Chiridopsis ghatei, a new species from India
(Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae)

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Abstract. Chiridopsis ghatei n. sp. is described from SW India (Karnataka). It is
close to Ch. novemkalankita (Maulik).

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, redescription, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae,
Cassidinae, Chiridopsis, India.

The genus Chiridopsis Spaeth, 1922 comprises 59 species, 24 were described
from Oriental Region, and 19 of them recorded from India and Ceylon (Borowiec
1999). Most species from India were reviewed by Maulik (1919), two were
described later (Spaeth 1919, Borowiec & Ghathe 1999). In materials bought at an
entomological fair in Prague we found specimens representing a new species,
additional specimens of the same species were sent to us Dr. H.V. Ghathe (Pune,
India). Description of the new species is given below.

Chiridopsis ghatei n. sp.

Etymology
Dedicated to Dr. H.V. Ghathe, for his contribution to the knowledge of
biology of Indian Cassidinae.

Diagnosis
Ch. ghatei with Ch. novemkalankita (Maulik) and Ch. acutangula (Weise)
forms a group of species distributed in mountain regions of SW India. The group
1-3. *Chiridopsis ghatei*, 4-6. *Ch. novemkalankita*: 1, 4 - dorsal outline and pattern, 2, 5 - lateral outline and pattern, 3, 6 - antenna
is characterized by the following characters: pronotum with median spot, elytral suture partly or completely black or with two black spots, each elytron with three spots. *Ch. acutangula* is the most different, with suture black but without spots (in *Ch. ghatei* on suture there are two elongate spots, first behind scutellum and second in apical part of disc, occasionally these spots are reduced to sutural margin, especially posterior spot), pronotal spot elongate (oval in *Ch. ghatei*), and humeral angles angulate to acute (figs 7, 8), with slightly emarginate elytral margin behind humerus (humeral angles obtuse, and elytral margin behind humerus not emarginate in *Ch. ghatei*). *Ch. novemkalankita* is very close to *Ch. ghatei* but differs in broad pronotal spot (fig. 4), usually cordiform (oval in *Ch. ghatei*), elytral spots larger (figs 4, 5) with posthumeral and posterolateral spots extending externally to marginal row (at most to submarginal row in *Ch. ghatei*), and median spot transverse, internally extending to first row (round and extending to second row in *Ch. ghatei*). Both differ also in male genitalia, in *Ch. ghatei* aedeagus is distinctly narrowed from the middle to apex with apical plate distinctly constricted laterally, forming two small spines (figs 9, 10), while in *Ch. novemkalankita* aedeagus is broader, distinctly narrowed only before apex, with broadly cut apical plate, without lateral spines (figs 11, 12).

**DESCRIPTION**

Length: 6.4-7.2 mm, width: 5.3-6.0 mm, length of pronotum: 2.3-2.5 mm, width of pronotum: 3.8-4.2 mm, length/width ratio: 1.16-1.26. Body almost circular.

Pronotum yellow, disc in the middle with oval, or drop-like spot with rounded anterior and acute posterior margin (fig. 1). Scutellum yellow. Elytra yellow with black spots. Suture behind scutellum with elongate, drop-like spot with acute anterior margin, in widest part spot not reaching behind first row of punctures, in extreme cases black reduced only to sutural margin; in apical part of suture an elongate spot, only slightly reaching behind sutural margin, in extreme cases posterior spot is rhomboidal, extending to first row of punctures, or it is reduced to black line on sutural margin. Each elytron in the middle and laterally with three quite large black spot. Median spot more or less round, its inner margin extending to second, outer to fourth or fifth row of punctures. Spot in posthumeral area round or slightly elongate, in posterolateral area round, in both inner margin extending to fourth (in extreme cases to third), outer to eighth (in extreme cases to submarginal) row (fig. 2). Clypeus, ventrites and legs uniformly yellow. Antennae yellow, apex of last segment, or whole last segment, sometimes also apex of segment 10 slightly infuscate.

Pronotum elliptical, 1.58-1.74 times wider than long, with maximum width in the middle, sides broadly rounded. Disc convex, smooth and glabrous. Explanate margin distinctly bordered from disc, smooth and glabrous. Scutellum large, triangular, without transverse sulci. Base of elytra distinctly wider than pronotum, humeral angles slightly angulate. Disc strongly convex, with top of
convexity in postscutellar point, without impressions. Punctuation regular, rows
distinct on whole length of disc, punctures moderately large, distance between
punctures as long as to slightly shorter than puncture diameter. On sides of disc,
punctures slightly coarser but sparser than in internal rows. On slope punctures
only slightly gradually smaller. Marginal row distinct, with large punctures,
slightly larger than in anterolateral part of disc. Intervals flat, in sutural half of
disc four to five times wider than rows, in lateral part of disc as wide as to twice
wider than rows, only marginal interval broad, more than twice wider than
submarginal row. Surface of intervals smooth and glabrous. Explanate margin
broad, c. thrice narrower than disc of elytron, declivous, its surface smooth and
glabrous. Apex of elytral epipleura with several short setae. Ventrites with no
diagnostic characters. Clypeus distinctly convex, its surface smooth and gla-
brous. Third antennal segment c. 1.7 times longer than the second, fourth seg-
ment as long as or slightly shorter than the third, segments 8-10 elongate, 1.2-1.3
times longer than wide (fig. 3).

Male genitalia: slim, widest at base, narrowed apically, apical plate distinctly
constricted laterally, forming two small spines (fig. 9); in lateral view aedeagus
slightly swollen in basal half (fig. 10), ventral surface without carina.

**TYPES**

Holotype: „INDIA, Mysore, Coorg Dt., Mercara, 4000 ft., V 1973, R.T.S.
Nathan”; paratype: the same data; paratype: „South India, S. Coorg-Ammatti,
3100 ft., XI 1952, P.S. NATHAN”; paratype: „South India, Mysore State, V 1975”;
five paratypes: INDIA, Karnataka and Kerala border, Talkaveri, 31 X 1999, leg.
Rahul BAHULIKAR”; two paratypes: “S-INDIA, Karnataka state, Coorg distr., NE
of Virajpet, 75°50′E/12°13′N, ca. 500 m, 4-8.VI.1999, Z. KEIVAL & M.
TRYZNA” (holotype preserved at the Department of Systematic Zoology and Zoogeography,
University of Wroclaw, Wroclaw, Poland, paratypes at the Department of Sys-
tematic Zoology and Zoogeography, University of Wroclaw, Wroclaw, Poland,
at Department of Zoology, Modern College, Pune, India, and in coll. M. OUDA,
Plasy, Czech Republic).

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Dr. H.V. GHATE (Pune, India)
and M. OUDA (Plasy, Czech Republic) for sending us a part of specimens of the
new species.

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