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A new species of *Cassida variabilis* group from Laos
(Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae)

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ABSTRACT. *Cassida crucipennis* is described from Thailand. It is close to well known and wide spread *Cassida variabilis*, a member of *Cassida variabilis* group.

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, new species, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, Cassidinae, *Cassida variabilis* group, Oriental Region.

The genus *Cassida* L. with 400 described species is the richest within the Cassidinae. From the Oriental Region c. 167 species were recorded, 77 of them from Indochina including Yunnan province in southern China (BOROWIEC 1999, BOROWIEC and ŚWIĘTOJAŃSKA 2002). Species from SE Asia were mostly keyed by CHEN et al. (1986), MEDVEDEV and EROSHKINA (1988), and KIMOTO (1998). In the material studied recently I found a new species from Thailand belonging to the *Cassida variabilis* group. Its description is given below.

***Cassida crucipennis* n. sp.**

ETYMOLOGY

Named after large, X-shaped elevation in postscutellar area of elytra.

DIAGNOSIS

It belongs to the *Cassida variabilis* group. The group comprises hitherto only two Oriental species: *Cassida crucifera* (KRAATZ, 1879) known from Burma,

China, Japan, Laos, and Vietnam, and *Cassida versicolor* (BOHEMAN, 1855) known from Burma, China, Japan, Korea, Laos, Russian Far East, Taiwan, and Vietnam. The distribution data may need corrections in future because *C. crucifera* was synonymised with *C. versicolor* by WEISE (1900) and a while ago MEDVEDEV and EROSHKINA (1988) restored its specific rank based on the structure of aedeagus. The group is characterised by almost circular body, pronotal disc distinctly separated from explanate margin with basal part of disc with two oblique impressions, base of elytra much wider than pronotum, elytral disc convex, in postscutellar area with large X-shaped elevation, pronotal and elytral marginalia very broad, gently deflexed to subhorizontal, transparent, with surface smooth and shiny, broad clypeus, antennae slim, elongate, with third segment distinctly longer than the second, and segments 8-10 distinctly longer than wide, and claws simple but appearing strongly appendiculate due to distally projecting flanks of last segment of tarsi. *C. crucifera* differs from both *C. versicolor* and *C. crucipennis* in immaculate elytral marginalia (in both relatives explanate margin of elytra has broad posterolateral spots). *C. versicolor* at first glance is very similar to *C. crucipennis*, especially in similar elytral colour and pattern but differs in distinctly smaller size (length 5.5-6.7 mm, in *crucipennis* 7.3 mm) and lower X-shaped elytral elevation not forming postscutellar tubercle (in *crucipennis* the elevation is very high, forming a distinct, conical in profile postscutellar tubercle). *C. crucipennis* like *C. crucifera* has apex of aedeagus broadly truncate, while in *C. versicolor* aedeagus is narrowed apically with distinct apical process (see figs in MEDVEDEV and EROSHKINA 1988: p. 130).

DESCRIPTION

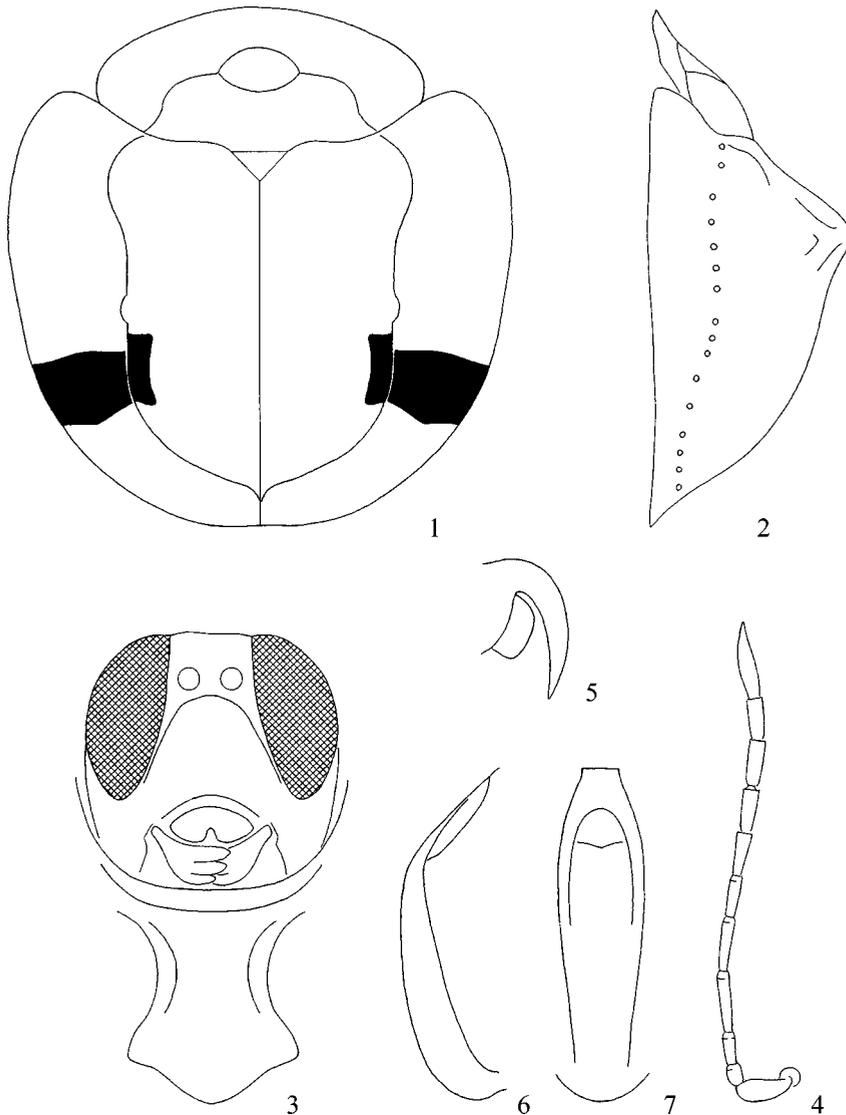
Length: 7.3 mm, width: 6.9 mm, length of pronotum: 2.6 mm, width of pronotum: 4.45 mm, length/width ratio: 1.06, width/length of pronotum ratio: 1.71. Body almost circular (fig. 1).

Pronotum yellow, top of disc with indistinct reddish-brown infuscation, basal margin narrowly black. Scutellum yellow. Elytral disc mixed yellowish-reddish-brown with yellowish spots of indistinct borders. Yellow are all elevated parts of disc: X-shaped elevation, elevations at basal corners of scutellum, and lateral fold, also slope with several small yellowish spots. Sides of disc in area close to spots of explanate margin with black spot.

Pronotum broad, elliptical, with maximum width in the middle, no basal corners. Disc convex, with margin distinctly trilobate, distinctly bordered from explanate margin, especially on sides with shallow sulcus. Basal part of disc with two oblique impressions, surface impunctate, shiny. Explanate margin broad, transparent, with honeycomb structure, impunctate, shiny.

Scutellum large, triangular, without sulci. Base of elytra much wider than pronotum, humeral angles only moderately protruding anterad, almost rounded. Anterior margin of disc with black crenulation. Disc strongly convex (fig. 2), with well marked postscutellar but without principal impressions. Postscutellar area

with large, high, X-shaped elevation, elytral profile appears tuberculate. Puncturation regular, very coarse, punctures in rows dense, distance between punctures narrower than puncture diameter. Intervals very narrow, on sides hardly marked, linear, only in sutural part of disc well marked but narrower than rows. Posterior half of interval 2 slightly and interval 3 distinctly elevated. Surface of



1-7. *Cassida crucipennis*: 1 – dorsal, 2 – lateral, 3 – head and prothorax, 4 – antenna, 5 – claw, 6 – aedeagus lateral, 7 – aedeagus dorsal

intervals smooth, shiny. Marginal row distinct, with punctures as coarse as in lateral rows. Marginal interval well marked, as wide as submarginal row, in the middle marginal interval and two submarginal rows broken by a broad lateral fold. Explanate margin very broad, in the widest part almost as wide as half width of disc, subhorizontal. Surface of explanate margin smooth, shiny, transparent, with honeycomb structure. Apex of elytral epipleura with sparse erect hair.

Clypeus broad, 1.5 times as wide as long, clypeal plate slightly convex, slightly elevated before antennal insertions. Surface of clypeus smooth, shiny, faint clypeal grooves run close to eye margin and converge in arch. Labrum deeply emarginate (fig. 3). Venter of pronotum without antennal grooves. Prosternal collar well marked, prosternal process broad, in the middle as broad as coxa, apex moderately expanded. Central part of prosternal process slightly impressed, apex slightly granulate but surface appears shiny. Antennae slim, length ratio of antennal segments: 100:41:64:118:100:82:82:82:86:82:145. Segment 3 c. 1.6 times as long as segment 2. Segment 4 very long, almost twice longer than segment 3. Segments 8-10 c. thrice longer than wide (fig. 4).

Legs stout. Claws large, simple but appearing strongly appendiculate due to distally projecting flanks of last segment of tarsi (fig. 5).

Aedeagus stout, broadly truncate apically, apical third strongly bent ventrad (figs 6, 7).

DISTRIBUTION

Thailand: Nan Province.

TYPES

Holotype: " THAILAND, Nan Prov., Doi Phu Kha N.P., 22-26 IV 1999, 19.13 N 101.07 E, D. Hauck" (preserved at the Department of Systematic Zoology and Zoogeography, Wrocław University, Wrocław, Poland).

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