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Hypocaccus (s.l.) *hirsutus* sp. nov., an atypical new species of the genus *Hypocaccus* C. Thomson, 1867 from India (Coleoptera: Histeridae: Saprininae)

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Abstract

An atypical new species of *Hypocaccus* C. Thomson, *H. hirsutus* **sp. nov.** from south India is described and figured, but left unassigned to a subgenus. Current problems of taxonomy, morphological characters and inter-relationships of *Hypocaccus* subgenera are discussed and notes on the distribution of *Hypocaccus* C. Thomson, 1867 in India are given.

Key words: Coleoptera, Histeridae, Saprininae, *Hypocaccus*, new species, south India

Introduction

Approximately 20 years ago, a female of a very curious Saprininae specimen was sent to the author that was not identifiable even to genus. Several colleagues (P. Kanaar, Oegstgeest, The Netherlands; S. Mazur, Warsaw, Poland and P. Vienna, Venice, Italy) were consulted for their help with determination but none were able to determine its exact taxonomic assignment. Although I am hesitant to describe a new species of uncertain taxonomic placement based on a single female, I decided to do so after waiting for over 20 years in vain for further specimens. Nonetheless, the atypical morphological characters and rather remote type locality of the new species make it worthy of note. This work presents another contribution to on-going revisionary work on the genera of the subfamily Saprininae by the first author (Lackner 2009a–c, 2010, 2011a–b, 2012, 2013a–c, 2014a–d, 2015; Lackner & Gomy 2013; Lackner & Tishechkin 2014; Tishechkin & Lackner 2012).

Material and methods

The type specimen was soaked in water overnight, removed from its original pin, cleared from dust and remaining glue with 70% ethanol and mounted on a triangular point for observation. Measurements were made using an ocular micrometer. Body part terminology follows that of Ôhara (1994) and Lackner (2010) and the following acronym of museum collection is used throughout the text: TLAN – collection, temporarily housed at Staatliche Naturwissenschaftliche Sammlungen Bayerns, Zoologische Staatssammlung, Munich, Germany. Separate lines of the same label are demarcated by a slash (/). Abbreviations of morphological measurements follow Ôhara (1994) and are used throughout the text as follows:

APW width between anterior angles of pronotum
EL length of elytron along elytral suture
EW maximum width between outer margins of elytra
PEL length between anterior angles of pronotum and apices of elytra
PPW width between posterior angles of pronotum.

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