



***Trichocateres fasciculifer*, a new genus and species of Trogossitidae: Lophocaterini (Coleoptera)**

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Abstract

Trichocateres fasciculifer **n. gen., n. sp.**, a new member of the tribe Lophocaterini (Trogossitidae), of very distinct appearance, is described from Assam (India) and northern Laos. The new genus is most closely related to *Lophocateres* Olliff, 1883 and *Indopeltis* Crowson, 1966. A key to the genera of Lophocaterini is provided.

Key words: Assam, Laos, Coleoptera, Trogossitidae, Lophocaterini

Introduction

Trogossitidae is one of the lesser-studied families of Cleroidea. Its modern classification evolved from the classic work of Reitter (1876). A century or more later, it was studied by Crowson (1964, 1966, 1970), Barron (1971), Slipinski (1992) and most recently Kolibáč (2005, 2006). The tribe Lophocaterini was originally established at the subfamily rank (Crowson, 1964) and the same author later erected the independent family Lophocateridae (Crowson, 1970). This concept was called into question by Barron (1971) but frequently followed by many other Coleoptera specialists. Kolibáč (2006) reduced Lophocateridae to a tribe within Peltinae, with the tribe Ancyronini as a sister group. The same author (Kolibáč, 2007) later discussed the possible paraphyly of Lophocaterini with regard to Ancyronini. This opinion may well find support in larval records, as yet unpublished, of *Ancyrona* cf. *diversa* Pic, 1921 from the Russian Far East (Artem Zaitsev, pers. comm.). The original concept of Lophocaterini, as established by Kolibáč (2006), is used in the following text.

Methods

The separated body parts (head, abdomen, legs) of a softened beetle were briefly boiled in 10% KOH solution. The mouthparts and genitalia were dissected in a drop of glycerol. After examination, all small body parts were mounted in a drop of dimethyl hydantoin formaldehyde on a card and pinned below the specimen. Ink drawings were made using a camera lucida and a compound microscope. Photographs were taken with a digital camera or through a binocular microscope with the same camera. Helicon Focus 4.21 software was used to stack certain images. All ink drawings were made from the male paratype from Assam. Male copulatory organs and abdominal segments VIII and IX were also studied in the paratype from Laos. The terminology used herein follows Kukulová-Peck & Lawrence (1993), Lawrence *et al.* (1999) and Kolibáč (2005, 2007).

Abbreviations

Head and pronotum dorsally (Fig. 3): fs = frontoclypeal suture.