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Complementary description of *Liroetis clermonti* LABOISSIÈRE, 1929 (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Galerucinae: Luperini)

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ABSTRACT. Hitherto not studied male of the Oriental species *Liroetis clermonti* (LABOISSIÈRE, 1929) (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Galerucinae) is described and illustrated. In the opinion of author *L. clermonti* should not be included in the same group as the other known species of *Liroetis*.

Key words: entomology, morphology, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, Galerucinae, *Liroetis*, male.

The species *Pseudoliroetis clermonti* was described by LABOISSIÈRE (1929), based on the unique female specimen found in Chapa (= Sa Pa, distr. Lao Cai, N. Vietnam), the male was hitherto undescribed. The species was later transferred by KIMOTO (1989) into the genus *Liroetis* WEISE, 1889. In April 1962 I found two further specimens (males only) in the type- locality and two (also males) at the river Ngoi-Nhu, relatively near (about 30 km SE) of the type-locality, what enables details complementation of the sexual dimorphism.

Diagnostic characters of the genus *Liroetis* WEISE, 1889: tarsal claws appendiculate; anterior coxal cavities at least partly open; all borders of pronotum distinctly margined; elytra not shortened, hind wings present; hind tibia unspined; mesosternum narrow, not connected with metasternum; epipleura in basal part narrow.

Diagnostic characters of *Liroetis clermonti* (LABOISSIÈRE, 1929): body very large, its length 11.5-14,0 mm; generally pale yellowish-brown or testaceous, antennae, tarsi and tibiae blackish or dark brown. Externally similar species *Siemssenius fulvipennis*

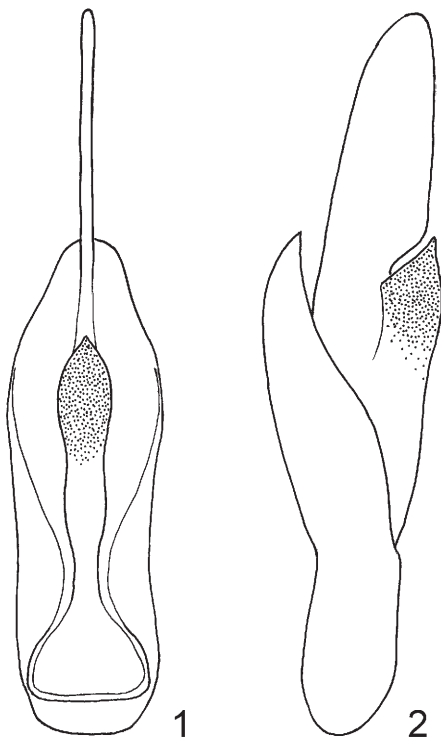
(JACOBY, 1890), considered by LABOISSIÈRE (1929) as congeneric with *clermonti*, differs from *L. clermonti* by unmarginated anterior border of pronotum, broader outline of body, entirely black legs, different structure of anal sternite and different aedeagus shape.

DESCRIPTION OF MALE

External characters correspond with the description of type specimen (LABOISSIÈRE 1929). From female it differs by parallel, not slightly posteriad broadened elytra, longer antennae reaching to 4/5 length of elytra (in female to 3/5) and not strong, but distinct enlarged fore and mid tarsi. In type specimen body length given by LABOISSIÈRE (op. cit.) is 14 mm. My specimens are somewhat smaller: 11,2; 11,2 11,5, and 11,8 mm.

Aedeagus and anal sternite of male *Liroetis clermonti* are shaped very conspicuously. In aedeagus (fig. 1 and 2) phallobasis is strongly shortened, lamina dorsalis of the tubular part narrowed and thickened, its apical part (supposedly homologous with operculum) covers base of an odd, long, very flat, situated in vertical plane, somewhat sail-shaped process. Length of aedeagus together with process amounts to 2,0 mm.

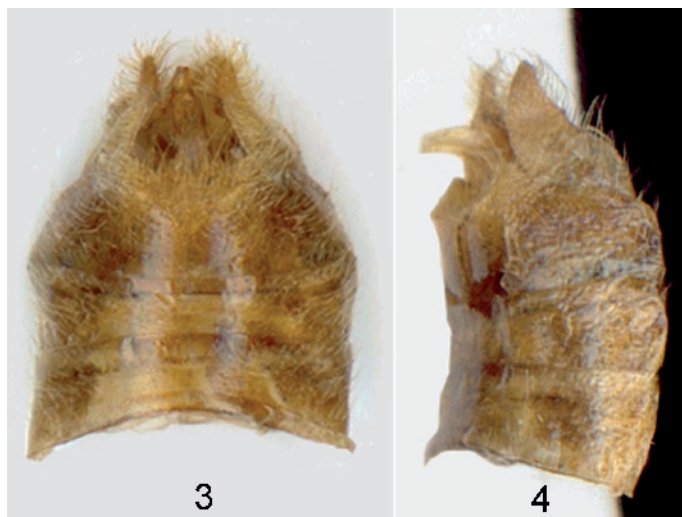
Anal sternite (fig. 3, 4) with very deep, trapezium-like emargination. Outer parts of sternite, in lateral view subtriangular, thickly covered by strong setae. From the middle of emargination does arise a rather long, bent down, bare, smooth and shining, finger-shaped process, approximately as long as the both outer parts of sternite.



1, 2. *Liroetis clermonti* (LAB.), aedeagus: 1 – dorsal view; 2 – lateral view

DISCUSSION

In SE Asia, the group of large *Liroetis* species with uniformly pale coloured upper side is represented by 7 or 8 species. Only *L. clermonti* has a vertical, sail-like process, in all remaining species aedeagi are generally similar to each other (conf. JIANG 1988), but shaped very differently than in *clermonti*. In my opinion, *L. clermonti* should not be placed with them into one group, but treated separately, exactly because of this very distinctive difference.



3, 4. *Liroetis clermonti* (LAB.), anal sternite: 3 –ventral view; 4 –lateral view

MATERIAL EXAMINED

Vietnam (distr. Lao Cai), Sa Pa, 16. IV. 1962, leg. A. Warchałowski, 2 males; Vietnam (distr. Yen Bai), W of Bao Ha, 4. IV. 1962, leg. A. Warchałowski, 1 male; Vietnam, (distr. Yen Bai), W of Bao Ha, 12. IV. 1962, leg. A. Warchałowski, 1 male.

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