

## Two new species of *Stenidius* (Coleoptera: Anthicidae) from India and Laos

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**Abstract.** Two new species, *Stenidius bezdeki* sp. nov. from India (Maharashtra) and *S. elegans* sp. nov. from Laos, are described and figured.

**Key words.** Coleoptera, Anthicidae, *Stenidius*, Oriental region, India, Laos, taxonomy, new species

### Introduction

Following my previous contributions to the knowledge of *Stenidius* LaFerté-Sénéctère, 1847 (KEJVAL 2002, 2004), this paper describes two new species recently discovered by Czech and Polish entomologists in the Indian state of Maharashtra and in Laos. The number of Oriental *Stenidius* thus rises to 15 species.

### Abbreviations and explanations

The following acronyms of depositories are used:

|      |   |
|------|---|
| BMNH | Natural History Museum, London, England;  |
| GUPC | Gerhard Uhmann collection, Pressath, Germany;   |
| DBET | Department of Biodiversity and Evolutionary Taxonomy, University of Wrocław, Wrocław, Poland; |
| DCDC | Donald S. Chandler collection, Durham, New Hampshire, USA;                                    |
| HNHM | Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, Hungaria;   |
| MNHN | Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France;  |
| NHMB | Naturhistorisches Museum, Basel, Switzerland;   |
| NHMW | Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien, Austria;  |
| NMPC | National Museum, Praha, Czech Republic;   |
| MHNG | Muséum d'histoire naturelle, Genève, Switzerland;   |
| SMNS | Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart, Germany;  |
| ZKDC | Zbyněk Kejval collection, Domažlice, Czech Republic.  |

Data from locality labels are cited verbatim; separate labels are indicated by double slashes (//).

The terminology of body setation follows WERNER & CHANDLER (1995).

## Taxonomy

### *Stenidius bezdeki* sp. nov.

(Figs. 1, 3-7)

**Type locality.** India, Maharashtra, 4 km S of Lonavala, environs of Bhushi dam.

**Type material.** HOLOTYPE: ♂, 'W-INDIA, Maharashtra, 4 km S of LONAVALA, Bhushi dam env., 500 m a.s.l., 24.-28.ix.2005, J. Bezděk leg.' (NMPC). PARATYPES: 1 ♀, same data as holotype (ZKDC); 3 ♂♂ 1 ♀, 'INDIA, Maharashtra Pune Distr., Amba Vall. 16 km S Lonavla, 27 IX 05 catch., leg. L. Borowiec // India Expedition 2005 Dept. of Biodiversity and Evol. Taxonomy Wrocław University' (DBET); 1 ♂ 2 ♀♀, 'INDIA, Maharashtra Pune Distr., Lonavla Bhushi Dam, 13 X 05 catch., leg. L. Borowiec // India Expedition 2005 Dept. of Biodiversity and Evol. Taxonomy Wrocław University' (DBET, ZKDC); 23 ♂♂ 39 ♀♀, 'INDIA, Maharashtra, ca 30 km W of Pune, MULSHI env., 18°29'N 73°30'E, ca 700 m, 13.-16.vi.2006, Z. Kejval Igt.' (ZKDC, 2 specimens each in BMNH, DCDC, GUPC, HNHM, MHNG, MNHN, NHMB, NHMW, NMPC, SMNS).

**Description** (male, holotype). Head brown black, pronotum dark brown with paler rufous brown base, elytra brown with two paler bands, interconnected on suture, anterior band somewhat vague, transverse, narrowing mediad, posterior band evenly wide, moderately oblique from lateral sides antero-mediad; tibiae and tarsi yellowish brown, femora rather brownish, especially distally; antennae yellowish rufous, unicoloured.

Head 1.1 times as long as wide, widely rounded posteriorly; posterior temporal angles rounded but distinct. Eyes small, moderately convex. Surface nearly dull, owing to dense punctation and setation; punctation rather evenly coarse and dense. Setation subdecumbent to appressed, erect setae quite inconspicuous. Antennae distinctly exceeding base of pronotum, moderately enlarged in apical third; antennomere X as long as wide, antennomere XI 1.9 times as long as wide.

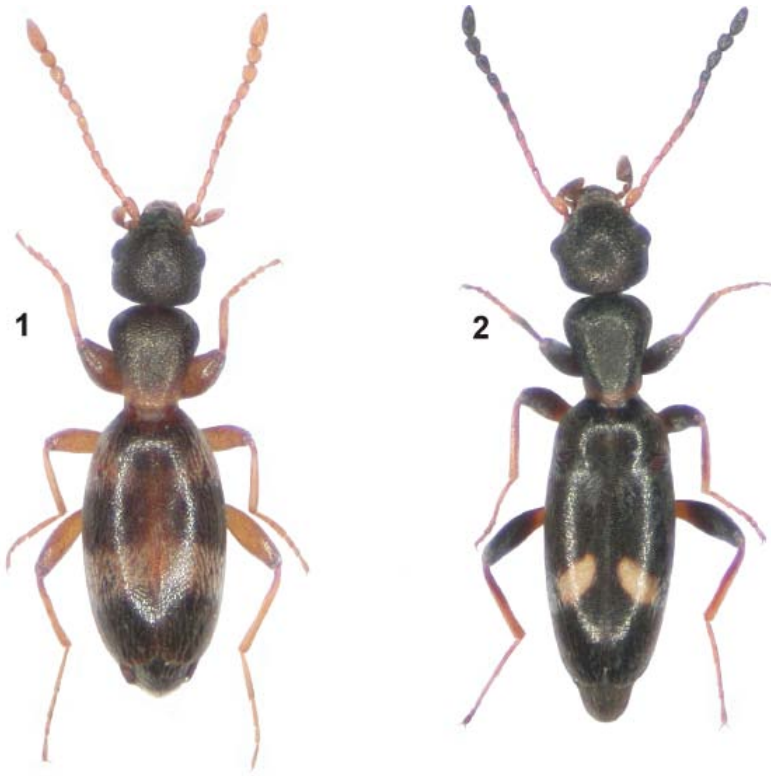
Pronotum widely rounded anteriorly, rather moderately narrowing posteriad, at most slightly impressed postero-laterally in dorsal view. Dorsal outline moderately convex, somewhat flattened posteriorly in lateral view. Dorsal surface nearly evenly shaped. Surface less glossy, similarly as head; punctation and setation as on head.

Elytra ovoid, 1.7 times as long as wide, convex, subtruncate posteriorly; humeri entirely obsolete; postscutellar impression absent. Surface at most moderately glossy, rather densely punctured; punctation finer and sparser than on head and pronotum, especially posteriorly. Setation as on head, erect setae inconspicuous. Metathoracic wings strongly reduced.

Legs. Penultimate tarsomere narrow, with terminal tarsomere articulated apically in middle and hind tarsi; fore femora distinctly swollen, their inner margin with sharp edge in distal half (Fig. 3); fore tibiae with minute apical protuberance on inner side.

Abdomen. Sternum VII (Fig. 4) moderately produced medially into rounded apex, with indication of an obtuse postero-lateral angle on each side. Tergum VII evenly rounded posteriorly. Paired prongs of sternite VIII (Fig. 5) simply shaped, rather strong, narrowing towards blunt apex, with numerous long setae along lateral margin in apical half. Tergite VIII evenly rounded posteriorly.

Aedeagus (Figs. 6 and 7). Apical portion of tegmen 1.25 times as long as basal piece, narrowing towards rounded apex in nearly straight line, with a pair of small, lobe-like, lateral protrusions shortly before apex.



Figs. 1-2. 1 – *Stenidius bezdeki* sp. nov., holotype. 2 – *S. elegans* sp. nov., holotype.

Female. Externally identical with male but differing as follows: fore femora slender and simply shaped, lacking inner edge; fore tibiae simple, lacking apical protuberance; sternum VII evenly rounded posteriorly.

Body length (♂♀). 1.8-2.2 mm (holotype 2.1 mm).

**Variability.** Insignificant.

**Differential diagnosis.** *Stenidius bezdeki* sp. nov. resembles the western-Palaeartic *S. vittatus* (Lucas, 1843) by its colouration, widely rounded base of the head, characters of punctuation and setation, simple form of sternite VIII, as well as by the presence of subapical protrusions of the tegmen of the aedeagus (cf. Figs. 213, 214 and 216 by BUCCIARELLI (1980)). It differs from the latter species by the somewhat more robust appearance, more convex, posteriorly subtruncate elytra with entirely obsolete humeri (indicating aptery), distinctly more slender antennae, slightly modified fore legs in males, and numerous details in the morphology of male sternite VIII and aedeagus.

**Etymology.** Dedicated to Jan Bezděk (Brno), collector of the holotype specimen.

**Bionomics.** Large numbers of specimens were observed when turning over stones at the top of a hill in a pasture while collecting *Tetramorium* spp. ants (L. BOROWIEC pers. comm.). In

Mulshi, I found the species to be quite common at a small, flattened place without stones, among fields of rather agricultural land, on moist clayey soil with sparse, mostly grazed growth of a tufted grass. I first took it by sweeping and then also collected individually on the ground as I rooted in plant debris near tufts of the grass. Of the ants present at the locality, the specimens of *Tapinoma* sp. were common and somewhat resembled the beetles by their appearance and movements. However, I could observe no closer relations between this ant and *S. bezdeki* sp. nov.

**Distribution.** India (Maharashtra).

*Stenidius elegans* sp. nov.

(Figs. 2, 8, 9)

**Type locality.** Laos, Vientiane province, 35 km NE of Vientiane, Lao Pako.

**Type material.** HOLOTYPE: ♂, 'LAOS centr., Vientiane pr., LAO PAKO, 35 km NE of Vientiane, 200 m a.s.l., on light 1.-4.5.2005, Petr Kresl lgt.' (NMPC).

**Description** (male, holotype). Head black, pronotum black with brownish collar and narrowly rufous brown base, elytra black with two paired spots, anterior spots situated posteriorly to humeri, only vaguely indicated, small and brownish, posterior spots situated in basal half, oblique, conspicuous, rather sharply outlined and contrasting yellow; legs with rufous brown tibiae and tarsi, femora largely brown black, distinctly paler basally; antennae dark rufous in basal half, becoming gradually darker, with distal antennomeres partly to entirely black.

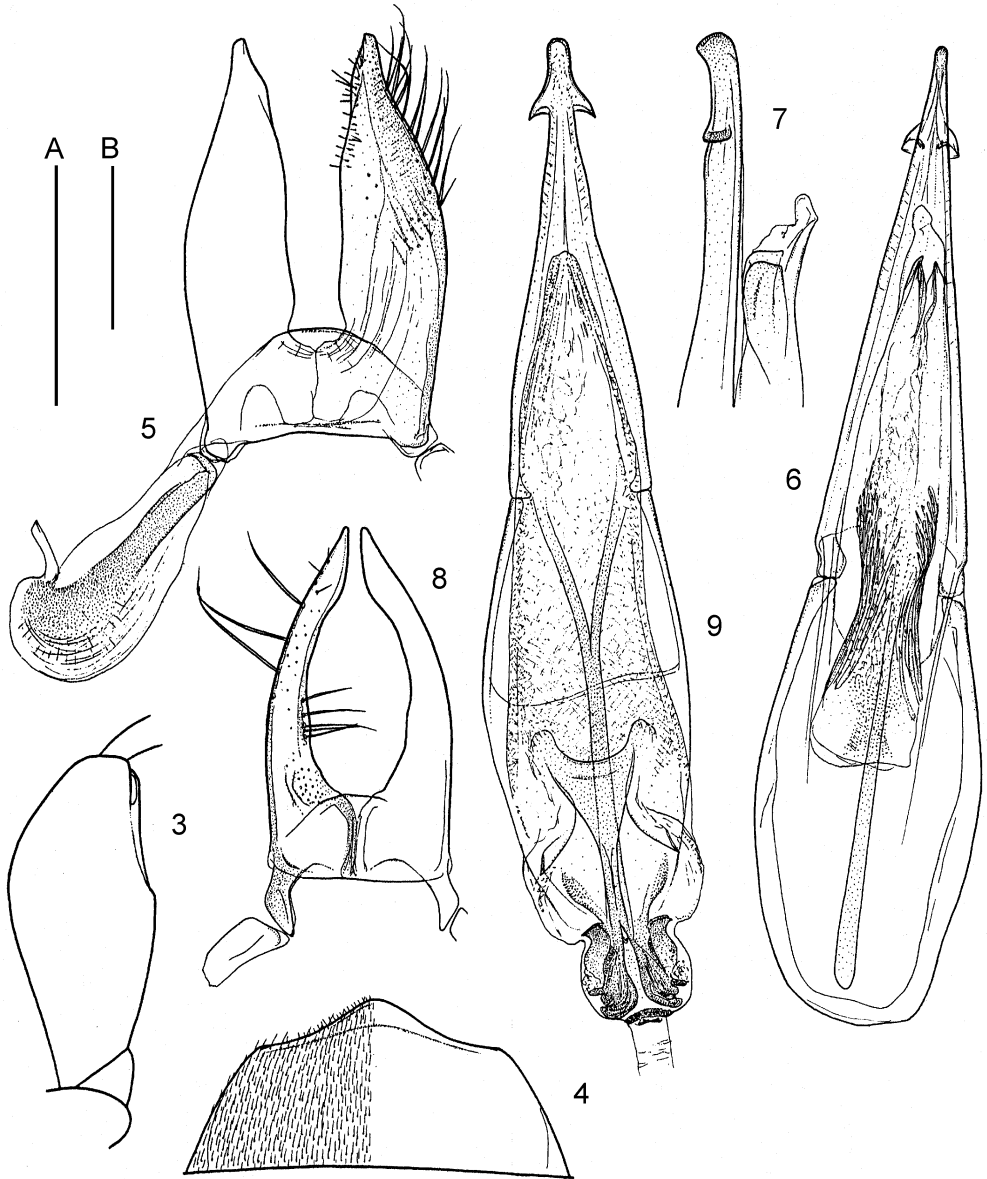
Head 1.1 times as long as wide, widely rounded apically; posterior temporal angles rounded but distinct. Eyes small to medium, rather convex and protruding. Surface less glossy, distinctly and densely punctured; punctuation distinctly double, composed of large shallow punctures and fine punctures, rather evenly dense. Setation short, subdecumbent to appressed, erect setae very sparse and short, quite inconspicuous. Antennae distinctly exceeding base of pronotum, moderately enlarged in apical third; antennomere X nearly 1.2 times and antennomere XI 2.2 times as long as wide, respectively.

Pronotum 1.2 times as long as wide, slightly narrower than head including eyes, widely rounded anteriorly, moderately narrowing posteriorly, only shallowly impressed postero-laterally in dorsal view; dorsal outline moderately convex, somewhat flattened posteriorly in lateral view; dorsal side with indication of shallow, median longitudinal impression. Surface less glossy owing to dense punctuation, impunctate only laterally near procoxal cavities; dorsal punctuation as on head, very dense, especially in posterior half. Setation as on head.

Elytra oval, 2.2 times as long as wide, nearly conjointly rounded apically; humeri rounded, only moderately protruding; postscutellar impression slightly indicated. Surface less glossy, rather densely and evenly punctured; punctures homogeneous, somewhat smaller than fine punctures of head and pronotum. Setation similar to that on head, unevenly directed, setae in postscutellar impression medially divergent from suture laterad, setae on anterior spots sharply pointing medially, setae on posterior spots pointing laterad and convergent with lateral setae; some erect but short and quite inconspicuous setae present in apical third. Metathoracic wings well developed.

Legs. Penultimate tarsomere narrow, with terminal tarsomere articulated apically in middle and hind tarsi; fore legs simply shaped, fore femora of rather normal size (not swollen).

Abdomen. Sternum VII simply shaped, rather evenly rounded posteriorly. Tergum VII evenly rounded posteriorly. Paired prongs of sternite VIII (Fig. 8) simply shaped, narrow,



Figs. 3-9. 3-7 – *Stenidiid bezdeki* sp. nov., holotype. 3 – fore femur; 4 – male sternum VII; 5 – male sternite VIII; 6 – aedeagus in ventral view; 7 – apex of aedeagus in lateral view. 8-9 – *S. elegans* sp. nov., holotype. 8 – male sternite VIII; 9 – aedeagus in ventral view. Scale = 0.2 mm: A – Figs. 5-9, B – Figs. 3, 4.

convergent in apical half, bluntly pointed apically, with several conspicuously long setae on lateral and median margin. Tergite VIII evenly rounded posteriorly.

Aedeagus (Fig. 9). Apical portion of tegmen about as long as basal-piece, rather evenly narrowing towards rounded apex, with a pair of sharp, lateral subapical protrusions pointing backwards. Median lobe of aedeagus with conspicuous sclerotized structure near base.

Female. Unknown.

Body length ( $\sigma$ ). 2.8 mm.

**Differential diagnosis.** *Stenidius elegans* sp. nov. can be easily recognized by the combination of its dark coloured body, widely rounded base of the head, rather coarse punctation of the head and pronotum, contrasting yellowish markings, and variably directed setae on the elytra.

**Etymology.** From Latin *elegans* (= elegant, handsome); named in reference to the colour pattern and peculiar setation of the elytra.

**Bionomics.** Unknown. The specimen was caught at a simple light trap (combined UV and normal bulb, white screen) placed near a river bank.

**Distribution.** Laos.

**Remark.** I have recently described *S. laopako* Kejval, 2004, from Laos and named it after its type locality. The holotype of *S. elegans* sp. nov. was collected at the same site. It was caught together with two females of *S. laopako* and several specimens of *S. cruciger* (LaFerté-Sénéctère, 1849) and *S. signatus* (Pic, 1922), all deposited in ZKDC.

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