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A new species of *Saprinus* (Coleoptera, Histeridae) from Asia

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KAPLER O. 2000: A new species of Saprinus (Coleoptera, Histeridae) from Asia. *Acta Musei Moraviae, Scientiae biologicae* (Brno) **85:** 67–71. – A new species *Saprinus havajirii* sp.nov. from Asia is described and compared with *Saprinus chalcites* (ILLIGER, 1807) and *S. submarginatus* J. SAHLBERG, 1913.

Key words: Taxonomy, description, *Saprinus havajirii* sp.nov., Histeridae, Coleoptera, Asia

Introduction

The new species *Saprinus havajirii* sp.nov., described below, belongs in the *S. chalcites* species-group, the members of which can be identified with certainty only according to male genitalia; identification of females is, as a rule, almost impossible. Moreover, the new species belongs to a minor subgroup of species, in which the males lack a pair of tubercles at the posterior margin of metasternum [occurring e.g. in *S. calatravensis* FUENTE, *S. chalcites* (ILLIGER) and *S. georgicus* MARSEUL], so that even the discrimination of sexes according to external sexual dimorphism is impossible in them. It is therefore necessary to dissect even those specimens that appear in the *S. chalcites* species-group, because *S. chalcites* is sympatric with most other species of the group (MAZUR 1997).

Saprinus havajirii sp.nov. (Figs 3 a, b)

Type locality. C China, Shaanxi prov., Qinling mts, Taibai Shan, Houzhenzi env., 1350–2000 m.

Type material. Holotype, ♂: "China, Shaanxi prov., Haozhenzi env., 1350–2000 m, 14.–24.vi.1999, S. Murzin lgt." Deposited in National Museum, Prague. Paratypes: 5♂, 1♀, the same data as holotype; 1♂, Vietnam, Halong, 7.xii.1988, S. Bečvář leg. Deposited in coll. Jiří Háva, Prague (3 specimens) and in the author's collection (Prague, 4 specimens).

Description. Oval, brown-black, glossy, without metallic lustre, legs and antennae red-brown, antennal club brown, compact, with short and fine pubescence apically. Frons finely punctate, frontal stria complete.

Sides of pronotum arcuate, postocular grooves distinct. Punctures at sides moderately coarse, at base and at anterior corners coarse, pronotal disc finely punctate. Epipleura glabrous. Dorsal striae of elytra pronounced, reaching the midlength of elytra, the fourth one as a rule arcuately connected with the complete sutural stria. Humeral stria longer than the other ones, outer stria absent. Punctation of elytra coarser, in the first interstrie wrinkled and reaching the base of elytra. The anterior limit of the punctate area arcuate, at sutural stria reaching the midlength of elytra.

Punctation of propygidium and pygidium of the same size and density as that of elytra, without wrinkles, becoming finer at the apex of pygidium.

Prosternum in lateral view gently concave and somewhat swollen at anterior margin. Inner striae parallel, not descending on lateral slopes of the mediolongitudinal prosternal carina, strongly dilated and arcuately interconnected anteriorly. Mesosternum coarsely and sparsely punctate. Metasternum apart from posterior margin impunctate. Mediolongitudinal line of metasternum in its median portion narrowly and very indistinctly impressed. Posterior margin of metasternum without tubercles.

Fore-tibia with 7 to 9 teeth. Posterior tarsi longer than one half of the length of hind tibia.

Tip of the eighth sternite sclerotized, at lower margin of its terminal orifice with pair of tomentose areas and with one long stout seta at each side of the orifice (Fig. 3a). Aedeagus parallel-sided all along its length, not dilated apically, with bluntly pointed apex (Fig. 3b), in lateral view regularly arcuate.

Length: 3.5–4.0 mm.

Bionomy. Unknown. In Vietnam collected under pieces of wood in elevated places (ca 50 m) on the seashore.

Differential diagnosis. Morphological characters of the most similar species are compared in Table 1.The only reliable distinguishing characters occur in males. Besides the presence/absence of tubercles at the posterior margin of metasternum there is only the shape of the eighth abdominal sternite and aedeagus (Figs 1–3). Reliable identification of females has proved impossible to date.

Name derivation. The species name is derived from the family and given names of the Prague entomologist Jiří Háva.

Tab. 1

	S. submarginatus J. SAHLBERG, 1913	*S. chalcites* (ILLIGER, 1807)	*S. havajirii* sp.nov.
Habitus, coloration	Oval, glossy, black-brown, without metallic lustre, legs and antennae red-brown.	Oval, red-brown with bronze lustre, legs and antennae reddish rusty.	Oval, glossy, black-brown, without metallic lustre, legs and antennae red-brown.
Head, antennae, mandibles	Frons finely punctate, frontal stria interrupted. Antennal clubs rusty, compact, smooth, their tips tomentose.	Frons finely punctate and wrinkled, frontal stria interrupted. Antennal clubs rusty, compact, smooth, their tips tomentose.	Frons finely punctate, frontal stria uninterrupted. Antennal clubs brown, compact, smooth, their tips tomentose with some longer fine.
Legs and tarsi	Fore-tibia with 10–11 teeth. Hind tarsi reaching 2/3 of the hind tibia length.	Fore-tibia with 9–11 teeth. Hind tarsi reaching 3/4 of the hind tibia length.	Fore-tibia with 7–9 teeth Hind tarsi reaching over the midlength of hind tibia.

Pronotum	Sides arcuate, postocular pits weak, punctation of normal size at sides, disc impunctate. Epipleura smooth.	Sides almost straight for three-quarters of their length, postocular pits always distinct. Punctation of normal size at sides, disc very finely punctate. Epipleura smooth.	Sides arcuate, postocular pits distinct. Punctation of normal size at sides, becoming coarser at anterior corners and at the base, disc finely punctate. Epipleura smooth.
Elytra	Dorsal striae thin, punctate, reaching the midlength of elytra. The fourth stria usually arcuately connected with the complete sutural one. Humeral stria short, outer one distinct. Punctation of normal size, occurring in posterior half of elytra, penetrating somewhat into interstries laterally.	Dorsal striae thin, punctate, reaching the midlength of elytra. The fourth stria usually arcuately connected with the complete sutural one. Humeral striae feebly developed. Posterior half of elytra punctate, anterior limit of the punctate area almost rectilinear, punctures variable, in the first interstrie reaching the base of elytra (punctures elongate there), at sides penetrating also into the second and third interstries.	Dorsal striae more distinct, reaching the midlength of elytra. The fourth stria usually arcuately connected with the complete sutural one. Humeral stria longer than the other ones, outer stria absent. Punctures of elytra coarser, in the first interstrie reaching the base of elytra and wrinkled, anterior limit of the punctate area arcuate, reaching the midlength of elytra at sutural stria. Punctures at apical stria finer.
Propygidium, pygidium	Punctation coarser than that of elytra.	Punctation coarse and dense, punctures of equal size.	Punctures of equal size and density as on elytra, without wrinkles, becoming finer at the apex of pygidium.
Prosternum	Gently concave in lateral view, somewhat swollen at anterior margin. Inner striae parallel, strongly dilated and arcuately interconnected anteriorly, not descending at sides of mediolongitudinal carina.	Gently concave in lateral view, somewhat swollen at anterior margin. Inner striae parallel, strongly dilated and arcuately interconnected anteriorly, not descending at sides of mediolongitudinal carina.	Gently concave in lateral view, somewhat swollen at anterior margin. Inner striae parallel, strongly dilated and arcuately interconnected anteriorly, not descending at sides of mediolongitudinal carina.
Mesosternum	Punctation of normal size, sparse.	Punctation of normal size, sparse.	Punctation coarser, sparse.
8th sternite, aedeagus	8th sternite with several combs of bristles of variable length and a pencil of hairs at each side. Apex of aedeagus dilated, triangular with acute tip (Figs. 1 a,b).	8th sternite with two combs of very short bristles at each side. Aedeagus strongly curved in median portion (lateral view), its apex moderately dilated, tip narrowly rounded (Figs 2 a, b).	8th sternite sclerotized apically, below the margin of terminal orifice with pair of tomentose areas, with one long strong seta at each side. Aedeagus regularly arcuate (lateral view), parallel-sided all along its length, its apex bluntly pointed, not dilated (Figs 3 a,b).
Size	2.8–3.8 mm	2.0–3.4 mm	3.5–4.0 mm
Geographical distribution	Armenia, SE Azerbaijan, Syria, E Turkey, N Iran, Afghanistan	Southern Palaearctic region, Afrotropical and Indo-Malayan regions, northern Australia	China (Shaanxi), N Vietnam

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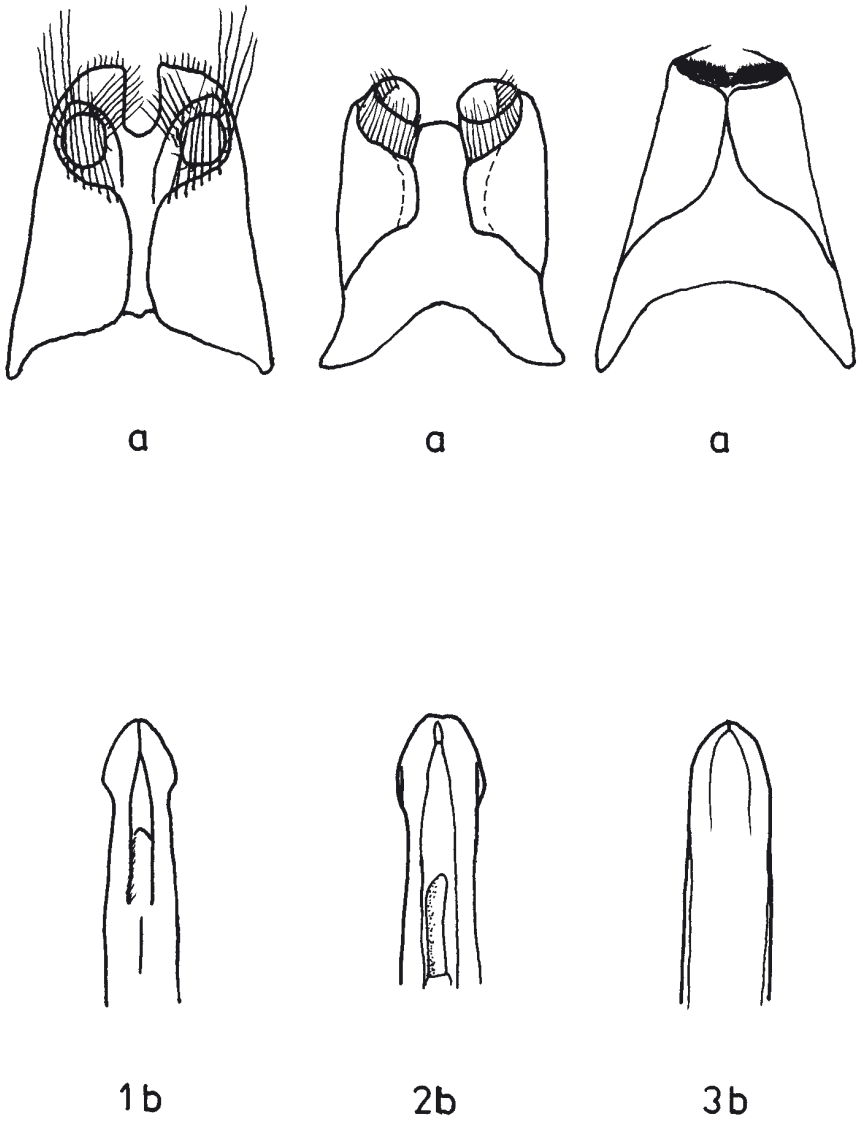

Figs 1–3. a – 8. sternite, b – top of aedeagus (schematically): 1 – *Saprinus submarginatus* J. SAHLBERG; 2 – *S. chalcites* (ILLIGER), 3 – *S. havajirii* sp.nov.