

Notes on some *Hister*-species with description of a new subgenus (*Bellatrix* subgen. n.) of *Pachylister* Lewis, 1904 (Coleoptera, Histeridae)

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A new subgenus, *Bellatrix*, is erected to include *Hister bellicus*. Systematic status of *H. circularis* s discussed. For *H. hottentota* lecto- and paralectotypes are designated.

Key words: Histeridae, new subgenus, taxonomy

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INTRODUCTION

This paper presents a part of an ongoing effort to explain the taxonomic and systematical position of some species classified in the genus *Hister* L. This paper is based chiefly on the materials loaned from the following institutions: Muséum National d'Histoire naturelle, Paris (MNHN), Museum of Natural History, London (MNHL) and Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (MNHUB). Some informations were obtained from the author's collection (CHSM).

ANALYTICAL PART

Hister bellicus Marseul, 1864

Described originally (Marseul, 1864: 323) as similar to African *H. (= Exorhabdus) tropicalis* (Marseul) and, to a lesser degree, to *H. striolatus* Marseul (= *H. calidus* Erichson) but it is hard to find any affinities between them. On the other

hand, there are some features resembling those of *Pachylister* Lewis: triangularly expanded labrum in the male (Fig. 1), bisinuate posterior margin of pronotum (Fig. 2) and, first of all, the long edeagus with short basal piece (Figs. 3-5) as well as the 8th segment being short and wide (Fig. 6). Considering all these reasons, *H. bellicus* should be transferred to the genus *Pachylister*. From the type-species, *P. caffer* (Erichson), *H. bellicus* differs by inner lateral pronotal stria widely distant from the margin (Figs. 1, 2) and by not margined pygidium. From those of *Sulcignathos* Mazur (2010: 210) it differs by not canaliculated mandibles and by lack of median projection on parameres (Fig. 5). Thus, there is a need to establish a new subgenus of *Pachylister*, characterized below.

Bellatrix subgen. n.

Type species: *Hister bellicus* Marseul, 1864
Marginal pronotal stria complete laterally. Outer lateral pronotal stria strongly abbreviated basally,

the inner one complete, widely distant from margin (Figs. 1, 2). Pygidium not margined. Basal piece of edeagus very short (ratio of parameres to basal piece over 5.0). Tenth tergite divided into two parts (Fig. 7).

The remaining characters as in the author's definition of *Pachylister* (Mazur, 2004: 166).

***Pachylister (Bellatrix) bellicus* (Marseul, 1864)
comb. n.**

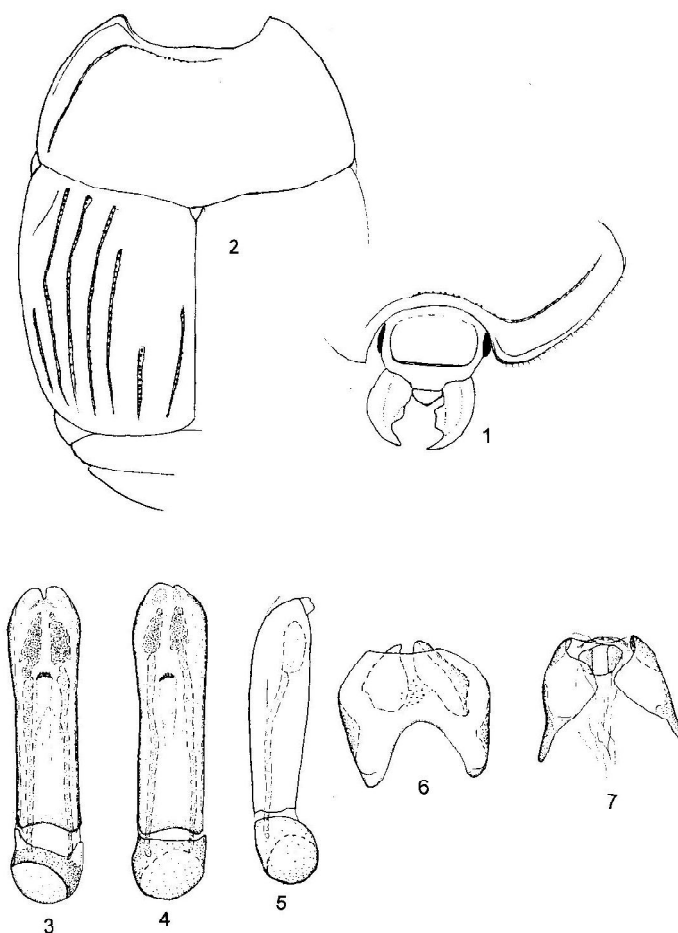
It is noteworthy to say that a sexual dimorphism in this species is expressed in the female propygidium being more distinctly punctured,

especially at sides and by having two foveae laterally. The pygidial margin of the female is also more abruptly marked as that of the male. Reichardt (1932: 117) noted also a presence of outer subhumeral stria.

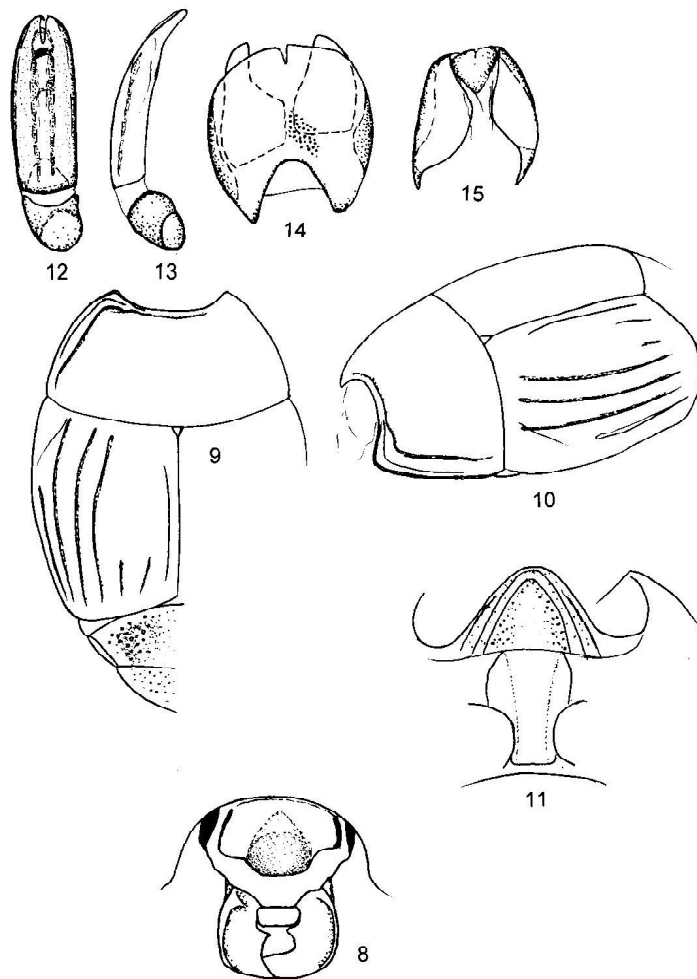
Material examined:

Type: a male, [Indonesia] Timor, Hister bellicus m., Type, Museum Paris, Coll. de Marseul, 2842-90 [MNHN].

Other materials: [Malaysia] Malacca (Perak), coll. J. Schmidt, 1 ex., [MNHUB]; Thailand, Mae Sa (Elephant Camp), Chiang Mai Pref., 2.III.1992, 1 a male, leg. Y. Okushima, Thailand, Maesa vill.



Figs. 1-7. *Pachylister (Bellatrix) bellicus*. 1 – head and pronotal part, 2 – upper side, 3-5 – edeagus, 6 – 8th segment, 7- 9th and 10th tergites, 3 – ventrally, 4 – dorsally, 5 – laterally



Figs. 8-15. *Hister circularis*. 8 – head, 9 – upper side, 10 – body, laterally, 11 – prosternum, 12, 13 – eedeagus, 14 – 8th segment, 15 – 9th and 10th tergites, 12 – ventrally, 13 – laterally

(Elephant Camp), 20-27.III.1988, 1 a female, leg. K. Masumoto, Thailand, ca 8 km S. Khao Lak, 08°36'36" N, 098°14'61" E, plantage, Umg. Merlin resort, 30.7–11.8.2007, 1 ex., leg. A. Skale [CHSM].

Distribution: A rare species known as yet from Indonesia (Timor), Malaysia (Malacca) and Myanmar (Taninthāri). New to Thailand.

***Hister circularis* Lewis, 1889**

This species together with *H. barkeri* Desbordes constitutes a very distinct group of African

species which may be characterized by presence of a triangular frontal fovea (Fig. 8), by very slightly rounded mesosternal margin, by doubly margined prosternal lobe (Fig. 11) and by curious shape of the male genitalia (Figs. 12-15). In consideration of these features it is highly probable that the creation of a new genus is needed but a resolving of this problem requires additional studies.

Material examined:

Type: a male, Senegal, (Coll. Saunders), Type, *Hister circularis* Lewis, Type, G. Lewis coll., B.M.

1926-369, [additional label by Wenzel]: *Hister circularis* Lewis, Type, RWL 70 = type off card in drawer 86 [MNHL].

Other material: [D.R. Congo] Congo belge, Kapanga, 1 a female, leg. Ch. De Wyngaert [CHSM].

***Hister hottentota* Erichson, 1834 (= *H. tropicus* Paykull, 1811)**

Described on a base of 4 specimens and synonymized later by Bickhardt (1919: 115-116) with *H. tropicus*, so a designation of the lecto- and paralectotypes is needed.

Lectotype: a male, 1) [blue, handwritten] *hottentota* Er., Pr. b. sp. Kr., 2) [white, printed] 48813, 3) [red, printed] Type, 4) [white, handwritten] *Hister hottentota* Er. Typ, 5) [blue, printed] Hist.-Coll. (Coleoptera), Nr. 48813, *Hister hottentota* Er*, Promont. b. sp. Krebs, Zool. Mus. Berlin, 6) [red, printed] Syntypus, *Hister hottentota* Erichson, 1834, labeled by MNHUB 2007, 7) [white, printed] Lectotypus, 8) [white, printed] *Hister tropicus* Paykull, 1811, Det. S. Mazur [MNHUB].

Paralectotypes: I) a male, 1) [white, handwritten] 48813, 2) [white, handwritten] *hottentota* Er. Typ, 3) [red, printed] Type, 4) [blue, printed] Hist.-Coll. (Coleoptera), Nr. 48813, *Hister hottentota* Er*. Promont. b. sp., Krebs, Zool. Mus. Berlin, 5) [red, printed] Syntypus, *Hister hottentota* Erichson, 1834, labeled by MNHUB 2007, 6) [white, printed] Paralectotypus, 7) [white, printed] *Hister tropicus* Paykull, 1811, Det. S. Mazur; II and III, sex undetermined, as labeled as the paralectotype I [MNHUB].

The male genital structure of *Hister tropicus* was earlier presented by the author (Mazur, 2008: 43, Figs. 1-5; Mazur, 2009: 256, Figs. 81-84).

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