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# A remarkable new species of the genus *Quedius*, Stephens, 1829 Subgenus *Microsaurus* Dejean, 1833 from Nepal (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Staphylinini: Quediina)

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**Taxonomy, new species, description, geographical distribution, Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Staphylinini, Quediina: *Quedius*, subgenus *Microsaurus*, Palaearctic Region, Nepal**

**Abstract.** *Quedius* (*Microsaurus*) *laestrygon* is described as new from one male specimen taken at the mountain Phulcoki in the Kathmandu district, Nepal.

## INTRODUCTION

Since my revision of the Quediina of the Himalayan region (Smetana, 1988) only a few additional new species were described (Smetana, 1992; Solodovnikov & Kleeberg, 2004). In this paper I am describing a remarkable, conspicuous new species of the subgenus *Microsaurus* than cannot be confused with any other species described from that region.

## RESULTS

### *Quedius (Microsaurus) laestrygon* sp. nov.
(Figs 1- 6)

**Type locality.** NEPAL: Phulchoki (= mountain Phulcoki near Kathmandu).

**Type material.** Holotype (♂): NEPAL: "NEPAL. Phulchoki V. 1980, F. Morvan / Quedius? Rientis ? / Coll. Rougemont". In the Rougemont collection, England.

**Description.** Entirely black, maxillary and labial palpi piceous-black with apices of apical segments paler, antennae and legs black. Mandibles robust and prominent, medial margin of left mandible with two teeth on basal half, apical tooth triangular, sharp, basal tooth truncate and slightly sinuate apically; right mandible with simple, wide, sharply triangular tooth on basal half of medial margin. Head large ,of rounded quadrangular shape, narrowed posteriad, at widest point (across eyes) wider than at midline long (ratio 1.23), markedly impressed between antennal insertions , with posterior angles entirely indistinct; eyes small, slightly convex, tempora considerably longer than eyes seen from above (ratio 1.81); no additional setiferous punctures between anterior frontal punctures; posterior frontal puncture situated away from posteromedial margin of eye and them by it, separated from them by distance

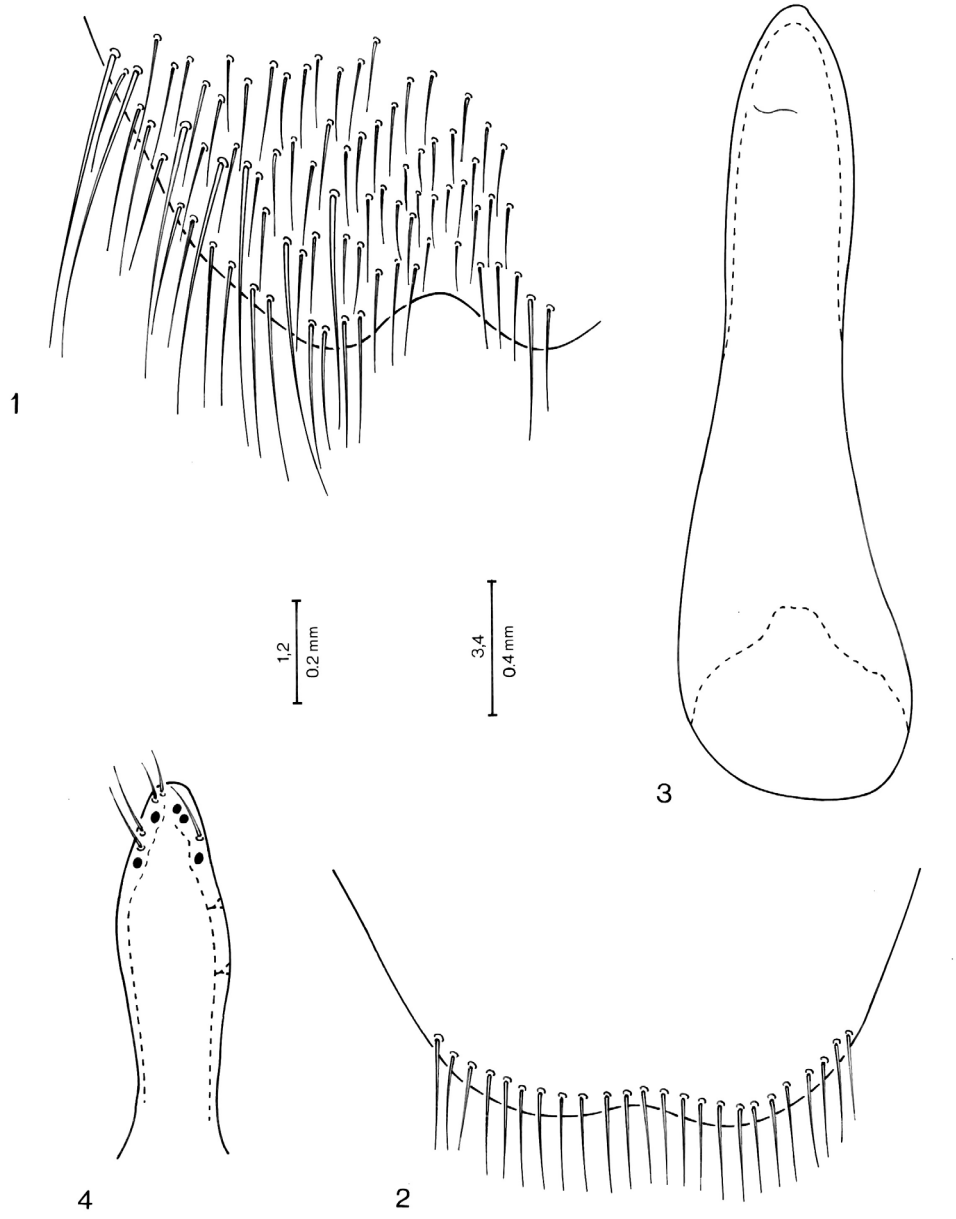
about five times larger than diameter of puncture, two punctures between it and posterior margin of head; temporal puncture situated about midway between posterior margin of eyes and posterior margin of head; tempora with a few quite fine punctures; surface of head with very dense, extremely fine microsculpture of transverse waves with intermixed micropunctulae. Antenna short and relatively thin, third segment markedly longer than second (ratio 1.63), segments 4-6 vaguely longer than wide, following segments becoming gradually shorter, slightly wider than long, last segment slightly shorter than two preceding segments combined. Pronotum slightly wider than long (ratio 1.22), widest at about middle, about equally narrowed anteriad and posteriad, with lateral margins continuously arcuate with broadly rounded base, transversely convex, lateral portions vaguely explanate in posterior third; dorsal rows each with three fine punctures, first puncture at anterior margin of pronotum quite fine; sublateral rows each with two punctures, posterior puncture situated slightly after level of large lateral puncture; microsculpture similar to that on head, but still finer and denser, with intermixed micropunctulae. Scutellum impunctate, with extremely fine microsculpture of transverse striae and with some micropunctulae on middle portion. Elytra relatively long, at base somewhat narrower than pronotum at widest point, at suture about as long as, at sides longer than pronotum at midline (ratio 1.27); punctation rather coarse, dense, transverse interspaces between punctures mostly smaller than diameters of punctures, pubescence fine, black; surface between punctures with some microscopic irregularities, shiny. Wings fully developed. Abdomen with tergum 7 (fifth visible) with distinct whitish apical seam of palisade fringe; punctation of terga much finer than that on elytra, moderately dense, evenly covering each tergum, gradually becoming finer and denser toward apex of abdomen; pubescence stiff and rather long, black, gradually becoming finer and shorter toward apex of abdomen; surface between punctures with excessively fine microsculpture of transverse striae.

Male. First four segments of front tarsus dilated, subbilobed, each densely covered with tenant setae ventrally; segment 2 vaguely wider that apex of tibia (ratio 1.11); segment 4 markedly narrower than preceding segments Sternum 8 with numerous long setae on each side, with moderately wide and deep triangular medioapical emargination, no small flattened, smooth area before emargination, tergal setation present up to apical margin (Fig. 1). Tergum 8 with slight medioapical sinuation (Fig. 2) Genital segment with tergum 10 markedly narrowed toward narrowly arcuate apex (see Comments); sternum 9 with apical portion slightly emarginate apically (see Comments). Aedoeagus (Figs 3-4) simple, median lobe with narrowly arcuate apex, on face adjacent to paramere with slightly sinuate transverse carina well below apex; paramere short, with obtuse apex, two fine apical setae situated away from middle of apex, two markedly longer setae at left margin below apex, and one similar seta at right margin; five sensory peg setae on underside of paramere situated as in Fig. 4 (see Comments).

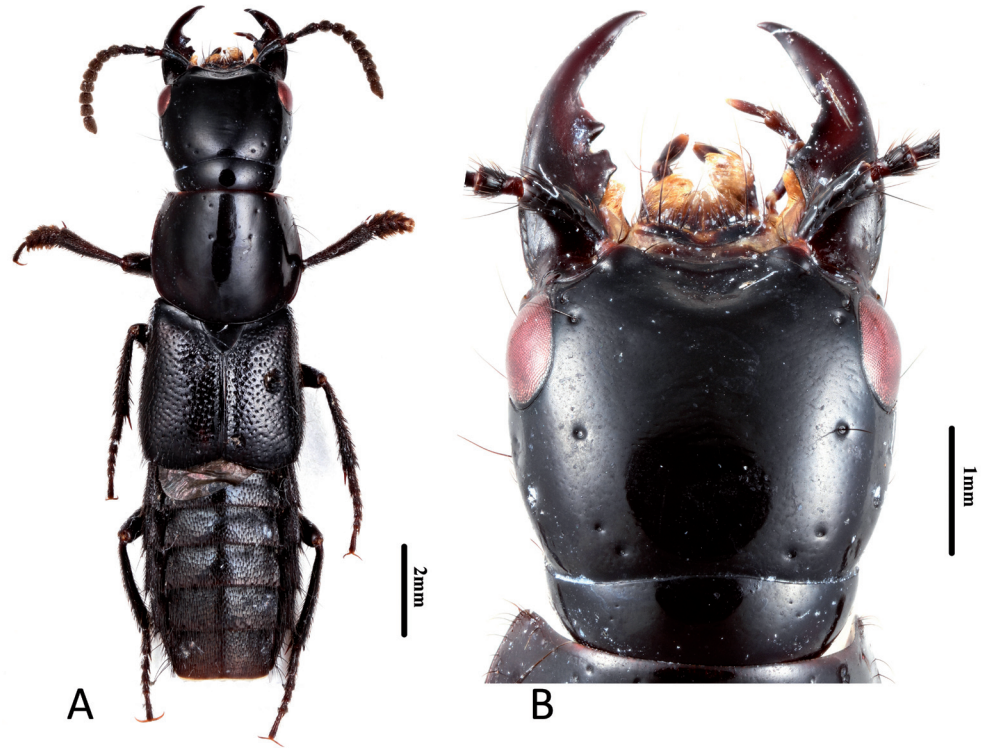
Female unknown.

Length 14.0 mm (mandibles excluded).

**Geographical distribution.** *Quedius laestrygon* is at present known only from the type locality, the mountain Phulcoki in the Kathmandu district.




Figs 1-4. *Quedius laestrygon* sp. nov.: 1- partial apical portion of male sternum 8; 2- apical portion of male tergum 8; 3- aedoeagus, paramere removed; 4- apical portion of underside of paramere with sensory peg setae.




Figs 5-6. *Quedius laestrygon* sp. nov.: 5- habitus; 6- head, detail.

**Bionomics.** Nothing is known about the habitat requirements of this species.

**Recognition and comments.** *Quedius laestrygon* is a very distinctive species due to its large, robust black body, the large, prominent mandibles with dents as described, by the shape of the head with distinctive impression between antennal insertions, in combination with the chaetotaxy of the head and pronotum, the absence of the flattened smooth area on front of the medioapical emargination of the male sternum 8, and the simple aedoeagus with paramere bearing only a few sensory peg setae on its underside. It cannot be confused with any other species.

The holotype was received dissected with the sclerites of the male genital segment somewhat damaged and with the paramere separated from the body of the aedoeagus. For these reasons the sclerites of the male genital segment are not illustrated and the relationship of the apices of the median lobe and the paramere could not be given.

The holotype is missing the last segment of right front tarsus.

**Etymology.** The specific epithet, a noun in apposition, is the singular form of "*Laestrygones"*, who were the savage cannibalistic giants of Homer, residing in a "remote western country". The name refers to the large size and the "intimidating" habitus of the species.

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