

***Falsammidium medvedevi* sp. n. (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Opatrini)
from Masirah Island, Oman**

***Falsammidium medvedevi* sp. n. (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Opatrini)
с острова Масирах, Оман**

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Ключевые слова: Tenebrionidae, Opatrini, *Falsammidium*, новый вид, Оман, Масирах.

Abstract. *Falsammidium medvedevi* sp. n. is described from Masirah Island before the coast of Oman. The new species can be mainly separated from *Falsammidium rugulipenne* (Fairmaire, 1896) by the modified anterior tibiae externally with a long tooth. The genus *Falsammidium* Koch, 1960 (Tenebrionidae: Opatrini) contains now 3 species and is distributed in the Arabian Peninsula and adjacent islands, in Somalia, Erythrea, and probably also in Kenya. The congeners are wingless and populate litoral habitats.

Резюме. В статье описан новый вид *Falsammidium medvedevi* sp. n. с острова Марисах (у побережья Омана). Новый вид отличается от *Falsammidium rugulipenne* (Fairmaire, 1896) длинным выростом с наружной стороны передних голеней. Род *Falsammidium* Koch, 1960 (Tenebrionidae: Opatrini) включает в настоящее время 3 вида, распространенных на Арабском полуострове и близлежащих островах, в Сомали, Эритрее и, возможно, в Кении. Представители близких таксонов бескрылые, характерны для морских побережий.

Introduction

The tenebrionid tribe Opatrini Brullé, 1832 (subfamily Tenebrioninae Latreille, 1802) contains a group of genera around *Clitobius* Mulsant et Rey, 1859, which were treated by Koch [1959, 1960] and Ferrer [2001]. Most of these genera are monotypic and their phylogenetical relations are unknown. Many congeners are wingless and characterized by psammophilous life in litoral habitats in Africa, Arabia and adjacent islands.

From the Arabian Peninsula, 2 genera of this group were known [Kaszab, 1982]: *Clitobius* Mulsant et Rey, 1859 (2 species) and *Falsammidium* Koch, 1960 (2 species). The present contribution presents a third Arabian species of *Falsammidium* new to science with striking modified anterior tibiae at least in females (males not available), probably endemic on the Masirah Island before the coast of Oman. This species is dedicated to the late Prof. Gleb Medvedev (1931–2009).

The genus *Falsammidium* Koch, 1960 (type species *Clitobius laevipennis* Fairmaire, 1892) is distributed in the Arabian Peninsula, on Perim Island in the Red Sea, in Somalia, Erythrea, and probably also in Kenya. The similar

(? and related) genus *Ammidium* Erichson, 1843 (type species *Ammidium ciliatum* Erichson, 1843) has an allopatric distribution on the Capverdes and at the African western coast southwards up to Namibia.

Depositories:

HNHM – Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, Hungary.

SMNS – Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart, Germany.

Falsammidium laevipenne (Fairmaire, 1892)

New studied material. Somalia, Obock, leg. Martin, 1 ex. (HNHM); Somalia, Bosaso, 09.1959, leg. C. Koch, 1 ex. (SMNS).

Distribution. Somalia (type locality Obock), Erythrea.

Falsammidium rugulipenne (Fairmaire, 1896)

(Fig. 1–4)

New studied material. Yemen, Perim Island., 4.10.1902, leg. M. Cameron, 1♀ (HNHM); Yemen, near Aden, 12.01.1985, leg. W. Wranik, 1♂, 1♀ (SMNS).

Distribution. Somalia (type locality Djibuti), Yemen (Perim Island, Aden), ? Kenya.

Falsammidium medvedevi sp. n.

(Fig. 5–7)

Material. Holotype (♀): Oman, Masirah Island, near Ras Hilf, 7.03.2001, leg. D. Liebegott (SMNS). Paratypes: Same data as holotype, 3♀ (SMNS).

Description. Body length 5–5.5 mm. Dorsal side and all appendages dark ferruginous, dull; elytra with traces of darker stripes near the punctural rows. Head with regularly granulated surface, granules with microsetae; genae and clypeus with upbent margins, clypeal suture prominent, without incision between clypeus and genae, genae not protruding eyes; eyes reniform; antennae (fig. 6) short with the last 5 antennomeres forming an indistinct club. Pronotum widest behind the middle, anterior corners marked but not protruding, posterior corners rounded, basal margin slightly sinuated; lateral parts not flattened; basal and lateral margins regularly with light longer setae; pronotum without subbasal impressions, surface with punctures and between punctures distinctly shagreened, punctures on disc without, laterally with granules, all punctures with microsetae; propleures with feeble longitudinal wrinkles, surface with similar granulation as pronotal lateral parts. Prosternal apophysis not prominent. Metaventricle with similar punctation and setation as surface of femora, medially with a distinct longitudinal

* Contribution to Tenebrionidae no. 81. For no. 80 see: Arthropod Fauna of the UAE, vol. 3 (2010).

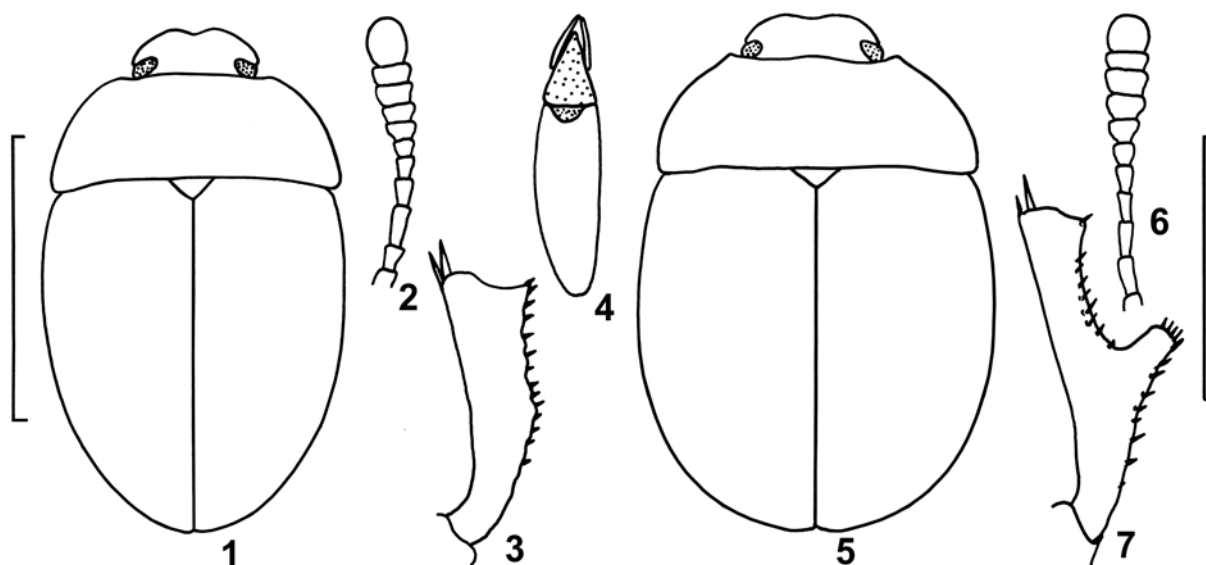


Fig. 1–7. *Falsammidium*.

1–4 – *F. rugulipenne* (Fairmaire, 1896), male non-type, Perim Island, SMNS; 5–7 – *F. medvedevi* sp. n., female, holotype, SMNS; 1, 5 – body shape; 2, 6 – antenna; 3, 7 – anterior tibia; 4 – aedeagus. Scale lines: 3 mm (body shape), 1 mm (antenna, tibia, aedeagus).

Рис. 1–7. *Falsammidium*.

1–4 – *Falsammidium rugulipenne* (Fairmaire, 1896), самец, не типовой экземпляра, остров Перим, SMNS; 5–7. *Falsammidium medvedevi* sp. n., female, holotype, SMNS; 1, 5 – габитус; 2, 6 – усик; 3, 7 – передняя голень; 4 – эдеагус. Масштаб: 3 мм (габитус), 1 мм (усик, голень, эдеагус).

stria. Scutellum visible. Wings absent. Elytra of round shape, widest in the middle; surface with punctural rows without striae, punctures in the rows without any setation; intervals with fine punctures, these with microgranules and light and distinct micosestae; lateral margin with regular longer setae somewhat longer than those of pronotal margins; epipleures abruptly narrowed shortly before apex, surface with similar microgranulation and setation as elytral intervals. Abdominal ventrites with similar punctation and setation as metaventrite, ventrites laterally with longitudinal wrinkles, last ventrite without modification. Legs with dull, granulated surface, with light setae; femora without modifications; anterior tibia (Fig. 7) before the middle externally with a distinct tooth at least in females, internal margin straight; middle tibia slightly sinuated and externally with a keel bearing a regular row of longer setae; posterior tibiae straight and round, without lateral keel; all tibial spurs long; all terminal tarsomeres longer than basal tarsomeres combined. Aedeagus unknown, only females available.

Diagnosis. *F. medvedevi* sp. n. shares with *F. rugulipenne* (Fairmaire, 1896) the larger body size (4.5–7 mm in *F. rugulipenne*), the dorsal punctation, microgranulation and setation, as well as the existence of the elytral punctural rows. Besides a broader body shape (compare fig. 1, 5), *F. medvedevi* sp. n. can be mainly separated by the modified anterior tibiae with a striking tooth (only with indistinct dentation in *F. rugulipenne*) (fig. 3, 7). Additionally, the middle tibiae in *F. medvedevi* sp. n. are somewhat sinuated (straight in *F. rugulipenne*). Unfortunately, the aedeagi can not be compared, because from *F. medvedevi* sp. n. only females are available. The remaining species of the genus, *F. laevipenne* (Fairmaire, 1892) is distinctly smaller (4–4.5 mm), the elytra are without any punctural rows, the anterior tibiae are without any dentation or teeth, and the middle tibiae are straight.

Remark. Koch [1960] defined the genera and subgenera relatives to *Clitobius* and presented a corresponding key. However, some of the used characters are quite “weak”, for example body length, length of antennae, shape of pronotum, etc. Probably these differences are only specific and not generic or subgeneric. I assigned this new species to *Falsammidium*

not only for morphological but also for zoogeographical reasons, because the similar genera *Ammidium* and *Clitobius* have a disjunct distribution on the western coast of Africa southward up to Namibia [Ferrer, 2001].

Distribution. *F. medvedevi* sp. n. is known only from Masirah Island before the coast of Oman. The wingless species might be endemic on that small island. The similar and probably related species *F. rugulipenne* obviously lives more westward according to the few known records in Yemen and the northeastern African coast.

Etymology. Named in honor of Prof. Gleb Sergeevich Medvedev (21.I.1931–23.IX.2009) from St. Petersburg, Head of the Laboratory of Insect Systematics, President of the Russian Entomological Society, and prominent specialist of Central Asian Tenebrionidae.

Acknowledgements

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