



A new species of *Lathrobium* from Kyrgyzstan (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae: Paederinae)

The Holarctic genus *Lathrobium* Gravenhorst, 1802 is represented in the Palaearctic region sensu Löbl & Smetana (2004) by five subgenera. According to the Palaearctic catalogue (Smetana 2004) and an updated version by Schülke (unpubl.), the highly diverse nominal subgenus currently includes 248 valid species and subspecies in the Palaearctic region (6 nomina dubia not included), with 73 (sub-)species confined to the Western Palaearctic (one of these species present also in the western parts of the Eastern Palaearctic), 167 (sub-)species to the Eastern Palaearctic including Middle Asia (two of them present also in the eastern parts of the Western Palaearctic), and with 8 species having a trans-Palaearctic distribution. Several species have become known from Middle Asia (Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan), but up to today no representative of the genus has been reported from Kyrgyzstan (Smetana 2004).

Owing to the vast number of species and generally weakly pronounced differences in external characters, a reliable identification of females is often difficult or even impossible. The morphology of the primary and secondary male sexual characters, however, is remarkably diverse and consequently of high taxonomic significance.

In the present paper, the first *Lathrobium* species from Kyrgyzstan is described. The holotype was discovered in staphylinid material recently made available to me by Peter Hlaváč, Košice. In view of the highly distinctive morphology of the aedeagus of this species and the availability of illustrations of sufficient quality in the literature, a description seems justified even if the types of other Middle Asian representatives of the genus were not examined.

Methods. The morphological studies and drawings were carried out using a Stemi SV 11 microscope (Zeiss Germany) and a Jenalab compound microscope (Carl Zeiss Jena) with a drawing tube. For the photographs a digital camera (Nikon Coolpix 995) was used.

Lathrobium lackneri sp. n.

(Figs. 1–10)

Type material. Holotype ♂: S Kyrgyzstan, Batken Province, valley Layle-Mazar, ca. 1500 m, 24–25.VI.2003, T. Lackner / Holotypus ♂ *Lathrobium lackneri* sp. n. det. V. Assing 2006 (author's collection).

Description. Measurements (mm) and ratios (holotype): head length from anterior margin of clypeus to posterior margin of head (HL) 1.39; head width (HW): 1.27; width of pronotum (PW): 1.30; length of pronotum (PL): 1.59; length of elytra at suture from apex of scutellum to posterior margin (EL): 1.54; length of aedeagus: 2.94; total length from apex of mandibles to apex of abdomen: 10.4; HL/HW: 1.10; HW/PW: 0.98; PL/PW: 1.22; EL/PL: 0.90.

Coloration: body black, with elytra dark reddish brown; legs reddish brown; antennae reddish brown, with antennomere I slightly darker (Fig. 1).

Head weakly oblong (see ratio HL/HW), of subrectangular shape; puncturation moderately coarse, in lateral and posterior dorsal area rather dense, diameter of punctures wider than interstices, in anterior and central area slightly sparser; interstices with fine and shallow microreticulation. Eyes moderately large, less than half the length of postocular region in dorsal view (Fig. 2). Antennae as in Fig. 1.

Pronotum slightly broader than head (see ratio HW/PW), puncturation slightly coarser than that of head; microsculpture absent (Fig. 2).

Elytra at suture slightly shorter than pronotum (see ratio EL/PL); puncturation finer and less well-defined than that of head and pronotum; microsculpture absent (Fig. 3). Hind wings apparently fully developed.

Abdomen with very fine and dense puncturation and with shallow microsculpture composed of minute meshes; posterior margin of tergite VII with pronounced palisade fringe.

♂: sternite VII with weakly concave posterior margin and broad shallow median impression with stout black setae directed diagonally medio-caudad (Fig. 4); sternite VIII with posterior margin in middle shallowly concave and with