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Notosacantha bezdeki, a new species from Laos
(Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae)

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ABSTRACT. *Notosacantha bezdeki* from Laos is described and illustrated. It belongs to the group of species with reduced dorsal costae.

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, new species, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, Cassidinae, *Notosacantha*, Laos.

Notosacantha CHEVROLAT, one of the most speciose genera within subfamily *Cassidinae*, comprises more than 240 species distributed in the Old World (BOROWIEC 1999, ŚWIĘTOJAŃSKA & BOROWIEC 1999, ŚWIĘTOJAŃSKA 2000 a, 200 b, 2001 a, 2001 b, ŚWIĘTOJAŃSKA et al., 2001). Nearly 100 of them were recorded from the Oriental Region, with 45 represented in its continental part. In the material from Laos, examined recently, I found a specimen of *Notosacantha* representing a new species. Its description is given below.

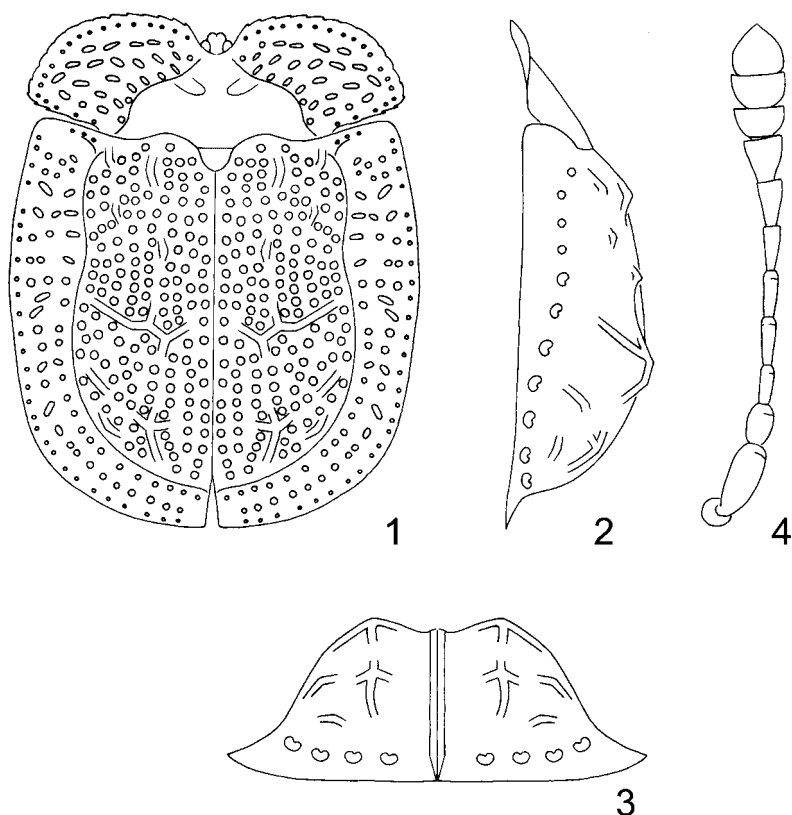
Notosacantha bezdeki n. sp.

ETYMOLOGY

Dedicated to Jan BEZDĚK, a Czech coleopterologist, who collected the specimen of the new species.

DIAGNOSIS

Notosacantha bezdeki belongs to the species group with body short-oval to circular, incomplete set of costae, principal tubercle with at least three costae, longitudinal costae practically reduced, except for four short costae connected with principal tubercle. This group also included *N. indicola* (Sp.) from Madura in India, *N. horni* (Sp.) from Ceylon and *N. nathani* BOR. & TAK. from SW India. *N. indicola* differs in basal tubercle curved outwards in posterior part and in anterior and posterior branch of dorsal costa at the top of principal tubercle converging in the same point. *N. bezdeki* differs from *N. horni* and *N. nathani* in the base of pronotum distinctly wider than base of elytra (base of pronotum in *N. nathani* is as wide as and in *N. horni* slightly wider than base of elytra), smaller size (c. 4.2 mm, *N. horni* 5-6 mm, *N. nathani* 5.4 mm), elytra almost parallel-sided (in *N. horni* and *N. nathani* elytral sides regularly rounded), ventrites and femora black (in both relatives yellowish-brown), and paler coloured dorsal part of elytra, with yellow explanate margin of elytra (reddish-brown in both relatives).



1-4. *Notosacantha bezdeki*: 1 – dorsal view, 2 – lateral view, 3 – hind view, 4 - antenna

DESCRIPTION

Length: 4.2 mm, width: 3.3 mm, length of pronotum: 1.3 mm, width of pronotum: 3.1 mm, length/width ratio: 1.28, width/length ratio of pronotum: 2.38. Body short-oval, the widest in half body length (fig. 1).

Frontal plate yellowish-brown. Disc of pronotum brown with broad anchor-shaped black spot at the top. Explanate margin of pronotum yellow. Scutellum black. Disc of elytra brown with black costae and tubercles and black irregular spot at the top extending from base to 3/5 length of disc between basal, postbasal, and principal tubercles, and black irregular band around disc. Explanate margin of elytra yellow. Ventrites black, femora black, tibiae yellowish-brown, antennae yellow.

Head with moderately large frontal plate with shallow V-shaped apical cleft.

Pronotum broad with maximum width in 2/3 basal length, sides regularly rounded. Disc in the middle of each side with distinct oblique impression. Explanate margin with row of small circular punctures along margin, and with large, mostly elongate pores, distributed regularly over the whole surface. Anterior half of pronotal margin serrate, sides crenulate.

Base of elytra distinctly narrower than base of pronotum. Elytral without longitudinal costae, only with completely isolated tubercles (figs 1-3). Principal tubercle slightly higher than basal, postbasal, and apical tubercles, c. twice wider than height at base, with obtuse top and four short costae. Anterior branch of dorsal costa reduced to low basal and postbasal tubercles and very short costa running from principal tubercle. Posterior branch interrupted between principal and apical tubercles. Anterior and posterior branch of dorsal costa at the top of principal tubercle converging in different points. Sutural branch of principal tubercle runs distinctly anterad, extending to the first row of punctures. Lateral branch of principal tubercle complete, runs obliquely anterad, extending to sub-marginal row of punctures. Apicosutural costa very short. Apicolateral costa incomplete, interrupted in the middle. No furca interna, externa and costa terminalis. Costa ultima forms isolated tubercle not connected with apicolateral costa (fig. 3). Humeral costa reduced to a small isolated tubercle placed in 1/7 basal length of disc. Costa of humeral callus short but distinct. Puncturation between costae moderately coarse, distance between punctures as wide as puncture diameter or slightly shorter. Puncturation of explanate margin mostly circular and slightly finer than on disc, no impunctate "window".

Antennae slim, with distinct 4-segmented club. Pedicel c. twice longer than club. Second antennal segment slightly elongate, c. 1.5 times as long as wide, segment 8 longer than wide, segments 9, and 10 distinctly wider than long (fig. 4).

TYPE MATERIAL

Holotype: "LAOS – NE: HUA PHAN prov., 25 km SE Vieng Xai (by road); BAN KANGPABONG env., 20°19' N 104°25'E, 14-18.V.2001, J. Bezděk leg." (preserved at the Department of Systematic Zoology and Zoogeography, University of Wrocław, Wrocław, Poland).

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