

New Oriental Histeridae (Coleoptera)

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New Oriental species are described: *Nicotikis lackneri* and *N. bellator* from Malaysia, *Margarinotus (Asterister) unus* from Laos and Thailand and *Nagelius turgidulus* from Laos. Taxonomical and systematic status of *Nicotikis*, *Asterister* and *Nagelius* is discussed. A key to species of *Nicotikis* and *Nagelius* is given.

Key words: new species, Oriental Region, *Nicotikis*, *Asterister*, *Nagelius*.

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INTRODUCTION

This paper is a result of the elaboration of the rich Tomas Lackner's collection of the Oriental Histeridae [CHTL]. Some materials of the author's collection were also used [CHSM].

DESCRIPTION OF NEW SPECIES

Nicotikis lackneri sp. nov.

Body (Fig. 1) oblong, slightly convex medially, pitch-brown, shiny. Antennae and legs dark reddish-brown. Antennal club tomentose, with V-shaped sutures, sutures interrupted medially. Ratio of width of pronotum to head about 2.45. Frons almost flat, very finely and sparsely punctulate. Frontal stria of head complete, impressed and carinate medially. Labrum relatively

wide, indistinctly emarginate anteriorly. Mandibles convex, finely but rather densely (0.5 - 1.0) punctulate.

Pronotal sides weakly arcuate and convergent on basal 2/3, thence acutely convergent forwardly. Marginal pronotal stria complete laterally (Fig. 2). Outer pronotal stria well impressed and sinuate at sides, united with apical pronotal stria, the last one a little carinato-crenate. Basal end of outer lateral stria more or less distinctly prolonged along the pronotal base on about 1/6 - 1/5 of its length. Pronotal disc sparsely covered with fine ground punctulation, almost smooth at middle. Epipleura tristriate, besides of complete epipleural marginal and elytral marginal stria there is also a third complete stria. The last two ones subcariniform, all of them sinuate medially. Oblique and fine humeral stria present on basal 1/4. Subhumeral striae absent. First to 3rd

dorsal striae complete and impressed. Fourth and fifth dorsal stria abbreviated basally, the 4th one present on apical 2/5, the 5th one on apical 1/5. Sutural stria present, reaching almost to midlength of elytra. All the dorsal striae crenate apically.

Propygidium (Fig. 3) irregularly covered with ocelloid, large and round punctures, rather densely distributed (0.5 - 2.0). Pygidium almost smooth ore with some punctures medially, with very deep, enlarged fovea on each side, united basally by a row of large punctures.

Prosternal lobe broad and convex medially, its anterior margin rounded. Disc with several deep and round punctures at sides, rather distributed (0.2 - 0.5). Marginal stria complete. Prosternal process narrow, with two carinal striae united basally. Two lateral striae present, their outer edge carinate.

Mesosternum transverse and flat, its anterior margin emarginate. Marginal mesosternal stria bifurcate, interrupted medially and replaced here by a median mesosternal stria composed of three parts (Fig. 4). Meso-metasternal suture fine. Intercostal disc of metasternum with a little impressed median line, doubly margined laterally. Lateral metasternal disc densely covered with deep and semicircular punctures. Intercostal disc of 1st abdominal sternum with two striae on each side, the outer one of them abbreviated basally.

Protibia with 5 spiny dents on outer margin and a pair of spines at inner angle. Mesotibia with 4-5 dental spines on outer margin, sometimes some of them doubled, especially the apical ones. Apex of mesotibia with 4 spines. Metatibia with 3-4 dental spines on outer margin and with 5 spines on apical one. Meso- and metatibial apical corner a little elongate, usually with two spines. Ventral surface of profemur alutaceous, covered with distinct punctures, moderately densely distributed (0.5 - 1.5).

Male genital structures as figured (Figs. 5 - 8).

Length. PE: 2.8 - 3.3 mm, total: 4.0 - 4.5 mm. Width: 1.8 - 2.1 mm.

Holotype: a male, Malaysia, Pahang distr., 30 km NE Raub, Lata Lembik, 3°56' N, 101°38' E, 200 - 400 m, 22.IV-1.V.2002, E. Jendek & O. Sausa leg, [CHTL].

Paratypes: 17 specimens of both sexes, as labeled as the holotype [CHTL]. Four of them in the author's collection [CHSM].

Derivatio nominis. This species is dedicated to my colleague, Tomas Lackner, in appreciation of his studies upon the Histeridae.

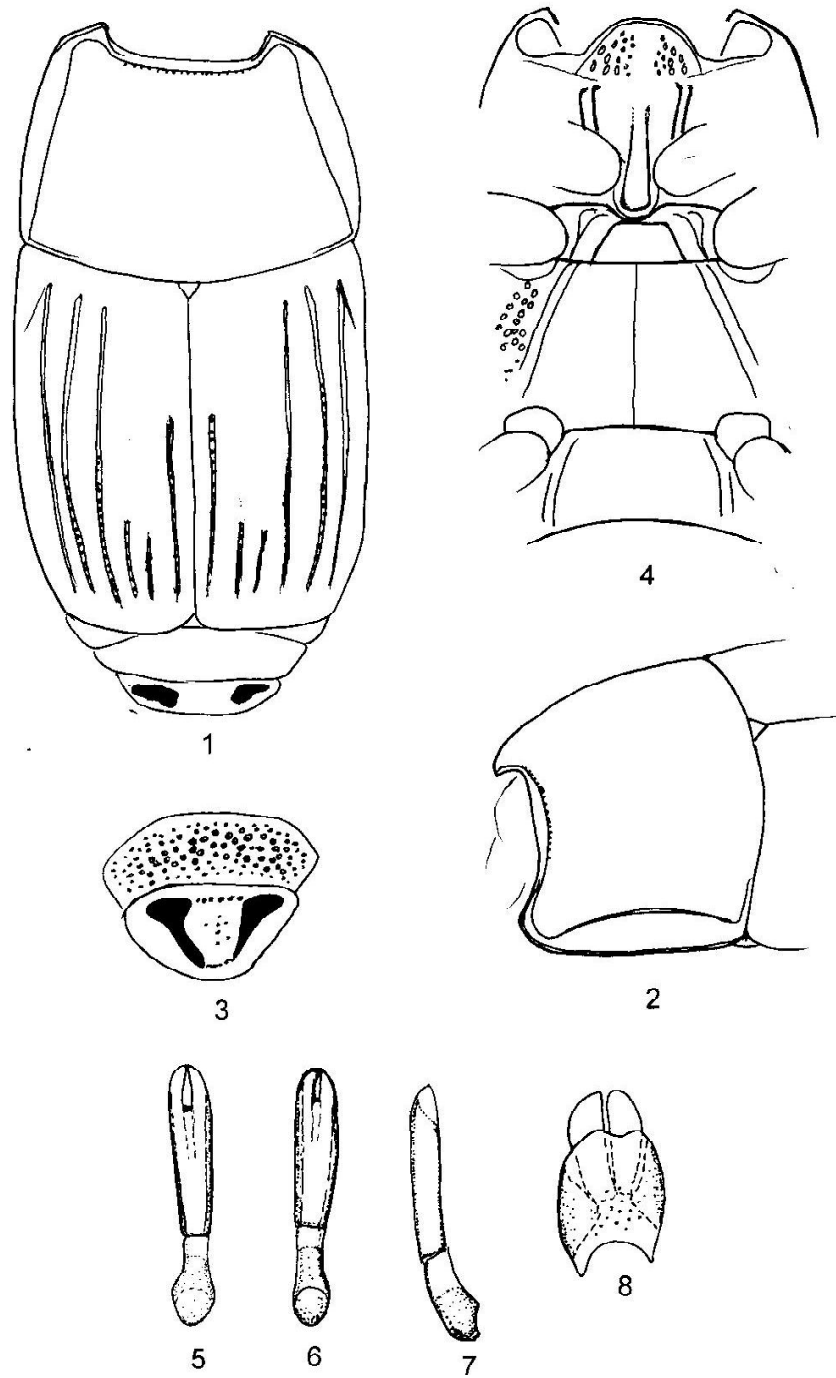
***Nicotikis bellator* sp. nov.**

Body (Fig. 9) elongate-oval, weakly rounded laterally, pitch-brown, upper surface densely punctured. Antennae and legs paler, rusty-red. Antennal club tomentose, two V-shaped sutures present, interrupted medially. Ratio of width of pronotum to head about 2.55. Frons concave, with some transverse punctures basally. Frontal stria of head complete, carinate laterally and united with orbital stria. Labrum incised, its anterior margin emarginate medially. Mandibles convex, finely punctulate. Inner margin of mandibles with large dent at apex.

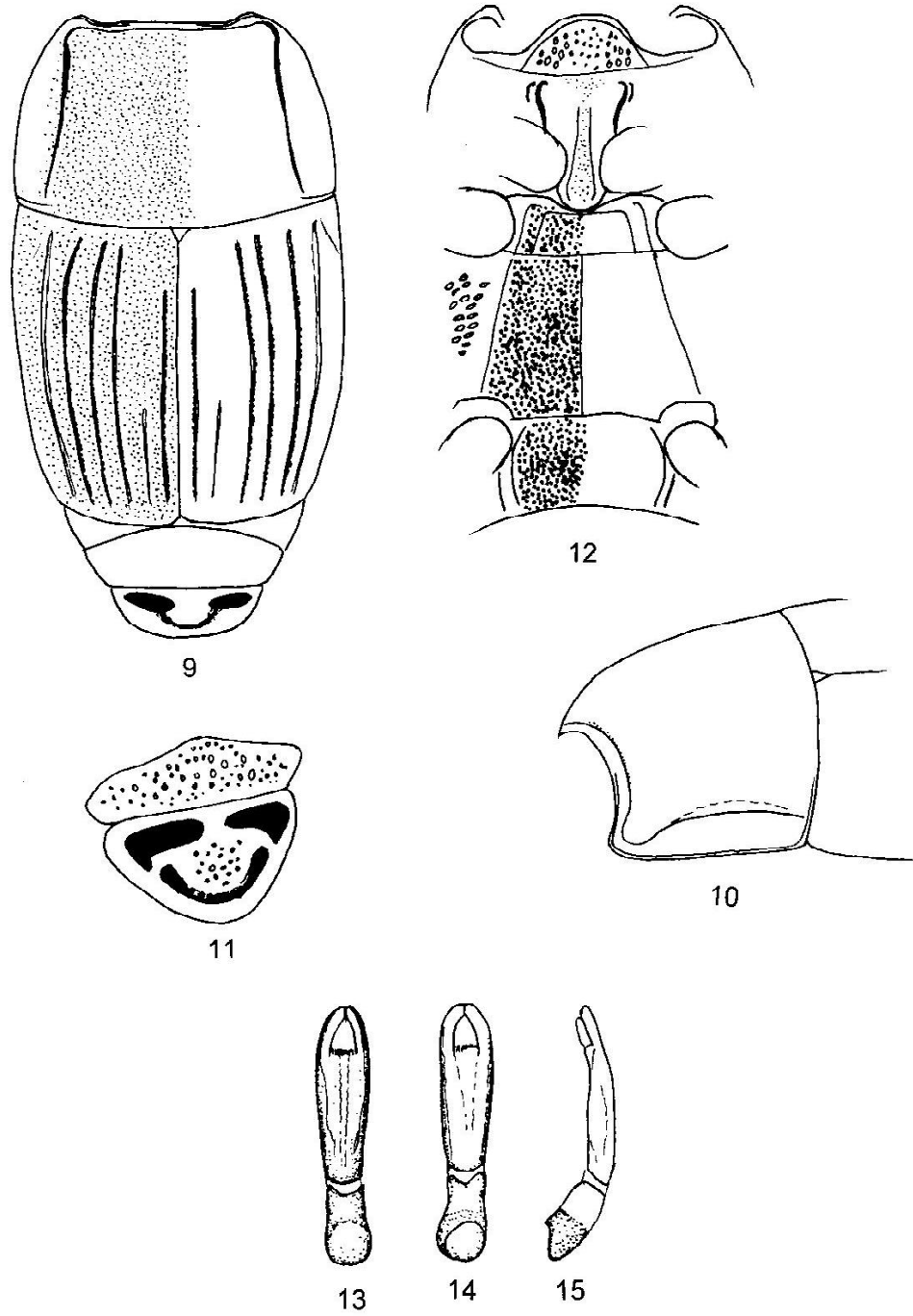
Pronotum feebly convex medially, its marginal stria complete laterally, interrupted behind head and prolonged basally along the pronotal base on about 1/5 of its length. Outer lateral pronotal stria (Fig. 10) well impressed laterally, a little sinuate and united with apical pronotal stria.

Epipleural marginal and elytral marginal stria complete and impressed, their ventral edge carinate. Sometimes an irregular row of punctures present between these striae. Oblique humeral stria very thin and indistinct, almost invisible. First to 4th dorsal stria complete and impressed. The 5th dorsal stria present on apical 1/3, Sutural stria abbreviated on basal 1/4.

Propygidium (Fig. 11) irregularly covered with rounded punctures of various size. Interspaces between punctures intermingled with ground



Figs. 1 - 8. *Nicotkis lackneri*. 1 - upper side, 2 - pronotum, laterally, 3 - pro- and pygidium, 4 - under side, 5 - 7: edeagus. 5 - dorsally, 6 - ventrally, 7 - laterally, 8 - 8th segment.



Figs. 9 - 15. *Nicotikis bellator*. 9 - upper side, 10 - pronotum, laterally, 11 - pro- and pygidium, 12 - under side, 13 - 15: eedeagus: 13 - dorsally, 14 - ventrally, 15 - laterally.

punctulation. Pygidium medially as punctured as propygidium, with two deep transverse foveae laterally and with deep apical sulcus, united sometimes with foveae.

Prosternal lobe (Fig. 12) rounded anteriorly, covered irregularly with large, round and deep punctures, especially at sides. Marginal stria thin, complete. Prosternal process finely punctulate, two carinal striae present, nearly complete. Only one lateral stria present, outer one strongly abbreviated basally, their outer edges strongly carinate.

Mesosternum transverse, flat, densely punctulate, broadly emarginate at anterior margin. Marginal mesosternal stria present at sides only, widely interrupted anteriorly and replaced here by a tripartite median mesosternal stria. Meso-metasternal suture as well as median line of metasternum fine and indistinct. Intercoxal disc of metasternum and 1st abdominal sternum as punctured as mesosternum. Lateral mesosternal stria straight, reaching to hind coxa. Lateral metasternal disc covered with large and deep punctures. Two lateral striae present on each side of the 1st abdominal sternum, outer of them abbreviated basally.

Protibia with 4 spiny dents on outer margin, the apical one bifid. Inner margin with 2 spines. Mesotibia with 4-5 dental spines on outer margin and 3 spines on apex, the apical external corner elongate. Metatibia with 3-5 spines and with 6 spines on tibial apex, its external corner elongate. Ventral surface of profemur with rugiform, transverse punctures.

Male edeagus as figured (Figs. 13 - 15).

Length. PE: 2.8 - 3.0 mm; total: 3.5 - 4.3 mm. Width: 2.0 - 2.1 mm.

Holotype: male, Malaysia, Sabah, Sipitang, Mendolong, T5/R, 1.V.1988, S. Adebratt leg, [CHSM].

Paratypes: female, Malaysia, Sabah, Sipitang, Mendolong, T3/W5, 17.III.1989, S. Adebratt leg; sex undetermined, Malaysia, Sabah, Sipitang, Mendolong, T1B/W4, 25.IV.1988, S. Adebratt leg, [CHSM].

Both the species described may be separated from the remaining species as given in the following key.

Key to species of *Nicotikis* Marseul, 1883

- 1. Elytra with 3 complete dorsal striae2.
- More than 3 complete dorsal striae4 present3.
- 2. Outer lateral pronotal stria not united with apical stria. Sutural stria present on apical 2/5, prolonged along elytral apex. Indonesia: Sumatra, Borneo.....*N. incisipyge* (Marseul, 1883).
- Outer pronotal stria united with apical atria. Sutural stria longer, reaching to midlength of elytra, without prolongation. Malaysia: Pahang.....*N. lackneri* sp. nov.
- 3. Each elytron with 6 complete striae. Sutural stria united with 5th one at base. India.....*N. lineipennis* (Lewis, 1908)
- Each elytron with 4 complete dorsal striae. Sutural stria not united with 5th one4.
- 4. Upper surface finely and sparsely punctulate, nearly smooth. Fifth and sutural stria of equal length, reaching to the middle. Vietnam.....*N. gratus* Cooman, 1941.
- Upper surface densely punctate. Sutural stria longer, abbreviated on basal 1/4. Fifth stria present on apical 1/4. Malaysia: Sabah.*N. bellator* sp. nov.

***Margarinotus (Asterister) unus* sp. nov.**

Body (Fig. 16) oval, convex, shiny. Upper side finely punctulate, the punctation variable, from very sparse and indistinct to rather coarse and dense, especially on pronotum. Head, anterior and lateral parts of pronotum, sides and apex of elytra and lateral parts of pro- and pygidium brownish-red. Forehead flat, moderately punctulate. Frontal stria complete, feebly and outwardly bent at middle, subcariniform. Labrum narrow, as long as broad. Mandibles feebly convex, extremely finely punctulate. Scapus and funiculus brownish-red, antennal club tomentose, with two distinct sutures.

Pronotum rounded laterally, sinuous at anterior margin. Anterior and lateral parts more or less brownish-red, the remaining part blackish-brown. There is usually a small, round and blackish spot on each pronotal side. Marginal pronotal stria complete laterally, interrupted behind head. Lateral stria distinct, incised and feebly crenate, parallel to margin, reaching basally the posterior angles and united usually with an apical stria behind head, sometimes narrowly interrupted behind eyes. Pronotal base with an indistinct longitudinal impression in front of scutellum.

Epipleural fossete flat or feebly concave, covered with some coarse punctures along outer margin. Marginal elytral stria absent. Marginal epipleural stria complete, impressed. External Subhumeral stria complete and crenate. Internal subhumeral stria absent. Oblique humeral stria present on basal 1/4. Dorsal striae incised and crenate, 1 - 4 complete, the fifth one reaching almost the midlength, the sutural stria complete, arched inwardly at base.

Pygidial segments feebly alutaceous. Propygidium with an elevation on lateral area and a feeble depression behind each posterior angle, its surface covered with double punctation, consisting of large punctures with flat bottom intermingled with the small ones, rather irregularly distributed (0.5 - 3.0). Punctation of pygidium similar to propygidial one, but sparser and fine, becoming finer apically.

Prosternal lobe (Fig. 17) rounded, distinctly margined anteriorly, shallowly and finely punctulate, more coarsely at sides. Prosternal keel very finely and rarely punctulate. Carinal striae thin but distinct, divergent anteriorly. Mesosternum straight at anterior margin, finely and rarely punctulate. Marginal stria complete, subcariniform, reaching the meso-metasternal suture. Meso-metasternal suture subcariniform, sinuate. Metasternum as punctulated as mesosternum, with coarse punctures along the lateral metasternal stria. Median line distinct. Metasternal apex with a fine transverse line. Lateral metasternal stria subcariniform, extending obliquely and posteriorly, united with oblique stria which extends inwards from the middle of metasternal-metepisternal suture. Lateral disc of metasternum densely covered with large and shallow punctures.

Intercostal disc of 1st abdominal sternum distinctly margined laterally.

Legs reddish-brown, a little expanded, the Protibiae with 7 small dents, the meso- and metatibiae with numerous spinules at outer margin.

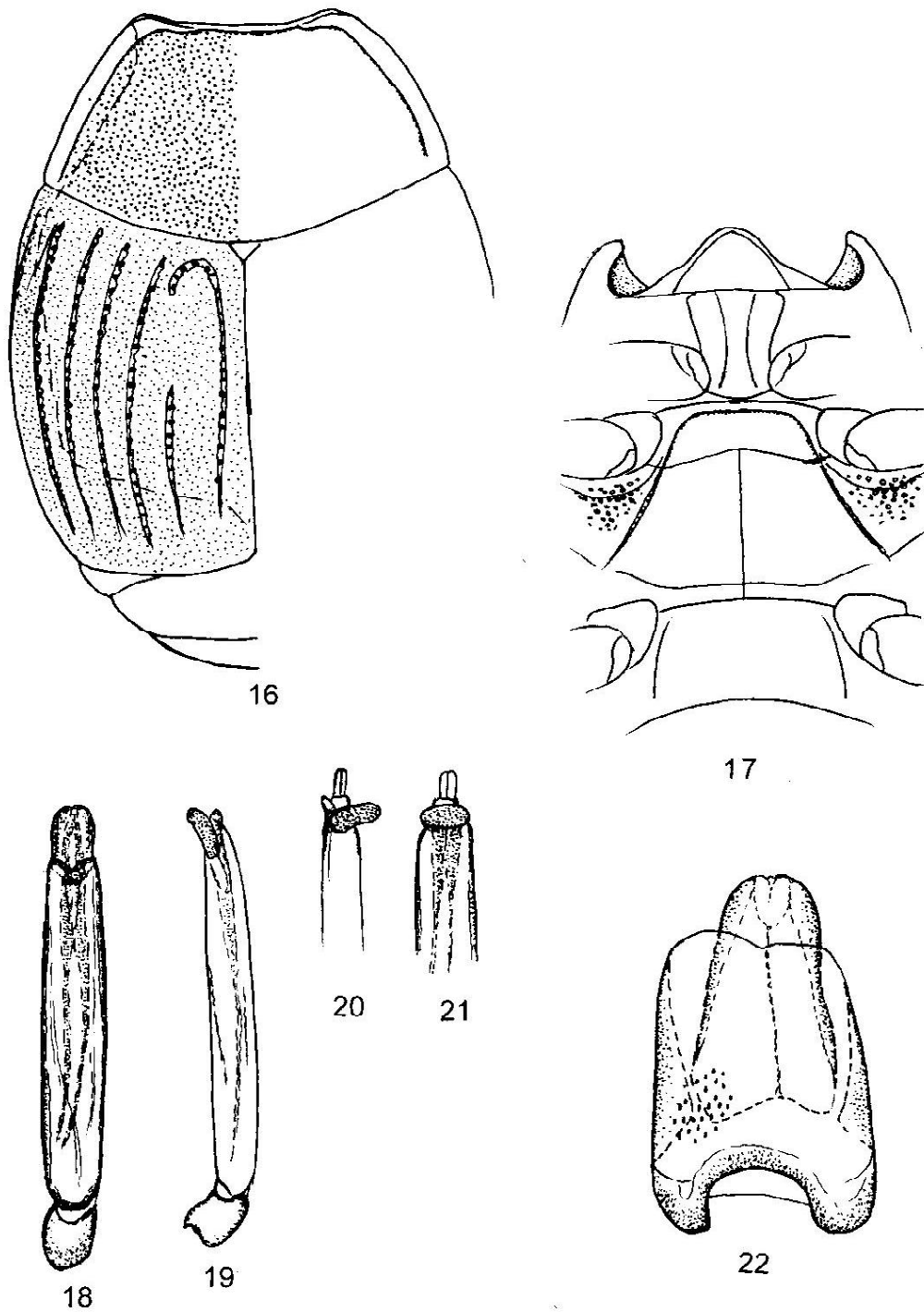
The genital structure of the male as figured (Figs. 18 - 21).

Length. PE: 2.8 - 3.3 mm; total: 4.0 - 5.2 mm. Width: 2.6 - 3.1 mm.

Holotype: a male, Laos, Bolikhamsai pr., Ban Nape, 7.-16.2006, 18°20' N, 105° E, E. Jendek & O. Sausa leg. [CHTL].

Paratypes: 31 specimens of both sexes, same locality, collectors and data as the holotype [CHTL]. Six of them in the author's collection [CHSM], Thailand, Doi Chiang Dao, Wildlife Sanct., Chiang Dao Dist., 500 m, 25.10-23, 11.1990, BF, P. Schwendinger leg. [CHSM].

Differential diagnosis. By the body coloration this species resembles *M. (A.) bicolor* Mazur, 1993 (Malaysia: Sabah), but the genital structure



Figs. 16 - 22. *Margarinotus (Asterister) unus*. 16 - upper side, 18 - 19: eedeagus, 18 - dorsally, 19 - laterally, 20 - 21: apex of tegmen with extruded median lobe. 20 - laterally, 21 - ventrally.

shares it with *M. (A.) curvicollis* (Bickhardt, 1913) (Taiwan).

***Nagelius turgidulus* sp. nov.**

Body (Fig. 23) elongate-oval, moderately convex, black and shiny. Forehead (Fig. 24) strongly, longitudinally concave, with some coarser punctures medially. Frontal stria complete, carinate, feebly and inwardly bent at middle. Epistoma concave, moderately punctured. Labrum transverse. Mandibles long, convex, distinctly punctured. Antennae as colored as body, funiculus solid, enlarging gradually towards the club. Club large and oval, tomentose, with two transverse sutures.

Pronotum transverse, rounded and narrowed anterad. Marginal stria complete, a little crenate behind head. Lateral stria present medially only, shortened at both ends. Sides between lateral and marginal stria concave. Pronotal surface sparsely and finely punctulate, more coarsely at middle. Epipleura covered with yellowish-brown and short pilosity.

Elytra about twice as long as pronotal length, finely punctulate. Elytral apex with some coarser punctures and a feeble transverse impression. Dorsal striae distinct, impressed, especially the external ones and feebly crenate, 1 - 5 complete. Sutural stria complete, joining angularly with the 5th one at base. Humeral stria very fine and indistinct, present on basal 1/4. External subhumeral stria incised, present on basal half only. Epipleura concave at apex, tristriate. Marginal epipleural stria reaching to apex, abbreviated basally and replaced by a second stria, very incised and widened here. Marginal elytral stria present on apical 2/3, strongly incised and enlarged and with a row of punctures at bottom.

Propygidium (Fig. 25) rather long, convex, shallowly impressed at sides, covered with double punctation, consisting with large, ocelloid and oval punctures, intermingled with the small ones. The punctation becoming gradually denser and denser towards propygidial apex (0.2 - 0.5).

Pygidium as punctured as pygidial apex, more finely apically, the dense and coarse pro- and pygidial punctation opaque.

Prosternal lobe (Fig. 26) rounded at apex, distinctly but moderately densely punctate, its marginal stria well impressed and complete. Prosternal keel finely punctulate, rounded at base. Carinal striae thin but distinct, divergent on basal 1/4 and then parallel, with a tendency to join basally. Lateral prosternal striae complete and carinate.

Anterior margin of mesosternum nearly straight, its marginal stria complete and subcariniform. Mesosternum very finely and sparsely punctulate. Meso-metasternal suture as well as median line of metasternum very fine. Lateral stria of metasternum extending obliquely and posteriorly, united with oblique stria that extends inwards from the middle of metasternal-metepisternal suture. Intercostal disc of metasternum sparsely clothed with fine punctures. Lateral disc of metasternum densely covered with semicircular punctures.

Intercostal disc of 1st abdominal sternum striate on each side and with an irregular row of round punctures at apex, densely distributed.

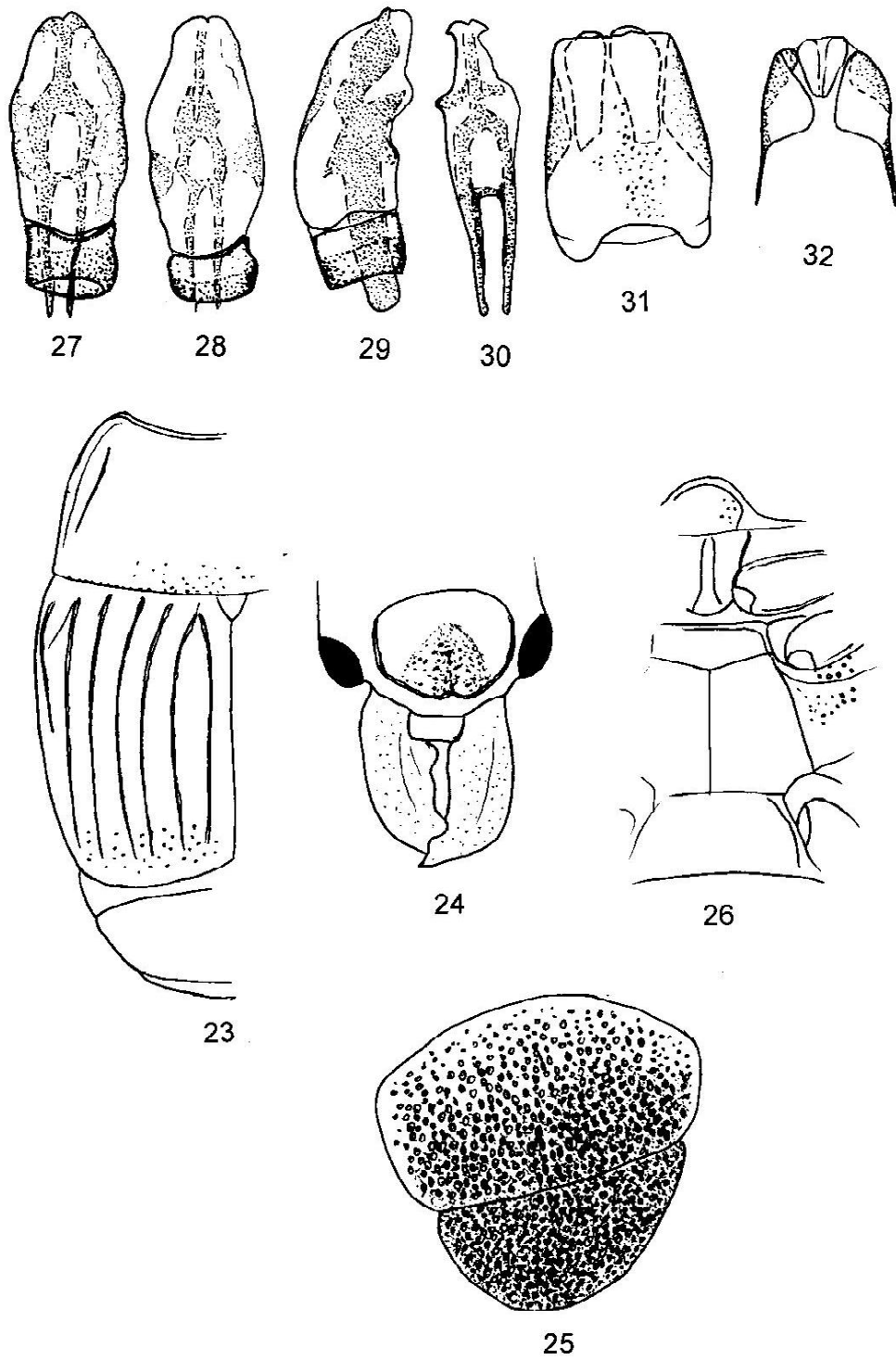
Legs distinctly dilated, the meso- and metatibia truncate at apex. Protibia with 10-12 fine spinules on outer margin. Tarsal groove slightly S-shaped, well defined ventrally. Meso- and metatibia with two rows of spinules on outer margin.

Male genital structure as figured (Figs. 27- 32).

Length. PE: 4.8 - 5.0 mm; total: 7.4 - 7.6 mm. Width: 4.0 - 4.1 mm.

Holotype: a male, Laos, Bolikhamsai pr., Ban Nape, 7.-16.2006, 18° 20' N, 105° E, E. Jendek & O. Sausa leg. [CHTL].

Paratypes: 7 specimens of both sexes, same locality, collectors and data, [CHTL]. 2 of them in the author's collection [CHSM].



Figs. 23 - 32. *Nagelius turgidulus*. 23 - upper side, 24 - head, 25 - pro- and pygidium, 26 - under side, 27 - 30: aedeagus. 27 - ventrally, 28 - dorsally, 29 - laterally, 30 - median lobe with posterior apodemes, 31 - 8th segment, 32 - 9th and 10th tergites.

It may be distinguished from other species of the genus as keyed below.

Key to species of *Nagelius* Lewis, 1909

1. Sutural stria abbreviated basally, not united with the 5th dorsal stria. Sri Lanka
.....*N. castelnaudi* (Marseul, 1870).
- Sutural stria complete, united with 5th dorsal stria at base 2.
2. Upper side finely punctulate. Body length over 6.0 mm. Laos.....*N. turgidulus* sp. nov.
- Upper surface distinctly punctured. Body length under 5.5 mm..... 3.
3. Propygidium less densely punctured as pygidium, shiny. Indonesia: Borneo.
.....*N. carinicollis* (Lewis, 1893).
- Propygidium as densely punctured as pygidium, opaque. India: Assam.
.....*N. limatulus* (Lewis, 1892).

GENERAL REMARKS

The genus *Nicotikis* Marseul, 1883 is closely related to that of *Eblisia* Lewis, 1889. According to Lewis (1903: 423) the genus *Nicotikis* has been insufficiently characterized and should be synonymized with *Eblisia*. This conception was followed by Bickhardt (1912: 224) who, however, joining both these genera, used the name *Nicotikis* as a priority. It was Cooman (1941: 314) separated again *Nicotikis* from *Eblisia*. In his opinion *Nicotikis* may be separated from *Eblisia* by oblong-parallel body, bifid mandibles and more or less margined pronotal base. Detailed examination of the species of both, *Eblisia* and *Nicotikis* showed, however, that these characters (with exception of margined pronotal base) were variable, being met in *Eblisia* and *Nicotikis*. Additionally, the presence of median mesosternal stria may be used for separation of these genera. In the species of *Nicotikis* this stria is situated between basal ends of the lateral metasternal striae (Figs. 4, 12), replacing the marginal mesosternal one whereas in *Eblisia* occurs only the marginal mesosternal stria, connected with the basal ends of the lateral metasternal striae.

Cooman (loc. cit.) synonymized simultaneously the genus *Mendelius* Lewis, 1908 (with *Eblisia tenuipes* Lewis, 1905 as a type). *E. tenuipes*, however, differs markedly from that of *Nicotikis* by marginate, not foveate pygidium and by different striation of the meso- and metasternum. Thus, one may suppose that *Mendelius* is a separate genus, not synonymous with *Nicotikis*. This supposition, however, requires further, detailed studies. Anyway, *Eblisia tenuipes* has been not included into a key to the species of *Nicotikis*.

The subgenus *Asterister* Desbordes, 1920 seems to be closely related to the subgenus *Grammostethus* Lewis, 1906 as a more specialized derivative of this species complex. As it was previously noted (Mazur, 1993: 219), the external differences between both these subgenera are inconsiderable.

The species belonging to *Asterister*, four in number [*Margarinotus* (*A.*) *niligirianus* (Desbordes, 1920), *M. (A.) curvicollis* (Bickhardt, 1913), *M. (A.) bicolor* Mazur, 1993, *M. (A.) unus* sp. nov.], are also very similar externally. Nevertheless, despite their external similarity, we may

find among them two types of the structure of eedeagus and median lobe of the male. *M. (A.) bicolor* represents a second type of the male genitalia (“niponicus” type; Ōhara, 1989: 37) whereas *M. (A.) curvicollis* and *M. (A.) unus* belong to a type of “ruficornis” (Ōhara, 1999: 15) in which, when median lobe is extruded, apical fifth of tegmen is bent downwards (Figs. 20, 21).

Lewis (1909: 294-295) establishing the genus *Nagelius* noted that “tibia [were] broad and compressed, anterior tarsal groove sinuous” as well as “I believe that the species of *Nagelius* are of subcortical habit”. Probably these notes were a reason for which Bickhardt (1917: 133, 147) placed *Nagelius* within the tribe *Platysomatini* and this classification was followed by next coleopterologists, including the author (Mazur, 1984: 253). Later, when describing the genus *Arbolister* (Mazur, 1990: 755), the author compared it with the genera *Cyrturus* Erichson, 1834 and *Nagelius*, classifying all these genera within the tribe *Exosternini* (Mazur, 1997: 43).

The detailed examination of the male genitalia (Figs. 27 - 30) as well as the antennal club of *N. turgidulus* clearly showed, however, that this species should have been placed within the tribe *Histerini* according to the characters used in a key to the tribes of *Histerinae* (Mazur, 1990: 751).

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