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A new species of soft-winged flower beetles of the genus *Kuatunia* Evers, 1945–48 (Coleoptera, Cleroidea, Malachiidae) from Nepal

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Abstract

A new malachiid species of the genus *Kuatunia* Evers is described: *K. matthiasi* **sp. n.**, from Nepal, Seti Province; figures of male habitus, elytral appendices, genitalia, and a distribution map are presented. A determination key to all species of *Kuatunia* is also proposed.

Key words: Coleoptera, Malachiidae, *Kuatunia*, new species, Nepal, Seti Province

Introduction

The Genus *Kuatunia* Evers, 1945–48 has been recently revised by Tshernyshev (2012a, b); where two new species from China and northeastern Russia have been described. Out of the 13 species belonging to this genus, six are known from China, two from Russia and two from Japan; the three remaining ones are distributed in Madagascar, Thailand and Nepal. The new species, here described, was found among materials collected by scientists of the Naturkundemuseum in Erfurt, Germany, during an expedition to Nepal. A new determination key for the whole genus is also proposed, both to improve the old one (Tshernyshev 2012a) and to update it by insertion of the new species.

Kuatunia is rather similar to *Ebaeus* Erichson: the two genera differ mainly because of secondary sexual male characters: the former shows a sculptured area close to elytral apex (Wittmer 1995) and the latter has a double apical elytral appendage: a lamellar process and a flexible platelet (Wittmer 1999).

Previously, two *Kuatunia* species were described from Nepal: *K. hartmanni* Evers, 1996, and *K. bullosa* Wittmer, 1995. Later, the former was transferred to genus *Ebaeus* Erichson, just because of the above mentioned differencies.

Recently (Asano 2013) two Ebaeini species were transferred from *Ebaeus* Erichson to *Kuatunia*, *K. chibaensis* (Nakane, 1989) and *K. horaianus* (Nakane, 1991). Both species belong to *oblongula* species-group, *K. chibaensis* is distinctive in wide yellow coloration of head and white marking of elytral apices (Asano 2013), *K. horaianus* seems to be identical to *K. oblongula oblongula*, and, probably, should be synonymised after investigation of types.

Male genitalia have been embedded in water soluble DMHF (Dimethylhydantoin-formaldehyd resin) and mounted onto a transparent card which is pinned under the specimen boardcard. The holotype is deposited at the Naturkundemuseum, Erfurt, Germany (NMEG), paratypes are both at NMEG and in the author's collection, which is deposited in the Institute of Animal Systematics and Ecology, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Novosibirsk, Russia (SCH).

Kuatunia matthiasi Tshernyshev, 2015 sp. n.

(Figs. 1–8)

Type material. Holotype, male: NEPAL: "Seti Province, Bajura District, 19 km W Simikot, Kuwadi Khola, h~3500 m a.s.l., 29°53'14″N–81°38'40″E, riverbank, coniferous-birch forest, 04–05.VII.2001, A. Kopetz

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- Pronotum completely light, yellow or orange 11

10. Pronotum almost completely black except basal slope and posterior angles light yellow, head and scutellum black, antennomeres 1–3rd yellow at the inner side, remaining black, legs black with slightly lighter tarsi; elytra black with whitish apices and brownish suture. In male, transversal impression of elytral apices light, incrassate flexures black (Tshernyshev 2012a: fig. 17) . . . . . *emeiensis* Wittmer, 1995

- Pronotum orange with a longitudinal black spot in the middle; scutellum yellow at base and darkened distally, head yellow with dark occiput, antennae yellow, slightly darkened from outer side, apical segments almost completely dark; legs completely yellow; elytra black with narrow yellow lateral stripes slightly widening towards middle, suture light-brown. In male inner part of impression in elytral structures yellow (Tshernyshev 2012a: fig. 22) . . . . . *oloyensis* Wittmer, 1998

11. Elytra completely black. 12

- Elytra black with light spots on apices, in some specimens with narrow light stripes laterally, either on humeri or on suture 14

12. Elytra with dark blue metallic luster 13

- Elytra free from metallic luster; head black; mouthparts, palps and pronotum yellow-orange; antennomeres 1–4th yellowish darkened on outer sides, remaining black; scutellum and elytra completely black, legs black with all knees, tarsi and intermediate coxae yellow. Male elytral apices as concave and impressed plate apically (Tshernyshev 2012a: fig. 9) . . . . . *wolongensis* Tshernyshev, 2012

13. Pronotum orange, legs black with male tarsal comb brownish. Male elytral apices widely impressed with a large leaf-shaped longitudinal appendage in the middle (Tshernyshev 2012a: fig. 18) . . . . . *guilinensis* Wittmer, 1995

- Pronotum yellow-orange, legs yellow with darkened tarsi. Male elytral apices widely impressed twice stretched and impressed, with a small longitudinal appendage in the middle (Fig. 2) . . . . . *K. matthiasi* Tshernyshev, 2015 **sp. n.**

14. Head, maxillary palps, pronotum and legs completely orange, scutellum and elytra dark, elytra with narrow yellow stripe on base and humeri and yellow apices, antennomeres 1–4th orange, dark, 5th slightly darkened, remaining black. In male, specific structure as shallow trapeziform impression near the elytral apices with thin ribs on the external and inferior sides, and a thin small appendage near the suture (Tshernyshev 2012a: fig. 24) . . . . . *soppongensis* Wittmer, 1995

- Head black, legs almost completely dark 15

15. Legs completely black, anterior slightly lighter ; head, maxillary palps and scutellum black, elytra black with orange spots apically, pronotum orange, antennomeres 1–3rd yellowish, completely black on inner sides. In male, specific structures in each elytral apex with an entangled three-cells impression with a wide longitudinal upper appendage in a middle (Tshernyshev 2012a: fig. 23) . . . . . *sichuana* Wittmer, 1995

- Legs black with light tarsi and tibiae; head black, pronotum yellow-orange, elytra dark with small yellow apical spots; antennomeres 1–2nd black but yellowish spotted on outer sides, remaining black. In male, specific structures in elytral apices as complicated three-cell impression from outer side, and deeply impressed flexure near the suture with wide, longitudinal, upper appendage near the suture (Tshernyshev 2012a: fig. 16) . . . . . *bullosa* Wittmer, 1995

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