

A new species of the genus *Taxicera* MULSANT et REY, 1873 from Borneo (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae: Aleocharinae)

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Received: 26 July, 1999

Accepted for publication: 15 Oct., 1999

PAŚNIK G. 1999. A new species of the genus *Taxicera* MULSANT et REY, 1873 from Borneo (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae: Aleocharinae). Acta zool. cracov., 42(2): 369-371.

Abstract. *Taxicera crockerensis* sp.n. from Borneo is described and illustrated, its affinity with related species is discussed.

Key words: Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae, *Taxicera*, new species, Borneo.

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The genus *Taxicera* MULSANT et REY, 1873 is a terrestrial group of small staphylinids with 15 species described so far. It belongs to the tribe Athetini, one of the more derived tribes of the subfamily Aleocharinae. The species of *Taxicera* are known only from the Palearctic and Oriental Regions. In the Oriental Region, 7 species are currently recognized (BERNHAEUER 1916; CAMERON 1933, 1939; PACE 1998; SAWADA 1971), nearly half of which (3 species) are known from India. HAMMOND (1984), in his annotated checklist of Bornean Staphylinidae, lists only one species *T. pendleburyi* (CAMERON, 1933). Additional new species from Borneo is described in the present paper.

The type material is deposited in the Upper Silesian Museum in Bytom (USMB) and in the Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals PAS, Kraków, Poland (ISEA).

A c k n o w l e d g m e n t s. I wish to thank Mr. Roland DOBOSZ (USMB) for making this material available for study.

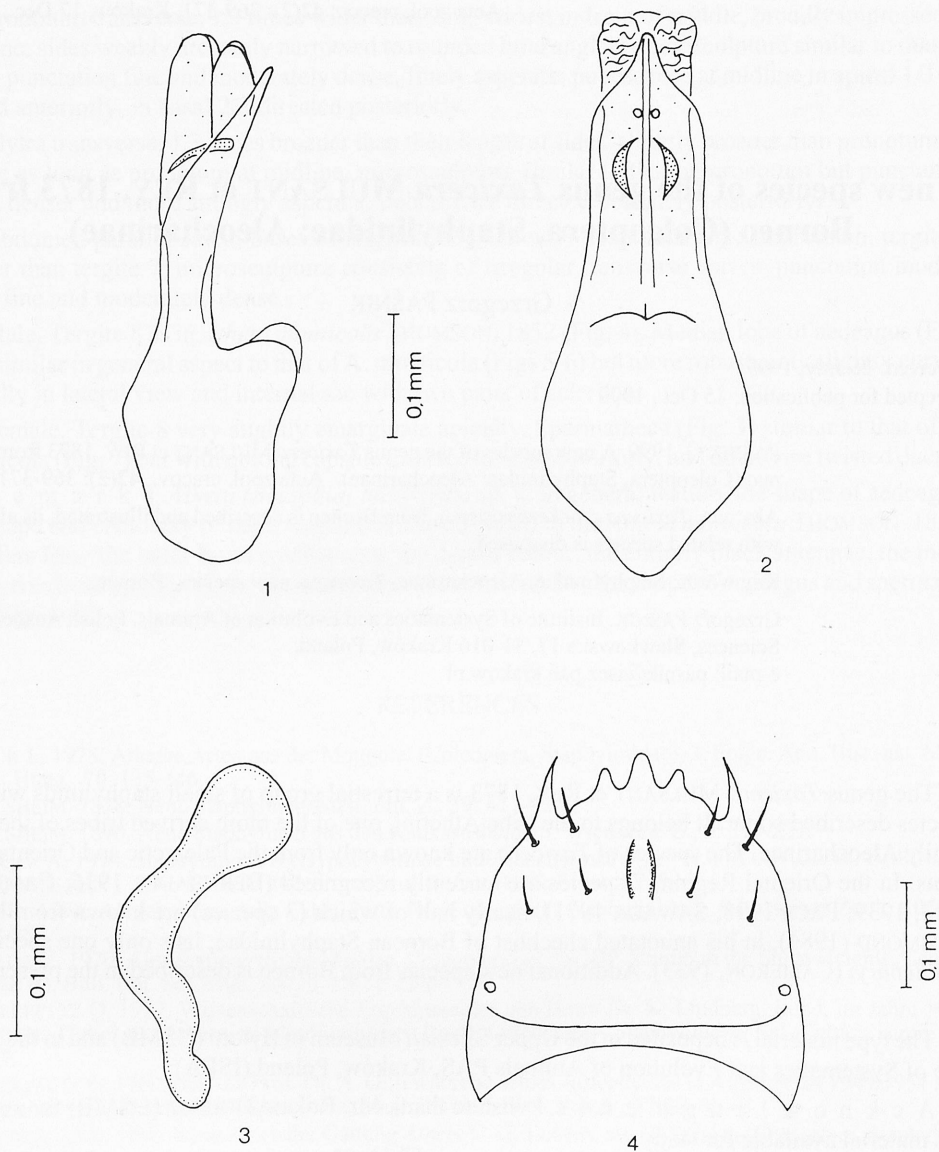
Taxicera crockerensis sp. n.

(Figs 1-4)

M a t e r i a l. Holotype, ♂: Borneo, Sabah, Crocker Mt., 500-1900 m, Gunung Emas, 6-21.v.1995, leg. J. Stolarczyk (USMB). Paratypes, 1 ♂ and 3 ♀: same data as holotype (USMB and ISEA).

D e s c r i p t i o n. Length 2.5-2.7 mm. Body parallel-sided, strongly shining, ground colour black; elytra testaceous, legs reddish-yellow, antennae black with three basal segments brownish-red.

Head semicircular, narrower than pronotum, arcuately narrowed to base, broadest behind eyes; eyes large, strongly protruding from lateral contours of head, length of each seen from above slightly longer than postocular region (index 7:5); surface of head lacking microsculpture, unpunctate.



Figs 1-4. *Taxicera crockerensis* sp. n.: 1 – aedeagus in lateral view, 2 – aedeagus in ventral view, 3 – spermatheca, 4 – male tergite 8.

tate along middle, punctures on sides coarse and dense. Antennae strongly increase in width to apex, antennomere 3 shorter and slender than 2, antennomere 4 very small, transverse, antennomeres 5-10 strongly transverse, increase in width, antennomere 10 at least 4 times broader than long, segment 11 conical.

Pronotum transverse, 1.35 wider than long, weakly convex, widest in apical 1/3, sides rounded in front, weakly arcuately narrowed to obtuse hind angles, with small, rounded impression before base, hypomeron visible in lateral view; microsculpture invisible, pubescence at midline directed posteriorly; punctation fine and moderately dense.

Elytra transverse, 1.3 times broader than their length at sides, slightly broader than pronotum, at suture as long as pronotum at midline; punctation similar to that on pronotum but denser.

Abdomen subparallel-sided, bases of tergites 3-5 each with transverse impression; surface lacking microsculpture; punctation fine and widespread. Pro- and mesotibia closely spinose.

M a l e. Tergite 8 (Fig. 4) with three blunt teeth on apex and with sharper and longer tooth on each side; sternite 8 truncate on apex; aedeagus as in Figs 1-2.

F e m a l e. Tergite 8 with shallow apical emargination, sternite 8 broadly rounded apically, spermatheca as in Fig. 3.

R e m a r k s. The new species should be assigned to the genus *Taxicera* on the basis of diagnostic characters, especially of the shape of ligula with a pair of setae, but it does not resemble Palearctic species of *Taxicera* morphologically. In the general appearance the new species is similar to *Taxicera necrophila* described by CAMERON (1939) from Siwaliks. The differences between these two species are as follows:

<i>Taxicera crockerensis</i> sp. n.	<i>Taxicera necrophila</i> Cam.
Body size 2.5-2.7 mm	Body size 1.6-2.0 mm
Head convex, without median impression	Head broadly impressed
Antennomere 10 at least 4 times broader than long	Antennomere 10 nearly 3 times broader than long
Pronotum 1.35 times wider than long	Pronotum 1.5 times wider than long
Posterior angles of pronotum obtuse	Posterior angles of pronotum rounded
Elytra slightly longer than pronotum	Elytra about 1/2 longer than pronotum
Abdomen subparallel-sided	Abdomen parallel-sided
Male tergite 8 with 5 teeth	Male tergite 8 with 6 teeth

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