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Madotrogus problematicus new species from Iraq, with notes on its
systematic position
(Coleoptera: Melolonthidae)

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ABSTRACT. *Madotrogus problematicus* n. sp. (close to *M. laghmanicus* NIKOL. et KABAK.)
is described from Iraq. It considerably increases the distribution of the genus *Madotrogus* Reitt.

***Madotrogus problematicus*, new species**

(figs 1-5)

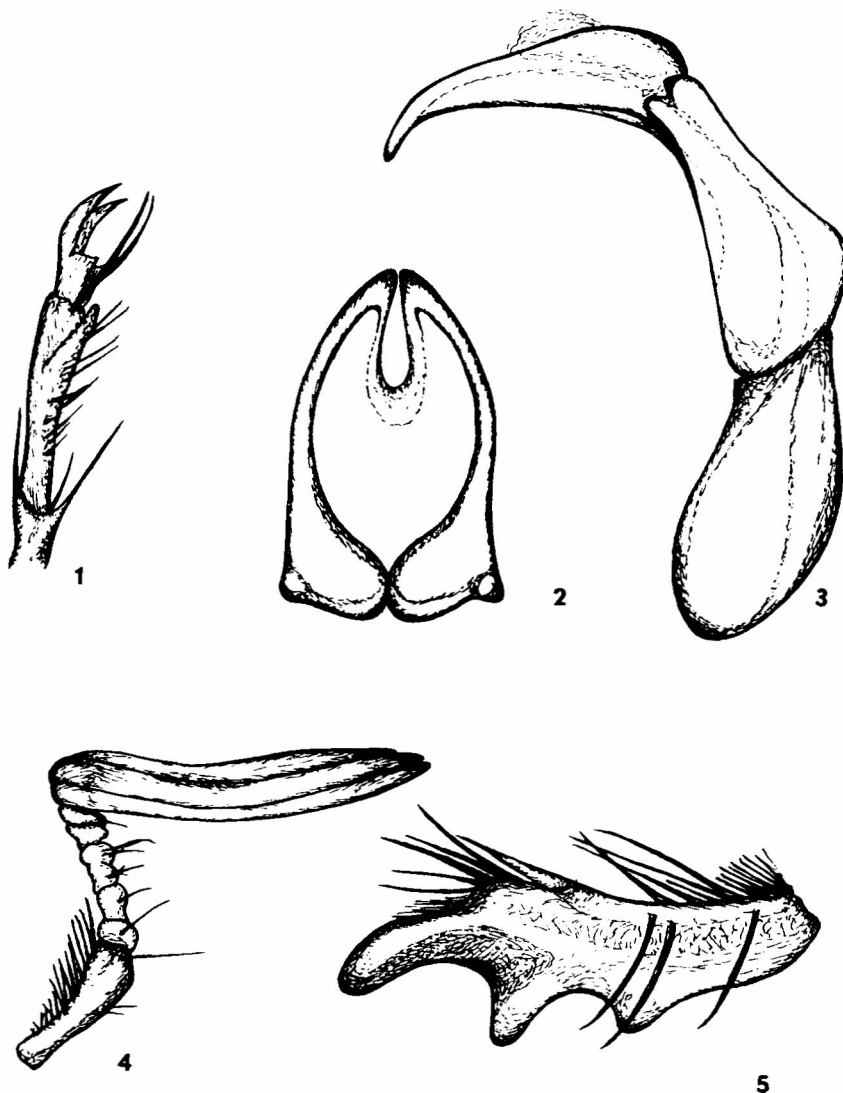
DIAGNOSIS

M. problematicus n. sp. is close to *M. laghmanicus* NIKOL. et KABAK., from which it differs in the lack of the longitudinal groove on pronotum, its sparser puncturation, uninterrupted ridging of the base, and in the shape of fore tibiae, clypeus and parameres.

DESCRIPTION

Male (holotype). Length 16 mm, max. width 7 mm. Body shiny, slender, broadest behind the middle of elytra. Colour yellow-brown. Head, pronotum and tibiae darker (red-brown). Antennae and palps strew yellow. Margin of clypeus and fore tibiae bordered with dark colour. Head short, convex. Clypeus long (over 2x longer than the remaining part of the head), punctured coarsely but not very densely (distance between punctures somewhat exceeding their diameter), sparser in the middle. Tegumen with fine micropuncturation. Anterior angles of clypeus rounded. Clypeus margin strongly elevated, shallowly incised in the middle, in the region of eyes forming a protuberance and slightly reflexed outwards. Fronto-clypeal suture marked with darker, slightly wavy line. Frons high, coarsely sculptured, with short yellow setae

which on sides are 2x longer than in the middle. Vertex punctured coarsely but weaker ornamented than frons. Setae long, light, directed anterad. Antennae 9-segmented, with 3-segmented club which is longer than other 6 segments combined. 4th segment of flagellum 2x longer than the 3rd, with a vestigial secondary segmentation in the middle (fig 4). Last palp segment elongate, spindle-shaped, with only a slight flattening



1-5. *Madotrogus problematicus* n. sp. (holotype): 1 - apex of hind tarsus, 2 - apex of paramere, dorsal view, 3 - paramere, lateral view, 4 - left antenna, 5 - fore tibia

dorsally. Pronotum short, strongly transverse (over 3x shorter than elytra), its whole perimeter ridged. Ridge of the anterior margin and base expanded and flattened in the middle. Pronotum puncturation coarse and uneven - denser and deeper along the anterior margin and in a slight depression situated in the middle close the anterior margin. Background with micropuncturation. Pronotum sides strongly expanded in the middle. The expansion gently rounded. Scutellum rather large, triangular, punctured only on sides. Elytra densely and fold-like punctured. Punctures form fairly indistinct, longitudinal lines, of which only the parasutural line with its denser punctures delimits a slightly convex rib. Punctures provided with stiff setae getting gradually shorter posterad. Pygidium strongly transverse, nearly oval. Puncturation very sparse and shallow, punctures provided with short setae. Background with micropuncturation. Metasternum and femora thickly hairy. Hairs long and wooly. Abdominal segments with a row of short and not very dense setae-like hairs. Fore tibiae fairly broad, 3-dentate. Denticles strong, the middle one somewhat nearer to the basal. Apical thorn of tibiae situated opposite the base of the middle denticle (fig 5). Apical thorns of hind tibiae rather long, narrow, somewhat flattened and shining through on the tip. Paramere: apex long, gently bent downwards, with no setae on the underside. Apical incision long and narrow. Basal part with two strong and elongate protuberances on its upper side (figs 2-3).

TYPE MATERIAL

Holotype, male: Baiji, 23-4-1969, M. S. A. RASSOUL. (coll. M. BUNALSKI). Type locality: Iraq, Bagdad Prov.

Female: unknown.

DERIVATIO NOMINIS

The name refers to the unclear systematic position of the species.

REMARKS

Until now species of the genus *Madotrogus* REITT. were known only from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, and Central Asia (Uzbekhistan, Kirghizstan, Tadzhikistan). The record of the member of the genus from Iraq increases considerably its distribution area to south-west. *M. problematicus* n. sp. resembles the members of the genus *Xanthotrogus* REITT. occurring in Iraq in some details of its external structure, thus being sort of intermediate between the two genera.