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Craspedonta laotica n. sp. from Laos
(Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae)

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ABSTRACT. *Craspedonta laotica*, new species, is described from Laos. It is close to *C. leayana* but differs in stouter body and regularly convex frons, with no impressions. Key to all species of the genus *Craspedonta* is given.

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, new species, *Coleoptera*, *Chrysomelidae*, *Cassidinae*, *Craspedonta*, Oriental Region.

The genus *Craspedonta* CHEVROLAT, 1837 comprises five described species distributed in tropical parts of continental Asia, from S India to Indochina (BOROWIEC 1999). Specific status of one of them, *C. obscura* (WEISE, 1897) is doubtful, probably it is only a local Burman form of a common and widespread *C. leayana* (LATREILLE, 1807). In the material bought on an entomological fair in Prague we found a new species of the genus *Craspedonta* from Laos. Its description is given below.

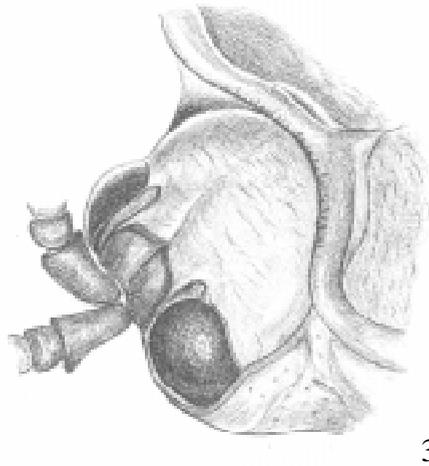
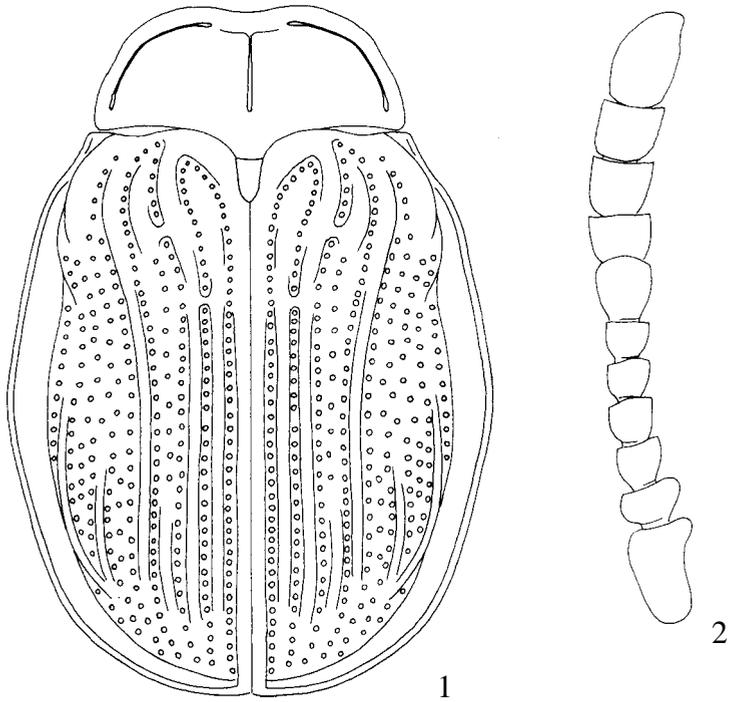
***Craspedonta laotica* n. sp.**

ETYMOLOGY

Named after its terra typica.

DIAGNOSIS

It belongs to the group of species with pronotum not metallic and elytra with strong puncturation, rugose. The group comprises also *C. andrewesi* (WSE.),



1-3. *Craspedonta laotica*: 1 - body outline, 2 - antenna, 3 - head in oblique view

C. leayana (LATR.) and *C. obscura* (WSE.). All differ from *C. laotica* in slimmer, almost or completely parallelsided body (in *C. laotica* sides of elytra are distinctly convex) and usually impressed frons (convex in *laotica*). Frontal tubercles in *C. laotica* are less convex than in related species, margined from above by shallow sulcus (deep in related species). Explanate margin of elytra in *C. laotica* is distinctly wider than in related species, distinctly visible on whole length (in *C. andrewesi* explanate margin is almost linear, hardly visible, in *C. leayana* and *C. obscura* well visible only in posthumeral area).

DESCRIPTION

Length: 11.0 mm, width: 7.4 mm, pronotum width: 4.9 mm, elytra length/width ratio: 1.25. Body oval, sides of elytra distinctly convex (fig. 1).

Head, pronotum, and ventrites uniformly yellowish-red, legs yellowish-red except brownish-black tarsi, basal antennal segments 1-7 yellowish-red, segment 8 brownish, segments 9-11 black. Scutellum yellowish-red, elytra metallic blue.

Pronotum square, with deeply emarginate anterior margin, sides slightly convex, before posterior corners distinctly converging posterad. Disc convex, distinctly bordered from margin by a deep sulcus, with deep median sulcus and transverse impression on praescutellar lobe. Surface of disc smooth and glabrous. Scutellum small, triangular, slightly more elongate than in related species. Elytra stouter than in related species, with distinctly convex sides (fig. 1). Disc regularly convex, coarsely punctate, but punctures in sutural half of disc smaller than in related species, very dense, in rows punctures almost touching each other; on sides of disc punctures distinctly larger than in sutural rows, have tendency to form transverse grooves. Even intervals 2, 4, 6, 8 as wide as to slightly wider than rows, convex, form longitudinal costae, but they are less sharp than in related species. Uneven intervals in sutural half of disc almost invisible, linear in lateral parts of disc completely invisible between dense punctures. Interspaces between punctures have tendency to form transverse folds or wrinkles but surface of elytra appears less rugose than in related species. Punctures of marginal row large, have tendency to form transverse grooves. Explanate margin of elytra narrow, but visible, especially in posthumeral area there is an impunctate field, also in posterior part of margin, between marginal punctures and convex elytral margination runs impunctate line.

Head with regularly convex frons and vertex, with no impression, only frons with fine median furrow (fig. 3). Antennal and supraocular tubercles only slightly convex, bordered from surface of frons by shallow sulci, no supraocular sulci.

Antennae in male stout, first segment with outer distal corner distinctly pronounced laterally, second segment very short, twice wider than long, segments 3-6 and 8-10 wider than long (fig. 2).

Ventrites with no diagnostic characters.

Male genitalia typical for the genus (all species of the genus have uniform genitalia with no species characters).

Female unknown.

TYPE

Holotype: male, „Laos” (preserved at the Department of Systematic Zoology and Zoogeography, University of Wrocław).

KEY TO THE SPECIES

1. Pronotum not metallic, yellow, yellow-red to reddish-brown; elytra black or metallic green or blue 2.
- Both pronotum and elytra metallic green or blue. Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam *C. mouhoti* (BALY)
2. Punctuation of elytra coarse and dense, intervals partly convex, not or slightly wider than rows, surface of elytra appears irregular and rugose 3.
- Punctuation of elytra fine, intervals flat, distinctly wider than rows, surface of elytra appears smooth and glabrous. China (Fujian) *C. levis* BOR.
3. Frons with more or less distinct oval to circular impression, occasionally regularly convex. Sulci above frontal tubercles deep. Body slimmer, elytra length/width ratio 1.34-1.56 4.
- Frons except median furrow without impressions, regularly convex. Sulci above frontal tubercles shallow. Body stouter, elytra length/width ratio 1.25. Laos *C. laotica* n. sp.
4. Elytra stouter, with length/width ratio 1.34-1.45. Explanate margin of elytra wider, especially in posthumeral area. Basal antennal segments in male widened, distinctly wider than in female 5.
- Elytra slimmer and narrower, with length/width ratio 1.50-1.56. Explanate margin of elytra very narrow, also in posthumeral area. Basal antennal segments in male only slightly widened, indistinctly wider than in female. India and Burma *C. andrewesi* (WEISE)
5. Elytra usually metallic green or blue, rarely black with indistinct metallic tint. Thorax varies from uniformly yellow to partly black. Impression on frons usually large but shallow, circular. Widespread in Oriental Region from S India to Indochina *C. leayana* (LATR.)
- Elytra always black with indistinct metallic tint. Thorax always partly black. Impression on frons usually narrowly oval but deep. Burma only. Probably only local form of the preceding species *C. obscura* (WEISE)

REFERENCES

- BOROWIEC, L., 1999. A world catalogue of the *Cassidinae* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae). Biologica Silesiae, Wrocław, 476 pp.