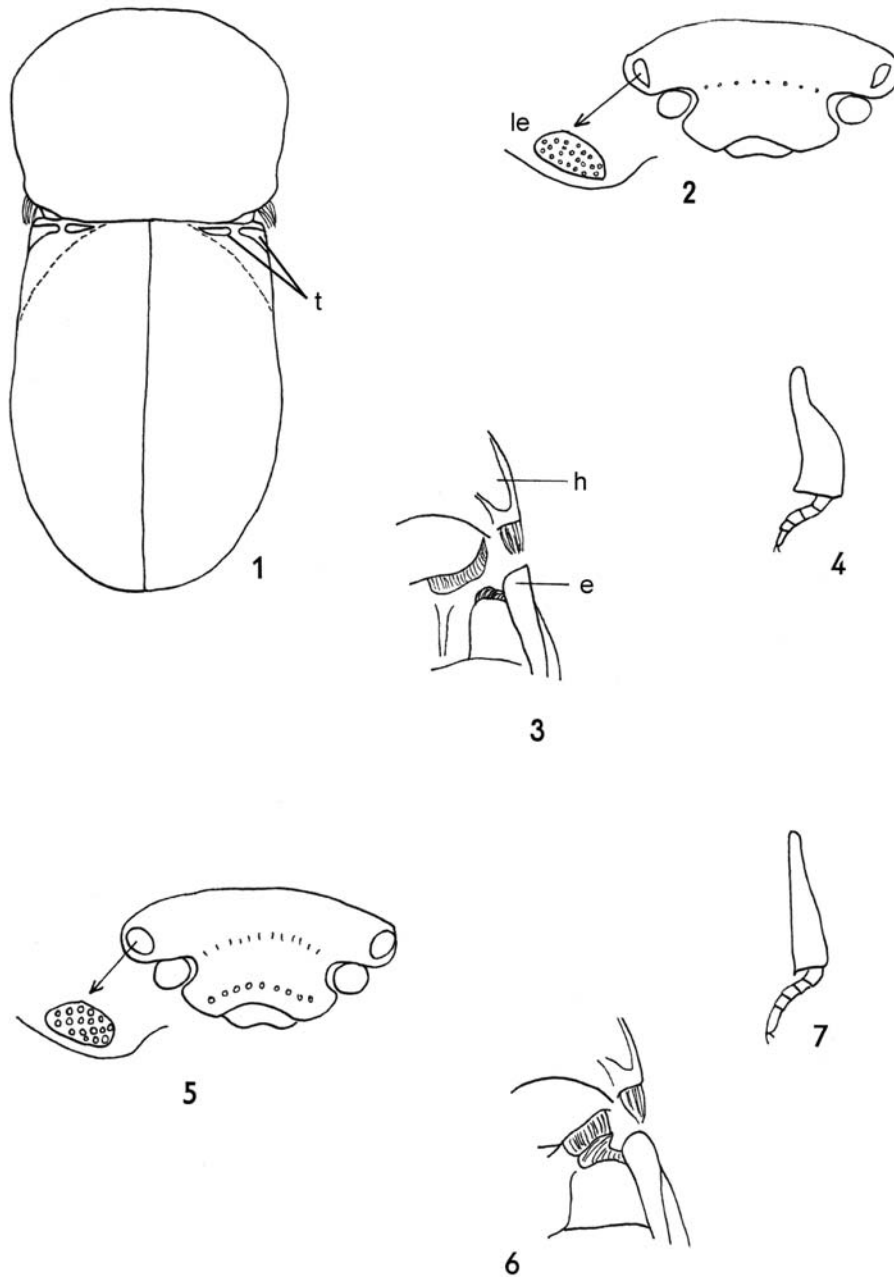
Differential diagnosis. The new species belongs to the *T. orientalis* species group and it is visually very similar to *T. angustus* John, 1964 (Afghanistan). The new species differs from the latter in the shape of the head, pronotal ventral pubescence and form of posterior tibiae. All characters of both species are illustrated. The new species differs from the three known Iranian species *T. grandicollis grandicollis* Germar, 1842, *T. lederi* Reitter, 1881, and *T. persicus* Reitter, 1881 especially in its near-parallel body.

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Figs 1–7. *Thorictus taftanus* sp.nov. (holotype): 1 – habitus dorsally; 2 – head, anterior view; 3 – right margin of thorax, ventral view; 4 – posterior tibia. *T. angustus* John, 1964: 5 – head, anterior view; 6 – right margin of thorax, ventral view; 7 – posterior tibia. (le – lateral eyes; p – hypomerite; e – epipleurite; t – humeral tubercles)