



A new species of *Arpedium* from Kyrgyzstan (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae, Omaliinae)

The omaliine genus *Arpedium* Erichson, 1839 currently includes six species in the Holarctic region. Two of them occur in the Palaearctic region, *A. quadrum* (Gravenhorst, 1806) with a trans-Palaearctic distribution and *A. nepalicum* Coiffait, 1982 from Nepal (Herman 2001; Smetana 2004).

Eucnecosum Reitter, 1909 was originally described as a subgenus of *Arpedium*, but later treated as a distinct genus (e. g., Campbell 1984; Lohse 1963, 1964; Zanetti 1987). Four species are currently attributed to *Eucnecosum*: *E. brachypterum* (Gravenhorst, 1802) (Holarctic), *E. brunnescens* (J. Sahlberg, 1871) (Holarctic), *E. puncticolle* (J. Sahlberg, 1880) (Palaearctic), and *E. tenue* (LeConte, 1863) (Holarctic).

According to Lohse (1964) and Zanetti (1987), *Eucnecosum* is separated from *Arpedium* by the distinct microsculpture of the head and pronotum, as well as by the longer pubescence of the forebody. Lohse (1963) states that the former is additionally distinguished from the latter by the more slender apical palpomere of the labial palpus, the stouter maxillary palpus with the two apical palpomeres of subequal length (*Arpedium*: preapical palpomere shorter than apical palpomere), the apically not distinctly dilated parameres of the aedeagus, as well as by the more sharply delimited pair of impressions on the head. Campbell (1984) follows Lohse's typological concept, maintaining that *Arpedium* and *Eucnecosum* are "very dissimilar" and emphasising as distinguishing characters of *Eucnecosum* the coarse and dense microsculpture of the body (except the elytra), the absence of a subocular ridge, and the presence of distinct pubescence on the body surface. However, in the description of *Arpedium* he points out that the subocular ridge may be "greatly reduced" (p. 506). There has been no thorough phylogenetic study on the systematic status of the two taxa.

In staphylinid material recently collected in Kyrgyzstan by Ludger Schmidt (Hannover), two males of an undescribed brachypterous species of *Arpedium* were discovered. This species is remarkable not only because it is the first representative of the genus from Middle Asia, but also because it is in several respects morphologically intermediate between *Arpedium* and *Eucnecosum*.

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.

Arpedium ludgeri sp. n.

(Figs. 1–9)

Type material. Holotype ♂ : "Kyrgyzstan, Issyk-Kul, Terskej-A[latau]., Torsor pass, 22.VII.2005, 41°56'48"N, 77°22'09"E, 3700–3850 m, l. L. Schmidt / Holotypus ♂ *Arpedium ludgeri* sp. n. det V. Assing 2006 (coll. Assing)".

Paratype ♂ : same data as holotype (coll. Assing).

Description. Measurements (mm) and ratios (holotype, paratype): total body length: 4.5, 5.0; length of antenna: 1.37, 1.48; head width (HW): 0.62, 0.68; width of pronotum (PW): 0.83, 0.86; length of pronotum (PL): 0.57, 0.62; length of elytra at suture from apex of scutellum to posterior margin (EL): 0.62, 0.76; combined width of elytra: 1.01, 1.09; length of metatibia (TiL): 0.69, 0.72; length of metatarsus without claws (TaL): 0.36, 0.39; PW/HW: 1.34, 1.27; PW/PL: 1.45, 1.39; EL/PL: 1.08, 1.22; TaL/TiL: 0.52, 0.54.

Habitus as in Fig. 1. Head with moderately fine puncturation, interstices on frons on average approximately as wide as diameter of punctures; pubescence moderately long, pale, and suberect; dorsal surface without distinct microsculpture; in front of ocelli with oblong and sharply delimited impressions. Eyes moderately small, distinctly projecting from lateral contours of head, slightly longer than postocular region in dorsal view. Maxillary palpus with apical palpomere 1.5–1.8 times as long as preapical palpomere. Antenna rather short; antennomeres IV–VI less than twice as long as wide; VII weakly oblong; VIII–IX approximately as wide as long; X weakly transverse (Fig. 4).