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A new species of *Cassida* L. from Madagascar  
(Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae)

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ABSTRACT. *Cassida brooksi* n. sp., close to *C. lateritia* FRM. is described from Madagascar.

*Cassida brooksi* n. sp.  
(figs. 1-5)

ETYMOLOGY

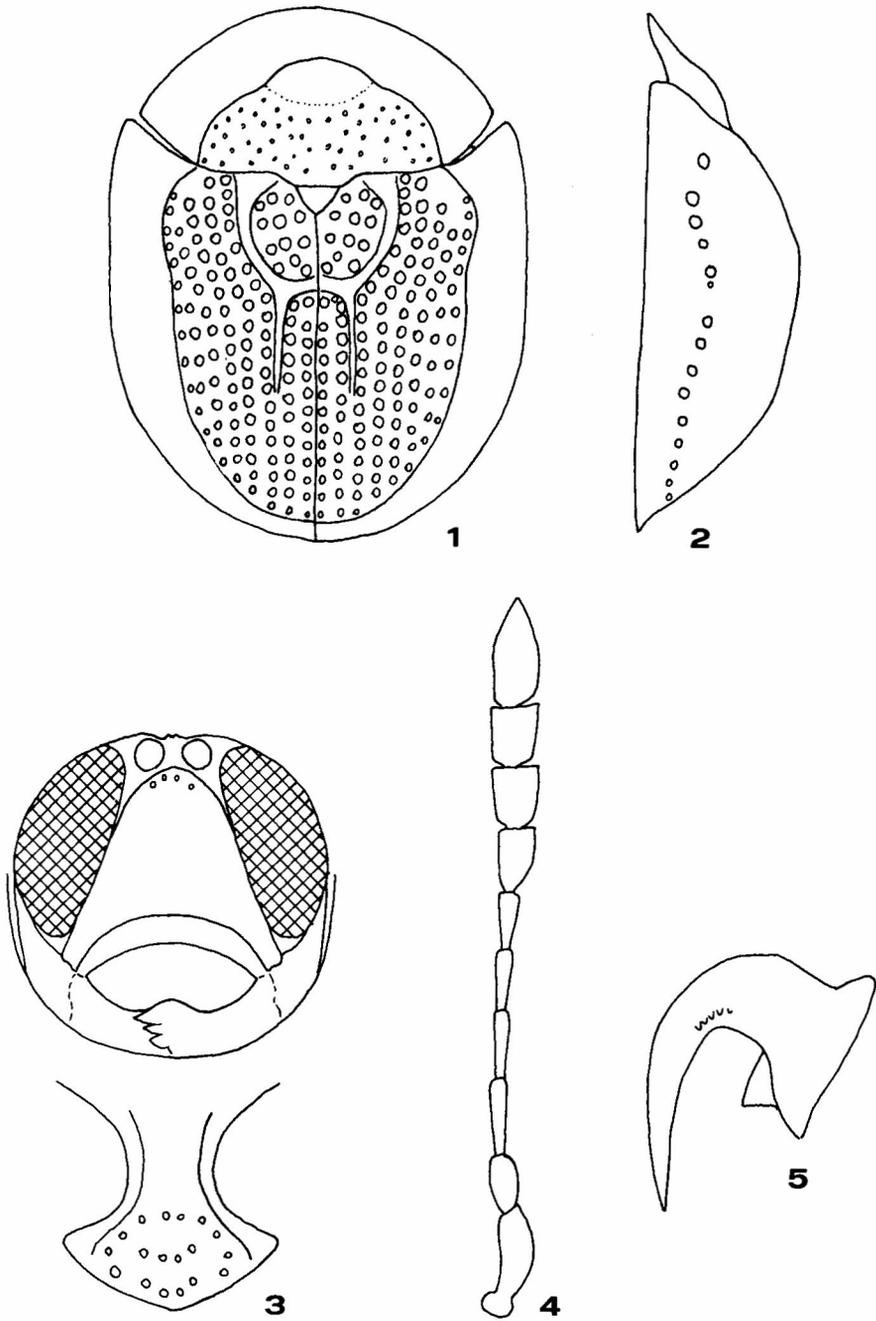
Dedicated to Dr. R. W. BROOKS, who collected specimens of the type-series.

DESCRIPTION

Length: 4.1-5.0 mm, width: 3.5-3.8 mm, length of pronotum: 1.6-1.8 mm, width of pronotum: 2.8-3.0 mm.

Pronotum and elytra uniformly yellow, labrum and clypeus yellow, thorax and abdomen black, only lateral margin of abdominal sternites narrowly yellow. Fore femora yellow with slightly infusate base or with basal third to half black, mid and hind femora with basal half black, trochanters always paler coloured than femora, yellowish to brownish. Tibiae and tarsi yellow. Antennae yellow with apical four segments brown to black, upper side of last segment partly yellow.

Body stout, 1.2-1.3 times longer than wide. Pronotum about 1.7 times wider than long, with maximum width slightly in front of the middle, sides broadly rounded. Explanate margin moderately declivous, with honeycomb structure, shallowly, indistinctly punctate. Pronotal disc feebly convex, not margined from explanate margin by groove or pits, area above head impunctate, other part of disc shallowly but distinctly punctate, intervals as wide as to twice narrower than punctures diameter, surface of intervals irregular so central part of disc appears slightly rough but intervals



1-5. *Cassida brooksi*: 1 - body outline and dorsal sculpture, 2 - body in profile, 3 - head and prosternum, 4 - antenna, 5 tarsal claw

do not form longitudinal striation. Base of elytra distinctly wider than pronotum, humeral angles angulate (fig. 1). Disc in lateral view almost regularly convex, with only slightly marked postscutellar elevation (fig. 2). Postscutellar impression hardly marked but margined by slightly elevated second elytral interval. Postscutellar elevation very low, H-shaped. Puncturation of elytra regular, large, punctures in rows almost touching each other, intervals very narrow, in sides of disc hardly marked, only second interval slightly broader and more convex, especially in posterior half of disc. Marginal row distinct with punctures about twice larger than in submarginal row. Explanate margin moderately declivous, in broadest part about twice narrower than width of each elytron, with honeycomb structure, strongly, densely punctate, space between punctures two to three times narrower than puncture diameter. Elytral epipleura apically without hair, inner margin of epipleura moderately high.

Clypeus 1.2 times wider than long, clypeal grooves shallow, run along inner margin of eyes, surface of clypeus slightly convex, microreticulate but glabrous with only 3-5 shallow punctures close to antennal insertions. Labrum emarginate to 1/6 length (fig. 3). Antennae short, extending to the middle of mid coxa (fig. 4). Length ratio of antennal segments: 100:50:67:70:55:55:50:45:50:50:100. Prosternal collar short, about as long as length of last segment of labial palpus. Prosternal process broad, apex rhomboidal with several large punctures. Meso-, metathorax and abdomen with no diagnostic characters. Legs unmodified, tarsi moderately broad, last segment as long as third, claws micropectinate with small basal tooth (fig. 5).

#### TYPES

Holotype, MADAGASCAR: Tamatave Prov., Andasibe (Périnet), 2-4 November 1984, sweeping vegetation, R. W. BROOKS, *Cassida* sp. s. lato, Det. E. G. RILEY '88; two paratypes, the same data (holotype and paratype in Snow Entomological Museum, University of Kansas, Lawrence, USA; one paratype in author's collection).

#### REMARKS

*C. brooksi* with *C. lateritia* Frm. and *C. dorsovittata* Boh. forms a group of species with body not longer than 5 mm, elytra and pronotum uniformly yellow, pronotal sides broadly rounded, elytral puncturation regular and antennae short, not reaching behind mid coxa. *C. dorsovittata* distinctly differs in elytral intervals flat, about as wide as or slightly narrower than width of punctures in elytral rows (in *C. brooksi* and *C. lateritia* elytral intervals are distinctly narrower than rows). *C. lateritia* differs in legs uniformly yellow (partly black in *C. brooksi*), elytral sculpture stronger, especially in stronger marked H-shaped postscutellar elevation, second interval in posterior half of elytra more convex, clypeus flat, stronger microreticulate, less glabrous, clypeal grooves deeper, and larger basal tooth of tarsal claws.