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Mistika, a new genus of *Alticinae* from Malaysia
(*Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae*)

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ABSTRACT. *Mistika*, n. gen. (*Alticinae*) is described from Malaysia, with *Mistika malaysiana* n. sp., as the type species. The new genus resembles the galerucine genera of *Galerucella* CROTCH and *Pyrrhalta* JOANNIS, but differs in having enlarged metafemora. Within the *Alticinae*, the new genus is closed to *Hespera* WEISE, but differs in having tarsal claws bifid and elytral epipleuron extended to apex, not abbreviated in middle.

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, new genus, new species, *Coleoptera*, *Chrysomelidae*, *Alticinae*, Malaysia.

INTRODUCTION

Generally, the beetles of the subfamily *Alticinae* have been defined as having very large metafemora, with a metafemoral spring within (FURTH and SUZUKI 1994). This paper is a description of an alticine beetle from Malaysia, representing a new genus. With the exception of the enlarged metafemora, the beetle has all the characteristics of the subfamily *Galerucinae*. Two genera, *Galerucella* CROTCH and *Pyrrhalta* JOANNIS resemble the new genus, in closely inserted antennae, pubescent pronotum and elytra, bifid tarsal claws, and the male apical sternite emarginate, not trilobed.

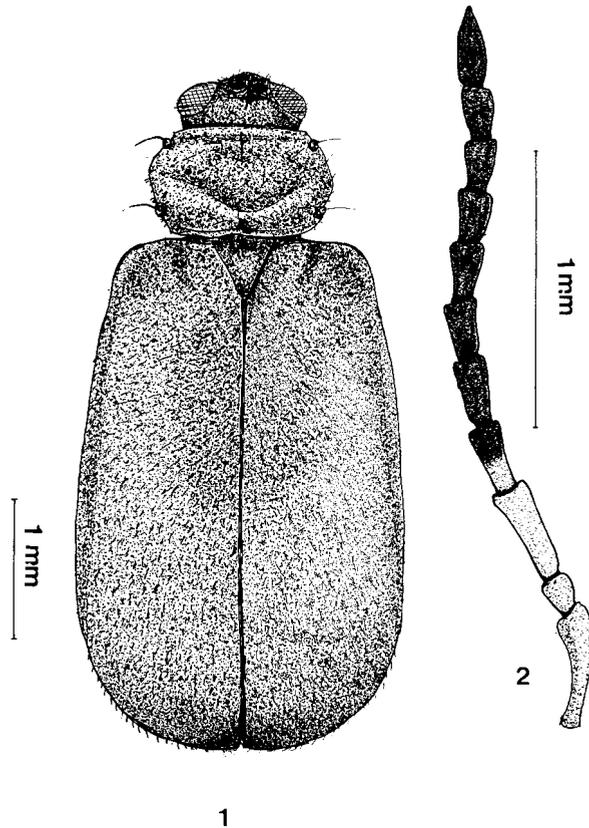
Based on the existing keys to *Alticinae* (MAULIK 1926, CHEN 1936, SCHERER 1969), the beetle was identified as a member of the genus *Hespera* WEISE, which it resembles in the following characteristics: antennae 11-segmented, procoxal cavities open posteriorly, pronotum and elytra pubescent, pronotum without

antebasal transverse impression. Despite these similarities, *Hespera* is significantly different from the new genus, in having appendiculate tarsal claws, slender antennae, extending to middle of elytra, and elytra with epipleuron abbreviated in middle, not extended to apex. The new genus is represented by a new species, and both are here described and illustrated.

DESCRIPTION OF NEW GENUS

Mistika n. gen.

Dorsal surfaces of head, pronotum and elytra densely covered with adpressed pubescence. Head with vertex depressed, punctate; frontal tubercles distinctly raised. Antennae robust, closely inserted, 11-segmented. Pronotum transverse, with depressions; anterior, lateral and posterior borders margined. Elytra broader



1-2. *Mistika malaysiana*: 1- habitus, 2 - antenna

than base of prothorax, transversely depressed at subbasal region; punctures confused; epipleuron broad, extended to apex. Procoxa globose, with intercoxal piece visible between coxae. Procoxal cavities open posteriorly.

Type species: *Mistika malaysiana* n. sp. Gender: feminine.

REMARKS

Within the *Alticinae*, *Mistika*, n. gen., is placed in one group with the genus *Hespera*.

DESCRIPTION OF NEW SPECIES

Mistika malaysiana n. sp.

(Figs 1-7)

DESCRIPTION

Male. Reddish brown, except black tibiae and tarsi. Dorsal and ventral surfaces entirely covered with golden pubescence.

Head elongate, with gena slightly more than half of the transverse diameter of eye; vertex depressed, flattened, rugose; frontal tubercles distinctly raised; frontoclypeal area triangularly raised at base, concave at apex on each side of antennal carina; labrum transverse, with apical margin truncate; mandibles strongly curved. Eyes small, with interocular space twice as broad as the transverse diameter of each eye. Antennae robust, short, extended to one-third basal of elytra, black, except segments 1-3 reddish brown; segment 1 longest, club-shaped; segment 2 shortest, as long as broad; segment 3 twice as long as 2; segments 4-5 subequal in length, shorter than 3; segments 6-10 gradually shortened to apex; segment 11 longer than 10, pointed; interantennal space one-third as broad as transverse diameter of antennal socket.

Pronotum transverse, twice as broad as long; lateral sides rounded, broadest in middle; anterior, lateral and posterior borders margined; anterior margin concave, posterior margin strongly sinuate in middle, oblique at sides; surface with deep depressions at each side and mid-basal areas, rugose, densely impressed with small punctures.

Scutellum triangular, longer than broad, pubescent, impressed with small punctures.

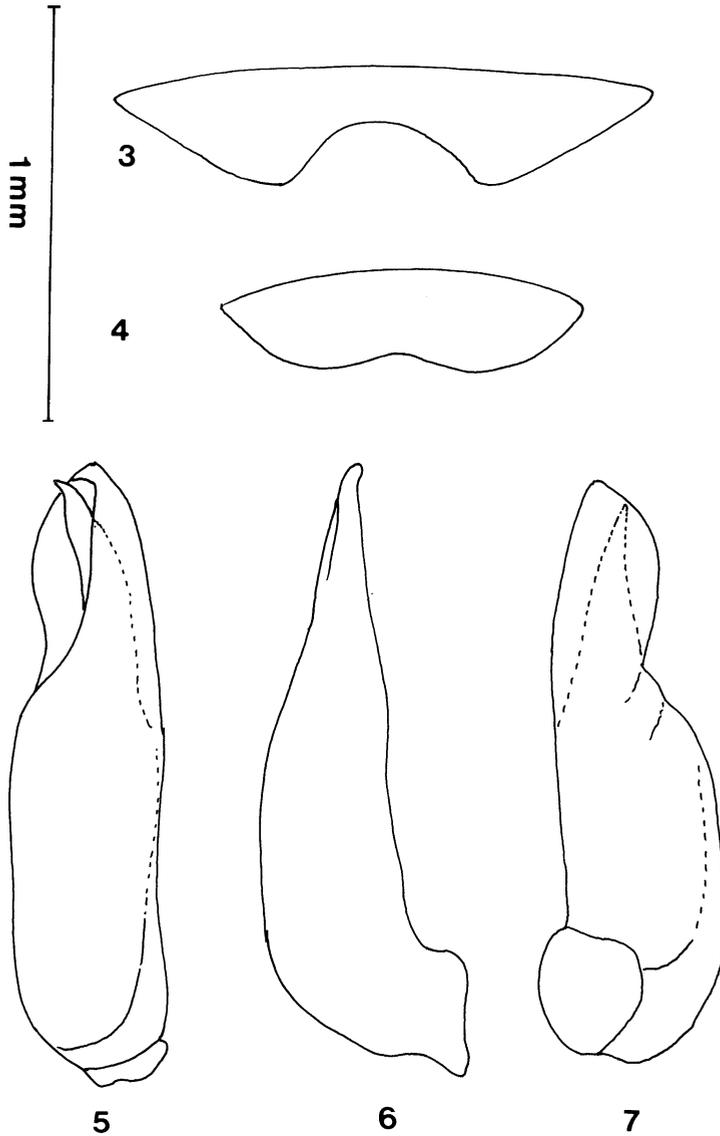
Elytra parallel-sided, moderately convex, rounded at apex; subbasal region strongly transversely depressed; surface rugose, densely covered with adpressed pubescence, impressed with small punctures, confused; lateral margins reflexed, visible from above; humerus prominent; epipleuron broad, extended to apex of elytra, with surface concave.

Legs robust; metafemur enlarged, twice as broad as mesofemur; metatibia with a spine at apex, twice as long as metatarsi; metatarsus with the first segment shorter than remaining segments combined; tarsal claws bifid.

Abdomen with apical sternite deeply emarginate. Pygidium exposed, rounded at apex.

Body length 4.5-5 mm.

Female. Same as male, but apical sternite moderately emarginate. Body length 5-5.5 mm.



3-7. *Mistika malaysiana*: 3, 4 - apical sternite (3 - male, 4 - female), 5-6 - aedeagus (5 - ventral, 6

TYPE MATERIAL

Holotype male: MALAYSIA, Sarawak, Bario, Kg. Baru (Hutan Kerangas), 13.IV.1995, ISMAIL & RUSLAN.

Paratypes: MALAYSIA, Sarawak, Bario, Kg. Baru (Hutan Kerangas), 13.IV.1995, ISMAIL & RUSLAN, female. Sabah, Kinabalu Park, Liwagu, 5.XI.1986, Aliza, female. Perak, Cameron Highlands, 19 m, 1.IV.1974, Y. KIYOYAMA, male.

Type specimens are deposited at the Centre for Insect Systematics, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi (UKM).

ETYMOLOGY

The name of the new genus, *Mistika*, is derived from the Latin word, *mysticus*, meaning mysterious, in reference to the mystery of the beetle having characteristics of both *Alticinae* and *Galerucinae*. The new species, *malaysiana*, is named after Malaysia.

REMARKS

Galerucella placida BALY of the *Galerucinae* resembles the new species, but differs in having metafemora normal, not enlarged, without metafemoral spring, pronotum with glabrous area in middle, and slender aedeagus, with a hook at base. *Hespera lomasa* Maulik differs from the new species in having tarsal claws appendiculate and elytra with epipleuron abbreviated in middle, not extended to apex.

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