

## A second species of *Orisaltata* Prathapan et Konstantinov, 2006 (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Galerucinae: Alticini)

## Второй вид рода *Orisaltata* Prathapan et Konstantinov, 2006 (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Galerucinae: Alticini)

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**Key words:** Chrysomelidae, *Orisaltata*, new species, Western Ghats, India.

**Ключевые слова:** Chrysomelidae, *Orisaltata*, новый вид, Западные Гату, Индия.

**Abstract.** A second species of the flea beetle genus *Orisaltata* Prathapan et Konstantinov, 2006 (*O. medvedevi* sp. n.) from south India is described and illustrated with comparative notes and host plant: *Thottea barberi* (Aristolochiaceae).

**Резюме.** Приводится описание второго вида рода *Orisaltata* Prathapan et Konstantinov, 2006 (*O. medvedevi* sp. n.) из Южной Индии. Он иллюстрирован и сравнен с близким видом, приведено его кормовое растение: *Thottea barberi* (Aristolochiaceae).

The flea beetle genus *Orisaltata* was described to accommodate *Aphthona azurea* Jacoby, 1896 occurring in India, Myanmar and Thailand [Prathapan, Konstantinov, 2006]. A second species of the genus from the Agasthyamali hills in the southern Western Ghats in south India is described and illustrated here. This discovery reaffirms the validity of the genus and we slightly modify its characterization here. Dissecting techniques and terminology follow Konstantinov [1998]. The types are deposited in the following collections: National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. (USNM); University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, India (UASB); National Pusa Collection, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi (NPC); Natural History Museum, London (BMNH), and the personal collection of the first author (PKDC). Host plant vouchers (Accession no, 95997) are deposited in the Calicut University Herbarium, Kerala, India.

*Orisaltata* Prathapan et Konstantinov, 2006

Prathapan, Konstantinov, 2006: 40 (Type species, *Aphthona azurea* Jacoby, 1896, by original designation).

**Diagnosis.** Length 1.65–2.8 mm, width 0.83–1.68 mm. Antennal callus well developed, transverse to oblique, trapezoidal, anterior end acutely triangular and entering into interantennal space. Midfrontal, suprafrontal, and supracallinal sulci well developed. Supraorbital sulcus poorly developed. Orbit narrow. Frontal ridge acutely

narrowed between antennal sockets, widening anteriorly. Anterofrontal ridge well developed, relatively high, not separated from frontal ridge. Labrum with four setiferous pores. Penultimate maxillary palpomere thick. Pronotum 1.3 to 1.6 times wider than long, with or without a simple antebasal transverse impression. Anterior coxal cavity open. Base of elytra wider than base of pronotum. Epipleuron extending slightly beyond basal ¼ of elytron. Elytral punctures confused. Pro- and mesotibiae without apical spine. Metatibia with dorsal surface nearly flat in distal half, bearing pointed thin bristles on either side of apex, without callosity in lateral view. Metatibia 2.3 to 3.5 times as long as first metatarsomere. Apical abdominal tergite of female without groove along middle. Spermatheca with pump well differentiated from receptacle, duct highly twisted and coiled. Median lobe of aedeagus in ventral view with proximal end deeply incised.

*Orisaltata medvedevi* Prathapan et Konstantinov, sp. n.  
(Color plate 10: fig. 1. Fig. 2–5)

**Description.** Entirely chestnut brown in color (fig. 1). Basal 4–5 antennomeres, mouthparts, fore- and middle legs, metatibia and metatarsus light brown. Last male ventrite distally lighter in color. Vertex and distal antennomeres darker than rest of body. Second antennomere much longer than half length of first, slightly longer than third, distinctly thicker than third; third and fourth subequal; fifth slightly longer than fourth; fifth to eighth subequal in length; from antennomere sixth onwards slightly but progressively thickened; ninth and tenth slightly shorter than preceding antennomere. Antenna extends slightly beyond midpoint of elytron. Vertex sparsely punctate. Antennal callus nearly transverse, about 2.75 times wider than long. Pronotum wider anteriorly than posteriorly; 1.3 times wider than long; with simple but deep antebasal transverse impression; anterolateral callosity concave; lateral margin anteriorly wider than posteriorly. Elytral punctures weak, but stronger than those on pronotum, tending to form rows proximally. Elytral apex concave. Epipleuron narrower than width of metafemur, slightly outwardly oblique. Prosternal intercoxal process flat on top, with large shallow punctures, posteriorly widened with convex apex. Metatibia dorsally flat in distal 2/5. Second metatarsomere subequal to third in length. Claw bifid, mesal digit short, lateral digit subequal to metatibial spine in length.

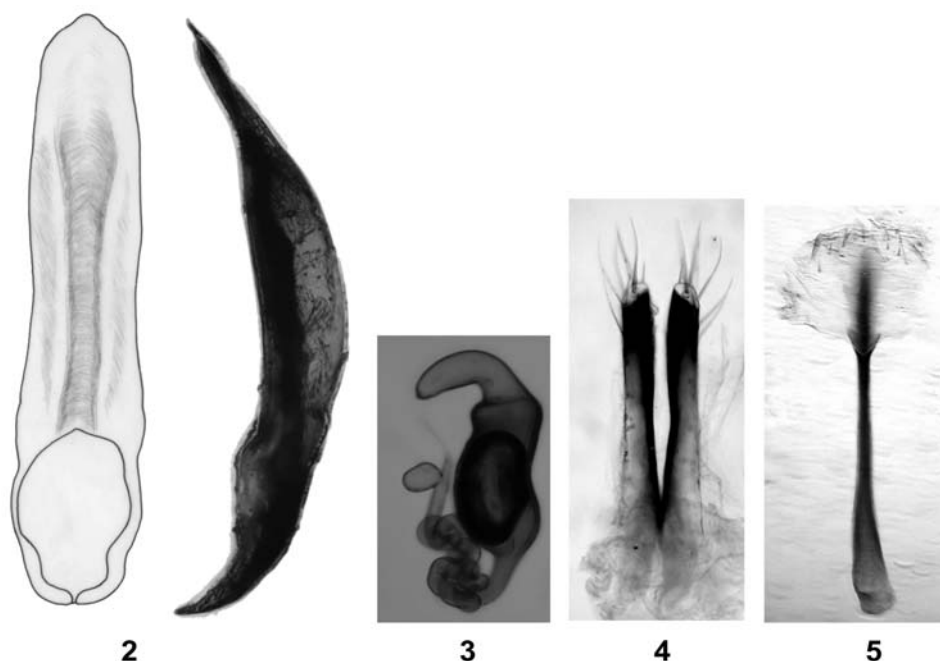


Fig. 2–5. *Orisaltata medvedevi* sp. n.  
2 – median lobe of aedeagus (ventral and lateral views); 3 – spermatheca; 4 – vaginal palpi; 5 – tignum.

Рис. 2–5. *Orisaltata medvedevi* sp. n.  
2 – средняя доля эдеагуса (вид снизу и сбоку); 3 – сперматека; 4 – вагинальные пальпы; 5 – тигнум.

Aedeagus in ventral view slightly narrowed near middle; with a short denticle apically; ventral side deeply grooved along middle, with sharp ridge along either side of groove. In lateral view, gently curved with acute apex (fig. 2). Stem of tegmen longer than arms. Spermatheca with horizontal part of pump longer than vertical; receptacle much longer than wide, with convex inner side and concave outer side (fig. 3). Vaginal palpus with lateral unsclerotized area shorter than proximal or distal sclerotization (fig. 4). Tignum wider anteriorly than posteriorly (fig. 5).

**Sexual dimorphism.** Posterior margin of last abdominal ventrite bisinuate in male and entire in female. Last ventrite in male is distally lighter in color while it is uniform chestnut brown in female. Ventral side of first metatarsomere distally with capitate setae in male but in female only pointed setae are present.

**Host plant.** The types were collected on *Thottea barberi* (Gamble) Ding Hou (Aristolochiaceae). Adults feed on the abaxial surface of leaves making holes.

**Etymology.** This species is named in the memory of Gleb Sergeevich Medvedev.

**Type material.** Holotype ♂. Labels: 1) INDIA Kerala Chemmunchi 27.03.2009 Prathapan K.D. Coll. 2) *Orisaltata medvedevi* sp. nov. des. K.D. Prathapan & A. Konstantinov (USNM).

Paratypes (13 specimens). 11♂, 2♀ with same labels as holotype (3 USNM, 3 BMNH, 2 UASB, 3 NPC, 2 PKDC).

**Remarks.** *Orisaltata medvedevi* sp. n. can be separated from *O. azurea* by its smaller size (*O. azurea* is 2.2–2.8 mm long), chestnut brown color (*O. azurea* is metallic dark blue and black), deep antebasal transverse impression on pronotum (absent in *O. azurea*), second metatarsomere subequal to third (second metatarsomere nearly two times as long as third in *O. azurea*) and bifid claws (claws appendiculate in *O. azurea*). Other remarkable features of *O. medvedevi* sp. n. include a comparatively longer pronotum, aedeagus with a deep groove along ventral side and receptacle of spermatheca with concave outer side.

Placement of the species in *Orisaltata* is justified beyond doubt by the structure of the head, elytra, hind leg, female genitalia and the trophic relationship.

*Orisaltata azurea* feeds on *Aristolochia indica* L. (Aristolochiaceae) [Prathapan, Konstantinov, 2006]. Other leaf beetles recorded on Aristolochiaceae are the hispines *Chalepus* Thunberg, 1805 and *Uroplata* Chevrolat, 1836 occurring in the Nearctic and Neotropical regions, respectively. The family has also been listed as “secondary and accidental hosts” of *Aphthona* Chevrolat, 1836 without any true trophic relationship [Jolivet, Hawkeswood, 1995]. Species of *Orisaltata* appear to be the only flea beetles feeding on Aristolochiaceae and the only Chrysomelidae in the Oriental Region associated with these plants. This is yet another example to illustrate the value of the information on trophic relations in the classification of phytophagous insects.

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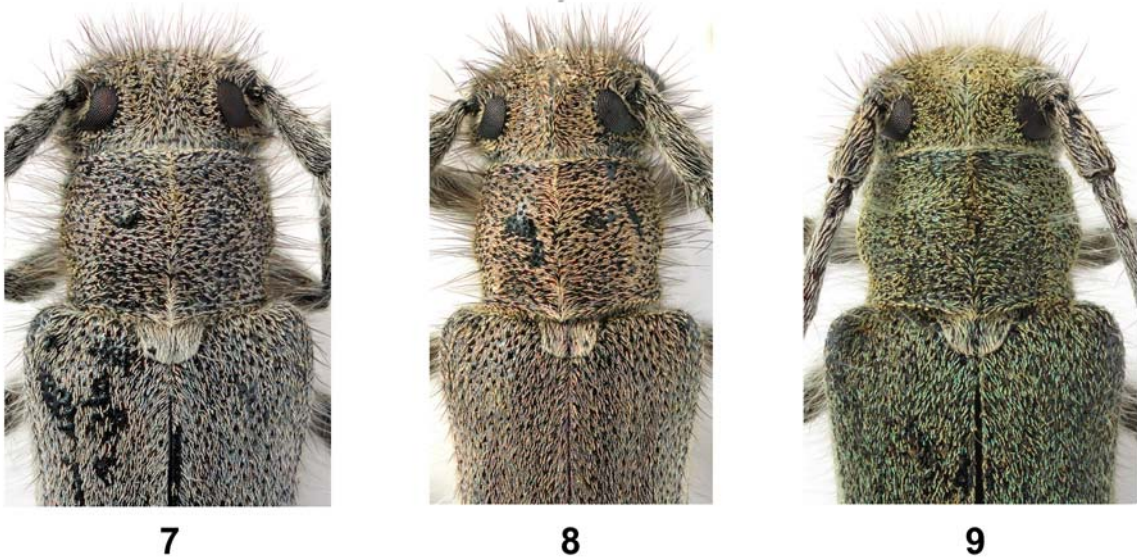


Рис. 7–9. Голова, переднеспинка и основание надкрылий *Phytoecia (Opsilia) prasina* Reitter, 1911.  
7 – *Ph. (O) p. kotaika*, **subsp. n.**, самка, голотип; 8 – то же, самец (Армения, Гехадир); 9 – *Ph. (O) p. prasina*, самка (Тальш, Госмалян).  
Fig. 7–9. Head, pronotum, and elytral base of *Phytoecia (Opsilia) prasina* Reitter, 1911.  
7 – *Ph. (O) p. kotaika*, **subsp. n.**, female, holotype; 8 – idem, male (Armenia, Gekhadir); 9 – *Ph. (O) p. prasina*, female (Talysh Mountains, Gosmalian).

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Fig. 1. Dorsal habitus of *Orisaltata medvedevi* **sp. n.**  
Рис. 1. *Orisaltata medvedevi* **sp. n.**, габитус сверху.

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