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Corticariidae (Coleoptera) from southern Thailand; Part 1 - review of the genus *Melanophthalma* with description of some new species

Corticariidae (Coleoptera) jižního Thajska; 1. část - přehled druhů rodu *Melanophthalma* s popisy několika nových druhů

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Taxonomy, faunistics, Coleoptera, Corticariidae, *Melanophthalma*, new species, new records, key, Thailand

Abstract. Data on the distribution of 11 species of the genus *Melanophthalma* Motschulsky, 1866 from southern Thailand is given, including descriptions of 9 new species: *Melanophthalma similis* sp. n., *M. prudeki* sp. n., *M. horaki* sp. n., *M. crebra* sp. n., *M. malaysica* sp. n., *M. majeri* sp. n., *M. ranongica* sp. n., *M. chumphonica* sp. n. and *M. brevis* sp. n. A key of all 11 species is provided.

INTRODUCTION

The fauna of *Melanophthalma* Motschulsky, 1866 from the Oriental region and the Far East is poorly known. Two species, *M. birmana* Belon, 1891 and *M. sakagutii* Johnson, 1976 belong to the subgenus *Cortilena* Motschulsky, 1866, characterized by a two-segmented antennal club. Seven species from India and Sri Lanka were described in, or transferred to, *Melanophthalma* by Motschulsky (1861, 1866); some of them were later transferred to the genus *Corticarina* Reitter, 1880 (Belon 1897, Hetschko 1926). Revision of the type material of the remaining five species (*M. angulicollis* Motschulsky, 1866, *M. umbripennis* (Motschulsky, 1861), *M. fuscotestacea* (Motschulsky, 1861), *M. hexagona* Motschulsky, 1866, *M. retroculis* Motschulsky, 1866), and *M. ceylanica* Dajoz, 1975 from Sri Lanka, is currently in hand (C. Johnson, pers. comm.). Two of the five additional Asian species described by Johnson (1972, 1976), *M. japonica* Johnson, 1976 and *M. prominens* Johnson, 1972 are reported below from Thailand; the latter species was recently reported from Vietnam as a junior synonym of *M. angulicollis* Motschulsky, 1866 by Rücker (1979).

In the present paper is treated material of the genus *Melanophthalma* from southern Thailand, collected partly by J. Horák at a plantation with pockets of primary forest in the province of Pattani in 1993, partly by K. Majer and P. Průdek at natural forests and pastures, provinces of Chumphon and Ranong, in 1996. The material was collected mostly at sweeping on vegetation, partly at light. The material contains 235 specimens of 11 species, 9 of which are described below as new to science.

The holotypes and the paratypes of new species and other material examined is deposited in the collections, indicated by the following abbreviations: PMc - author's collection, PPc - coll. P. Průdek, Brno, NMPc - National Museum Prague, MMc - Museum Manchester, WHRc - coll. W. H. Rücker, Neuwied. Author's comments of geographic coordinates in square brackets are not mentioned on the original labels.

Key to the known species of the genus *Melanophthalma* Motschulsky, 1866 from southern Thailand

All species treated below share the following characters: antennae 11-segmented, antennal club three-segmented; elytra separately rounded at apex, with outstanding hairs; first abdominal sternite with longitudinal coxal lines; male anterior tibia with a more or less developed tooth on inner margin near middle. According to the subdivision of *Melanophthalma* by Dajoz (1970) they belong, along with *M. evansi* Johnson, 1972, *M. ceylanica* Dajoz, 1975 and some Afrotropical species, to the *M. dilatata* Dajoz, 1970 species-group.

1 Temples behind eyes more or less developed, their length being ca. 2/3 to 3/2 the diameter of one eye-facet (Figs 28-33)... 2
- Head behind eyes without temples (Figs 25-27). 7
2 Pronotum more strongly transverse, ca. 1.3-1.4 times broader than long, sides with a well developed angular projection (Figs 28-30). Body wholly reddish-brown to darker brown. Frons between eyes with two clear longitudinal impressions (Figs 28, 29), or with several strong punctures (Fig. 30). Anterior tibia shorter, ca. 4.3-5.1 times shorter than body length. 3
- Pronotum moderately transverse, ca. 1.0-1.2 times broader than long, sides slightly angulate about the middle (Figs 31-33). Colour of body yellow to yellowish-brown. Head wholly strongly punctured, frons without two impressions. Anterior tibia longer, ca. 3.4-4.2 times shorter than body length. 5
3 Temples behind eyes small, but distinct, their length being about ca. 2/3 the diameter of one eye-facet. Large eyes a little more bulging, frons ca. 1.8 times the latitudinal diameter of an eye in width, between eyes only with several strong punctures (Fig. 30). Tooth in the hind angles of pronotum and on male anterior tibia stronger. Elytra oblong oval, ca 1.5 times as long as together broad. Form of aedeagus and apical margin of the fifth visible sternite characteristic (Figs 15, 16, 41). ..... *M. majeri* sp. n.
- Temples distinct, nearly as long as the diameter of one eye-facet. Eyes a little less bulging, frons ca. 2.0 times the latitudinal diameter of an eye in width, male with two clear impressions between eyes (Figs 28, 29). Hind angles of pronotum moderately strongly toothed, tooth before midlength of anterior tibia male small. Elytra oval, ca. 1.3-1.4 times as long as together broad (Figs 28, 29). 4
4 Antennae somewhat longer, in males ca. 2.9-3.3 times, in females 3.2-3.3 times shorter tha body length, segment 9 clearly as long as broad, segment 10 about as long as broad (Fig. 53). Pronotum strongly transverse, ca. 1.4 times broader than long (Fig. 28). Anterior tibia longer, in males ca. 4.3-4.5 times, in females 4.6-4.8 times shorter, than body length. Apical margin of the fifth visible sternite characteristic, in male with minute tooth in the middle of emargination (Figs 39, 48). Aedeagus characteristic (Figs 11, 12). ..... *M. crebra* sp. n.
- Antennae somewhat shorter, in males ca. 3.3-3.4 times, in females 3.4-3.5 times shorter than body llength, segment 9 about as long as broad, segment 10 broader than long (Fig. 54). Pronotum less transverse, ca. 1.3 times broader than long (Fig. 29). Anterior tibia shorter, in males ca. 4.6-4.8 times, in females 4.9-5.1 times shorter than body length. Apical margin of the fifth visible sternite in the middle without tooth (Figs 40, 49). Aedeagus characteristic (Figs 13, 14). ..... *M. malaysica* sp. n.
5 Antennal segment 9 slightly longer than broad, segment 10 a little broader than long (Fig. 58). Elytra short, widely oval, only 1.1-1.2 times as long as together broad. Pronotum slightly transverse, 1.1-1.2 times as broad as long (Fig. 33). Apical margin of the fifth visible sternite (Figs 44, 47) and form of aedeagus (Figs 22-24) characteristic. ..... *M. brevis* sp. n.
- Antennal segment 9 distinctly as long as broad, segment 10 about as long as broad (Figs 56, 57). Elytra ca. 1.3-1.4 times longer than their combined breadth. Pronotum slightly transverse, only 1.0-1.1 times broader than long (Figs 31, 32). 6
6 Temples almost as long as the diameter of one eye-facet. Eyes bulging, frons ca. 1.8 times the latitudinal diameter of eye in width. Elytra oval, ca. 1.4 times longer than their combined breadth (Fig. 31). Antennae in the females ca. 3.3 times shorter than body length. Anterior tibia ca. 3.9-4.2 times shorter than the length of body. Apical margin of the fifth visible sternite (Figs 42, 45) and aedeagus (Figs 17, 18) characteristic. ..... *M. ranongica* sp. n.
- Temples about ca. 1.5 times longer than the diameter of one eye-facet. Frons ca. 2.0 times the latitudinal diameter of an eye in middle width. Elytra short oval, ca. 1.3 times as long as together broad (Fig. 32). Antennae in the females slightly longer, ca. 2.9-3.0 times shorter than body length. Anterior tibia slightly longer, ca. 3.4-4.0 times shorter than body length. Apical margin of the fifth visible sternite (Figs 43, 46) and form of aedeagus (Figs 19-21) characteristic. .... *M. chumphonica* sp. n.
7 Antennal segment 8 slightly, segment 9 clearly longer than broad and extended distally (Fig. 52). Elytra ovate (Fig. 27). Emargination of the apical margin of the fifth visible sternite in male without tubercles (Fig. 38). Aedeagus characteristic (Figs 9-10)..... *M. horaki* sp. n.

- Antennal segment 8 about as broad as long, segment 9 about as broad as long or slightly broader than long (Figs 50, 51). Elytra oval (Figs 25, 26). Fifth visible sternite male with apical margin in the middle third with the emargination, delimited by a tubercle at each side, or fifth visible sternite entire, without any unusual features (Figs 34-37). 8

8 Hind angles of pronotum with well developed strong tooth. Male with strong tooth before midlength of inner margin of anterior tibia. Elytra oblong oval (Fig. 26). Two very similar species, reliable recognised according to the form of aedeagus and the posterior margin of the male sternite 5. 9

- Hind angles of pronotum moderately toothed. Male anterior tibia with a narrow, minute tooth on the underside a little in front of the middle. Elytra shorter oval (Fig. 25). Two very similar species, safely recognised according to the shape of aedeagus and posterior margin of the male sternite 5. 10

9 Body darker reddish-brown. Elytra in middle part somewhat more convex, elytral apex narrowly converging (Fig. 26). Characteristic apical margin of the fifth visible sternite in male (Fig. 36) and shape of aedeagus (Figs 6-8). ..... *M. prudeki* sp. n.

- Body reddish-brown. Elytra little less convex, the apex of elytra somewhat broadly rounded. Aedeagus (Fig. 1) and apical margin of the fifth visible sternite in male (Fig. 34) characteristic. ..... *M. angulicollis* Motschulsky, 1866

10 Length 1.38-1.43 mm. Antennae longer, ca. 3.1 times shorter than body length. Elytral interstices 6-8 somewhat little more convex. Pronotum transverse, base of pronotum evidently broader than anterior margin of pronotum (Fig. 25). Emargination of the fifth visible sternite male with tubercles at each sides (Fig. 35). Aedeagus characteristic (Figs 3-5). ..... *M. similis* sp. n.

- Length 1.40-1.84 mm. Antennae shorter, ca. 3.5 times shorter than body length. Elytral interstices flat. Pronotum more transverse, base of pronotum less-marked broader than anterior margin of pronotum. Fifth visible sternite male entire, without any unusual features (Fig. 37). Aedeagus characteristic (Fig. 2). ..... *M. japonica* Johnson, 1976

Melanophthalma japonica Johnson, 1976
(Figs 2, 37)

Melanophthalma japonica Johnson, 1976: 195-197.

Material examined. 1 ♂, Thailand, Ranong prov., Hot Springs, 9°56' [N], 98°40' [E], 23.-27.ii.1996, P. Průdek leg.; 1 ♀, Thailand, Chumphon prov., Pha To env., 9°48' [N], 98°47' [E], 1.-21.iii.1996, P. Průdek leg.; 2 ♂♂, same data except K. Majer leg.; 1 ♂, 1 ♀, same data except 27.iii.-14.iv.1996, P. Průdek leg.; 1 ♀, same data except K. Majer leg. (PMc, PPc).

Species known from Japan (Johnson 1976), India and Vietnam (Rücker 1978, 1979a). New species for Thailand.

Melanophthalma angulicollis Motschulsky, 1866
(Figs 1, 34)

Melanophthalma angulicollis Motschulsky, 1866: 278-279.
Melanophthalma prominens Johnson, 1972: 108.

Material examined. 1 ♀, Thailand, Ranong prov., Hat Som Paen env., 9°57' [N], 98°45' [E], 23.-25.ii.1996, K. Majer leg.; 3 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, Thailand, Ranong prov., Hot Springs, 9°56' [N], 98°40' [E], 23.-27.ii.1996, P. Průdek leg.; 4 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, Thailand, Ranong prov., Ban Na env., 9°34' [N], 98°42' [E], 22.-26.iii.1996, K. Majer leg.; 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀, same data except P. Průdek leg.; 8 ♂♂, 19 ♀♀, Thailand, Chumphon prov., Pha To env., 9°48' [N], 98°47' [E], 1.-21.iii.1996, P. Průdek leg.; 3 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀, same data except K. Majer. leg.; 7 ♂♂, same data except 27.iii.-14.iv.1996, P. Průdek leg.; 6 ♂♂, 6 ♀♀, same data except K. Majer leg. (PMc, PPc).

Species described from Eastern India (Motschulsky 1866), also mentioned from India, Nepal, Ceylon and Vietnam (Johnson 1972, Rücker 1978, 1979a, 1979b). First records from Thailand.

Melanophthalma similis sp. n.

(Figs 3-5, 25, 35, 50)

Material examined. Holotype: male, Thailand, Ranong prov., Ban Na env., 9°34' [N], 98°42' [E], 22.-26.iii.1996, K. Majer leg. (PMc). Paratype: male, Thailand, Ranong prov., Hot Springs, 9°56' [N], 98°40' [E], 23.-25.ii.1996, K. Majer leg. (PMc).

Description. Male. Length 1.38 and 1.43 mm; head breadth 0.32 mm; antennal length 0.45 and 0.46 mm; pronotal breadth 0.42 and 0.44 mm; pronotal length 0.34 and 0.35 mm; elytral breadth 0.66 and 0.68 mm; elytral length 0.91 and 0.94 mm. Unicolorous reddish-brown species, antennae and legs slightly lighter.

Head with large, bulging, coarsely-facetted eyes, frons ca 1.8 times the latitudinal diameter of an eye in width, temples absent (Fig. 25). Whole head coarsely punctured, frons with two clear longitudinal impressions between eyes. Antennae ca. 3.1 times shorter than body length. Antennal club three-segmented, segments 8 and 9 about as broad as long, 10 slightly broader than long (Fig. 50).

Pronotum transverse, ca 1.3 times broader than long, broadest just before its midlength. Sides irregularly serrate, with a well-marked angular projection in the middle, more strongly converging anteriorly than posteriorly, the base of pronotum consequently slightly wider than anterior margin (Fig. 25). Pronotum entirely coarsely and irregularly punctured, with a well-developed transverse basal depression and with a smaller circular depression in the middle; surface of pronotum apparently less convex. Hind angles moderately toothed.

Elytra oval, ca. 1.4 times as long as together broad, broadest in the front third, elytral apex separately rounded (Fig. 25). Punctured striae with coarse punctures, interstices with longer (ca. 0.08 mm), shining, curved and outstanding, pale setae, setation in elytral striae shorter, more decumbent. Interstices lighter than the rows of punctures, apart from interstices 6-8, which are somewhat more convex.

Anterior tibia 0.30-0.31 mm long, ca. 4.6 times shorter than body length, with a narrow tooth at inner margin before its midlength.

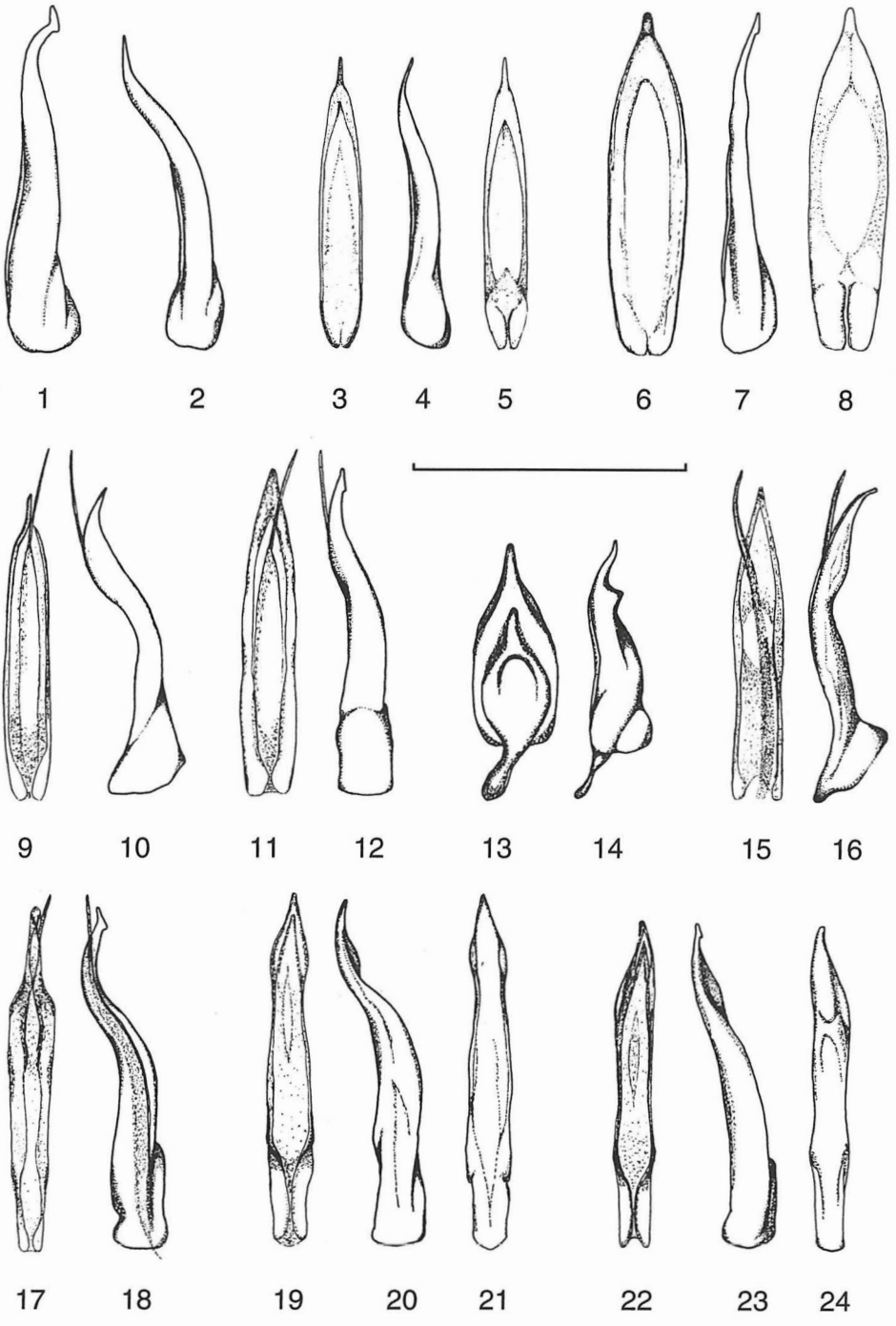
First visible abdominal sternite with fine but distinct longitudinal coxal lines. Fifth visible sternite with apical margin in the middle third shallowly emarginate, the emargination delimited by a tubercle at each side (Fig. 35). Aedeagus characteristic, elongated and narrowed apically, ventral aspect of aedeagus of the *Melanophthalma distinguenda* (Comolli, 1837) form (Figs 3-5).

Female unknown.

Differential diagnosis. *Melanophthalma similis* sp. n. is very similar to *M. japonica* Johnson, 1976 and *M. angulicollis* Motschulsky, 1866, from which it can be distinguished with difficulty by its comparatively longer antennae and somewhat more raised interstices 6 to 8, as well as from the latter by a smaller tooth on the male anterior tibia. The base of the pronotum is also narrower

Figs 1-24. 1, 2, 4, 7, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 23 - aedeagus laterally; 3, 6, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 22 - aedeagus ventrally; 5, 8, 21, 24 - aedeagus dorsally. 1 - *Melanophthalma angulicollis* Motschulsky; 2 - *M. japonica* Johnson; 3-5 - *M. similis* sp. n.; 6-8 - *M. prudeki* sp. n.; 9-10 - *M. horaki* sp. n.; 11-12 - *M. crebra* sp. n.; 13-14 - *M. malaysica* sp. n.; 15-16 - *M. majeri* sp. n.; 17-18 - *M. ranongica* sp. n.; 19-21 - *M. chumphonica* sp. n.; 22-24 - *M. brevis* sp. n. Scale = 0.3 mm.

Obr. 1-24. 1, 2, 4, 7, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 23 - aedeagus z boku; 3, 6, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 22 - aedeagus zespodu; 5, 8, 21, 24 - aedeagus shora. 1 - *Melanophthalma angulicollis* Motschulsky; 2 - *M. japonica* Johnson; 3-5 - *M. similis* sp. n.; 6-8 - *M. prudeki* sp. n.; 9-10 - *M. horaki* sp. n.; 11-12 - *M. crebra* sp. n.; 13-14 - *M. malaysica* sp. n.; 15-16 - *M. majeri* sp. n.; 17-18 - *M. ranongica* sp. n.; 19-21 - *M. chumphonica* sp. n.; 22-24 - *M. brevis* sp. n. Měřítko = 0,3 mm.


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than in other species without temples (Figs 25-27). Reliable identification is possible according to the form of the aedeagus (Figs 1-5) and the posterior margin of the male sternite 5 (Figs 34-38). The latter resembles that of *M. angulicollis*, but the tubercles delimiting the apical emargination are smaller and more narrowly separated (Figs 34, 35).

Etymology. The new species is named on account of its great similarity to *M. japonica.*

Melanophthalma prudeki sp. n.

(Figs 6-8, 26, 36, 51)

Material examined. Holotype: male, Thailand, Ranong prov., Ban Na env., 9°34' [N], 98°42' [E], 22.-26.iii.1996, P. Průdek leg. (NMPc). Paratypes: 2 males, Thailand, Ranong prov., Hot Springs, 9°56' [N], 98°40' [E], 23.-27.ii.1996, P. Průdek leg. (PPc, PMc).

Description. Male. Length 1.54-1.69 mm; head breadth 0.35-0.39 mm; antennal length 0.43-0.48 mm; pronotal breadth 0.46-0.52 mm; pronotal length 0.35-0.42 mm; elytral breadth 0.72-0.76 mm; elytral length 1.06-1.12 mm. Whole body unicolorous dark reddish-brown, legs and antennae reddish-brown.

Head with large, bulging, facetted eyes, coarsely and irregularly punctured, between eyes with two clear longitudinal impressions, without temples (Fig. 26). Frons ca. 1.9 times the latitudinal diameter of an eye in width. Antennae a little shorter, ca 3.5 times shorter than body length. Antennal club three-segmented, segments 8 and 9 about as long as broad, 10 slightly broader than long (Fig. 51).

Pronotum transverse, 1.2-1.3 times as broad as long, broadest around middle. Coarsely punctured, with well-marked transverse depression behind its midlength and shallow irregular longitudinal line made up of larger and deeper punctures. Sides strongly irregularly serrate, more strongly converging anteriorly than posteriorly. The angular projection in the middle of each side made up of a few major denticles. Hind angles with well developed darker tooth (Fig. 26).

Elytra oblong oval, ca. 1.5 times as long as together broad, broadest just before their midlength, separately rounded apically (Fig. 26). Interstices lighter than striae, flat, only 6.-8. slightly raised, with pale, shining, ca. 0.09 mm long setation, the strial setae shorter and not more decumbent. Punctures in striae long, dark and very close to each other.

Legs shorter, anterior tibia 0.31-0.35 mm long, 4.8-5.0 times shorter than body length; tooth in the middle of inner margin strong.

Coxal longitudinal lines of the first visible abdominal sternite distinct almost across the whole segment. Hind margin of the fifth visible sternite in the middle third shallowly and broadly emarginate, the emargination delimited by an angulate tubercle at each side (Fig. 36). Aedeagus characteristic, symmetrical, flat, apically pointed, in ventral view exceptionally broad (Figs 6-8).

Female unknown.

Differential diagnosis. Among the *Melanophthalma* without temples from Thailand, the three known specimens of *M. prudeki* sp. n. belong to the largest and darkest. This species is easily distinguishable from *M. similis* sp. n. by shorter antennae and legs and by longer body length, from *M. japonica* and *M. similis* sp. n. also by the more developed teeth both at hind angles of pronotum and on male anterior tibiae. It can be readily separated from related species also according to the shape of the aedeagus (Figs 2-8) and the outline of the apical margin of the fifth visible sternite in the male, which is similar to that of *M. angulicollis* and *M. similis* sp. n. (Figs 34-36).

Etymology. Dedicated to Pavel Průdek from Brno, who collected the type material of this species.

Melanophthalma horaki sp. n.

(Figs 9, 10, 27, 38, 52)

Material examined. Holotype: male, Thailand, Pattani dist., Sai Buri env., 23.-28.4.1993, J. Horák leg. (PMc).

Description. Male. Length 1.60 mm; head breadth 0.36 mm; antennal length 0.46 mm; pronotal breadth 0.46 mm; pronotal length 0.36 mm; elytral breadth 0.74 mm; elytral length 1.06 mm. Reddish-yellow species, legs, antennal club and first antennal segment slightly lighter, antennal segments 2-8 yellowish.

Head with large, more bulging facetted eyes, frons ca 1.7 times the latitudinal diameter of an eye in middle in width (Fig. 27). Head confusedly punctured, frons between eyes with two darker longitudinal impressions, without temples. Antennae somewhat shorter, ca. 3.5 times shorter than length of body. Antennal segments 3 to 5 with apical margins a little oblique towards the inner side. Antennal club 3-segmented, segment 8 slightly, segment 9 clearly as long as broad and extended distally. Antennal segment 10 transverse, broader than long (Fig. 52).

Pronotum transverse, 1.3 times as broad as long, densely and somewhat regularly punctured, anteriorly strongly convex, basal depression well developed, formed by two smaller and deep depressions. Several stronger punctures in the middle of pronotal disc build up an additional shallow impression. Pronotum broadest around the middle, where a stronger crenulation of lateral margins forms a well marked angular projection. The confusedly serrate sides slightly emarginate behind these projections and then slightly converging posteriorly, almost subparallel, anteriorly more strongly convergent (Fig. 27). Hind angles with tooth.

Elytra ovate, ca. 1.4 as long as together broad, broadest rather in front of the middle, separately rounded at the apex (Fig. 27), striae with large darker punctures. Interstices flat, much lighter than the rows of punctures, only in the anterior third somewhat convex, with series of ca. 0.08 mm long, pale and outstanding setae, setation in rows shorter and more decumbent. First interstice and the first stria impressed in the anterior third, situated below the rest of the elytra (perhaps only teratology-?).

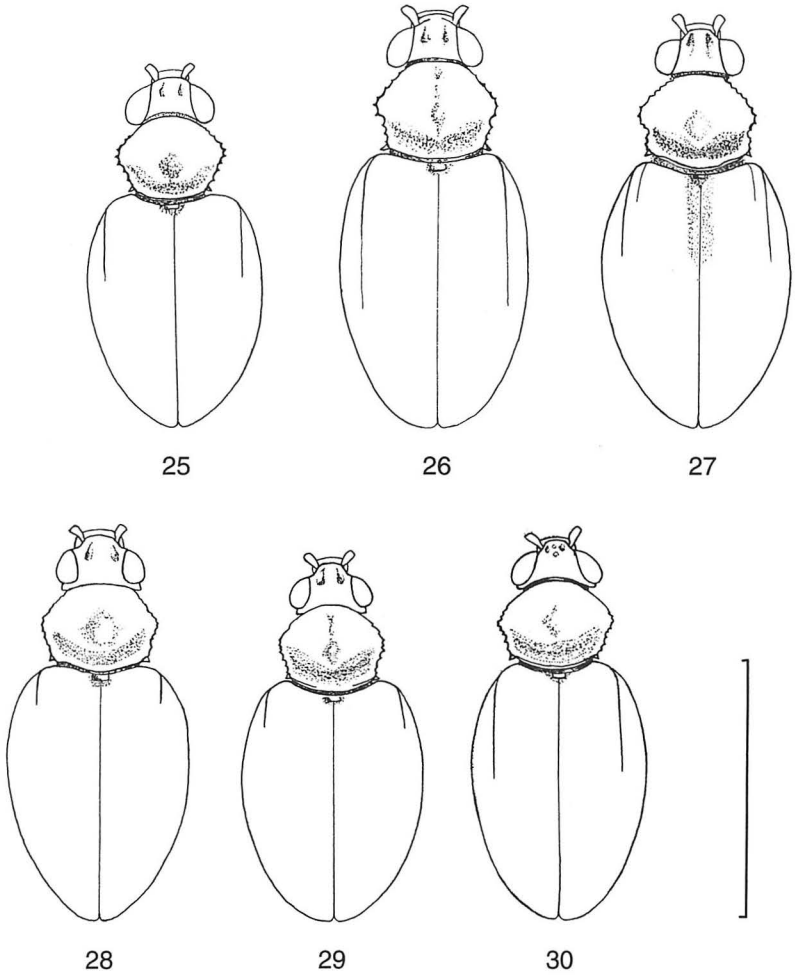
Anterior tibia 0.34 mm long, ca 4.7 times shorter than body length. Anterior tibial tooth just in front of the midlength, small and narrowed.

First visible abdominal sternite with very fine longitudinal coxal lines. Apical margin of the fifth visible sternite broadly shallowly emarginate (Fig. 38). Aedeagus characteristic, long, slender, pointed, in lateral view s-shaped. From ventral view lateral margins behind the apex moderately asymmetrical, ventral aspect of aedeagus similar to that of *M. distinguenda* (Figs 9-10).

Female unknown.

Differential diagnosis. Length and shape of antennal segments 8 and 9, characteristic aedeagus (Figs 9-10) and entirely different outline of the fifth visible sternite in the male (Figs 34-38) distinguish this species from all other known species of this group. In addition, *M. horaki* sp. n. may be separated from *M. similis* sp. n. by the clearly shorter antennae, from *M. prudeki* sp. n. and *M. angulicollis* by its egg-shaped (Figs 26, 27) and lighter elytra as well as smaller tooth on anterior tibia in males.

Etymology. The new species is named after its collector, Jan Horák from Praha.

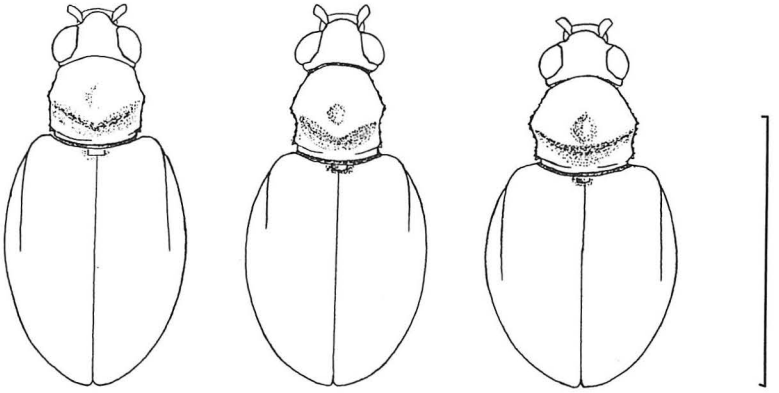


Figs 25-30. General view (male). 25 - *Melanophthalma similis* sp. n.; 26 - *M. prudeki* sp. n.; 27 - *M. horaki* sp. n.; 28 - *M. crebra* sp. n.; 29 - *M. malaysica* sp. n.; 30 - *M. majeri* sp. n. Scale = 1.0 mm.
Obr. 25-30. Postava (samec). 25 - *Melanophthalma similis* sp. n.; 26 - *M. prudeki* sp. n.; 27 - *M. horaki* sp. n.; 28 - *M. crebra* sp. n.; 29 - *M. malaysica* sp. n.; 30 - *M. majeri* sp. n. Měřítko = 1,0 mm.

Melanophthalma crebra sp. n.

(Figs 11, 12, 28, 39, 48, 53)

Material examined. Holotype: male, Thailand, Chumphon prov., Pha To env., 9°48' [N], 98°47' [E], 1.-21.iii.1996, K. Majer leg. (PMc). Paratypes (47 males): 8 ♂♂, same data as in holotype; 7 ♂♂, same data except 27.iii.-14.iv.1996; 7 ♂♂, same data except P. Průdek leg.; 22 ♂♂, same data except 27.iii.-14.iv.1996, P. Průdek leg.; 2 ♂♂, Thailand, Ranong prov., Hot Springs



Figs 31-33. General view (male). 31 - *Melanophthalma ranongica* sp. n.; 32 - *M. chumphonica* sp. n.; 33 - *M. brevis* sp. n. Scale = 1.0 mm.
Obr. 31-33. Postava (samec). 31 - *Melanophthalma ranongica* sp. n.; 32 - *M. chumphonica* sp. n.; 33 - *M. brevis* sp. n. Měřítko = 1,0 mm.

env., 9°56' [N], 98°40' [E], 23.-27.ii.1996, P. Průdek leg.; 1 ♂, Thailand, Ranong prov., Ban Na env., 9°34' [N], 98°42' [E], 22.-26.iii.1996, P. Průdek leg. (PMc, PPc, MMc, WHRc).

Additional material examined (33 females). 8 ♀♀, Thailand, Chumphon prov., Pha To env., 1.-21.iii.1996, K. Majer leg.; 2 ♀♀, same data except 27.iii.-14.iv.1996; 5 ♀♀, same data except 1.-21.iii.1996, P. Průdek leg.; 15 ♀♀, same data except 27.iii.-14.iv.1996, P. Průdek leg.; 1 ♀, Thailand, Ranong prov., Hot Springs env., 13.iii.1996, P. Průdek leg.; 2 ♀♀, Thailand, Ranong prov., Ban Na env., 22.-26.iii.1996, P. Průdek leg. (PMc, PPc, MMc,WHRc).

Description. Male. Length 1.41-1.57 mm; head breadth 0.34-0.36 mm; antennal length 0.48-0.52 mm; pronotal breadth 0.43-0.49 mm; pronotal length 0.29-0.34 mm; elytral breadth 0.67-0.76 mm; elytral length 0.98-1.06 mm. Reddish-brown species, legs and antennae yellowish-brown.

Head strongly punctured, with facetted eyes, frons ca 2.0 times the latitudinal diameter of an eye in width in middle, with two longitudinal impressions between eyes. Temples distinct, nearly as long as the diameter of one eye-facet (Fig. 28). Antennae somewhat longer, ca. 2.9-3.0 times shorter than body length. Antennal club 3 segmented, segment 8 hardly, segment 9 clearly as long as broad, segment 10 about as long as broad (Fig. 53).

Pronotum strongly transverse, ca. 1.4 times broader than long, broadest just in front of the middle, there with obtuse angular projection, from which the sides converge more strongly anteriorly than posteriorly (Fig. 28). Entire pronotum coarsely and confusedly punctured. Basal depression equal all along the length of the base, strong punctures in the middle of disc build up a shallower depression, so that pronotum is rather flat. Hind angles darker, with tooth only a little larger than the weak and confused crenulation of the sides of pronotum.

Elytra ovate, ca. 1.4 times longer than broad, broadest in front of the middle, strongly narrowed posteriorly, elytral apex separately rounded (Fig. 28). Striae with rows of large and dark punctures, lighter interstices shining, very slightly convex, with pale, curved, ca 0.1 mm long

setae, which are longer and more outstanding than those in the punctured striae.

Length of anterior tibia 0.32-0.37 mm, 4.3-4.5 times shorter than body length, tooth before its midlength small.

Longitudinal coxal lines on the first visible abdominal sternite slender and shorter, reaching only ca. to the midlength of the segment. Apical margin of the fifth visible sternite very characteristic, with minute tooth in the middle of emargination (Fig. 39). Aedeagus longer, narrow, pointed, in ventral view similar to that of *M. distinguenda* (Figs 11, 12).

Female. Length 1.40-1.57 mm. In length and other proportions of the body almost equal to males. Differences exist in size of the antennae and anterior tibia, which are shorter than in male: antennae 0.43-0.48 mm length, 3.2-3.3 times shorter than body length, length of anterior tibia 0.29-0.36 mm, 4.6-4.8 times shorter than body length. Anterior tibia without tooth. Two impressions between eyes less distinct than in male. The fifth visible sternite along apical margin with very fine stria, which is in some specimens only partially distinguishable (Fig. 48).

Differentional diagnosis. *M. crebra* sp. n. can be distinguished from the most closely related species *M. malaysica* sp. n. and *M. majeri* sp. n., by its more transverse and more finely serrate pronotum (Fig. 28), longer legs and longer antennae (Fig. 53). Moreover, it differs from *M. majeri* sp. n. by slightly longer temples (Fig. 28). The species may be clearly recognised on form of the aedeagus (Figs 11, 12). Also the outline of the apical margin of the fifth visible sternite is entirely different from the other two species (Fig. 39).

Etymology. From Latin creber (plentiful), referring to the great abundance in the examined material.

Melanophthalma malaysica sp. n.

(Figs 13, 14, 29, 40, 49, 54)

Material examined. Holotype: male, Thailand, Chumphon prov., Pha To env., 9°48' [N], 98°47' [E], 27.iii.-14.iv.1996, K. Majer leg. (PMc).; Paratypes (11 males): 2 ♂♂, same data as in holotype; 3 ♂♂, same data except 1.-21.iii.1996; 3 ♂♂, same data as in holotype except P. Průdek leg.; 1 ♂, Thailand, Ranong prov., Hot Springs, 9°56' [N], 98°40' [E], 23.-25.ii.1996, K. Majer leg.; 2 ♂♂, same data except 23.-27.ii.1996, P. Průdek leg. (PMc, PPc, MMc, WHRc).

Additional material examined (15 females). 2 ♀♀, Thailand, Chumphon prov., Pha To env., 1.-21.iii.1996, K. Majer leg.; 1 ♀, same data except 27.iii.-14.iv.1996; 2 ♀♀, same data except 14.-21.iii.1996, P. Průdek leg., 2 ♀♀, same data except 27.iii.-14.iv.1996, P. Průdek leg.; 2 ♀♀, Thailand, Ranong prov., Ban Na env., 9°34'98°42', 22.-26.iii.1996, K. Majer leg.; 2 ♀♀, Thailand, Ranong prov., Hot Springs, 23.-25.ii.1996, K. Majer leg.; 3 ♀♀, same data except 23.-27.ii.1996, P. Průdek leg.; 1 ♀, same data except 13.iii.1996, P. Průdek leg. (PMc, PPc, MMc).

Description. Male. Length 1.36-1.56 mm; head breadth 0.30-0.35 mm; antennal length 0.41-0.46 mm; pronotal breadth 0.41-0.45 mm; pronotal length 0.31-0.35 mm; elytral breadth 0.67-0.71 mm; elytral length 0.91-0.98 mm. Unicolorous dark reddish-brown species, legs and antennae lighter, yellowish-brown.

Head with distinct temples, which are almost as long as the diameter of one eye-facet (Fig. 29). Facetted eyes less bulging, frons ca. 2.0 times the latitudinal diameter of an eye in width. Whole head strongly punctured, between eyes with two clear impressions. Antennae ca 3.3-3.4 times shorter than length of body, antennal club 3-segmented, segments 8 and 9 about as broad as long,

segment 10 evidently broader than long (Fig. 54).

Pronotum transverse, ca. 1.3 times broader than long, broadest in the middle, where the irregularly serrate sides project into an obtuse angle. Sides converging slightly posteriorly, more abruptly so anteriorly (Fig. 29). Front part of pronotum more convex. Transverse depression reaching both sides behind the middle; in the middle of pronotum several strong punctures make up another, shallower, uneven and irregular impression. Hind angles moderately strongly toothed.

Elytra oval, 1.3-1.4 times as long as together broad, broadest somewhat behind the middle, sides evenly rounded, elytral apex separately rounded (Fig. 29). Striae with rather coarse, close and dark punctures and with pale and shining setation; feebly convex, shining and lighter interstices with longer, ca. 0.09 mm long, more curved and outstanding setation.

Tooth in front of the middle of inner side of anterior tibia small, anterior tibia 0.29-0.32 mm long, ca. 4.6-4.9 times shorter than the length of body.

First visible abdominal sternite with fine longitudinal coxal lines, apical margin of the fifth visible sternite only moderately emarginate in the middle (Fig. 40). Aedeagus very characteristic, shorter, oval, acutely pointed, ventral surface with postapical tooth (lateral view); ventral aspect resembling the aedeagus of the genus *Corticarina* Reitter, 1880 (Figs 13, 14).

Female. Length 1.36-1.50 mm. Very similar to male, only antennae and anterior tibia slightly shorter, antennae 0.39-0.43 mm long, 3.4-3.5 times shorter than length of body, anterior tibia 0.28-0.30 mm length, 4.9-5.1 times as short as body length, anterior tibia without tooth. The paired impressions of frons are often replaced with two smaller pits or stronger punctures. Apical margin of the fifth visible sternite bordered by a fine stria (Fig. 49).

Differential diagnosis. *M. malaysica* sp. n. seems to be most closely related to *M. crebra* sp. n., from which it differs by less transverse pronotum (Figs. 29), slightly shorter antennae and legs, shorter antennal segments 8 and 9 and transverse segment 10 (Fig. 54). From another species of this subgroup, *M. majeri* sp. n. and *M. crebra* sp. n., is separable by its longer temples, less bulging eyes (Figs 29, 30), shorter antennal segment 8 (Fig. 54) and smaller tooth on male anterior tibia. Aedeagus of *M. malaysica* sp. n. is very different from that of all other species of the genus *Melanophthalma* (Figs 13, 14).

Etymology. The name of the species is derived from the Malay peninsula, where it seems to be very frequent.

Melanophthalma majeri sp. n.
(Figs 15, 16, 30, 41, 55)

Material examined. Holotype: male, Thailand, Chumphon prov., Pha To env., 9°48' [N], 98°47' [E], 1.-21.iii.1996, K. Majer leg. (PMc); Paratype: male, same data as in holotype (PMc).

Description. Male. Length 1.47-1.53 mm; head breadth 0.34 mm; antennal length 0.45 mm; pronotal breadth 0.45 mm; pronotal length 0.35 mm; elytral breadth 0.64-0.68 mm, elytral length 0.98-1.01 mm. Colour of body dark reddish-brown, legs and antennae slightly lighter.

Head wholly confusedly punctured, frons with several strong punctures replacing the longitudinal impressions. Large, facetted eyes a little more bulging, frons ca. 1.8 times the latitudinal diameter of an eye in width. Temples behind eyes small, but distinct, their length being about ca. 2/3 the diameter of one eye-facet (Fig. 30). Antennae ca 3.3 times shorter than body length, antennal club 3 segmented, antennal segments 8 and 10 about as broad as long, segment

9 longer than broad, extended distally (Fig. 55).

Pronotum transverse, ca. 1.3 times broader than long, broadest around middle, where the sides make up a well developed angular projection. Sides before the projection strongly corverging anteriorly, behind it little emarginate and less converging towards hind angles (Fig. 30). Front part of pronotum more convex than the hind one. Across the pronotum behind the middle transverse depression, in central part of disc only a few stronger and confused punctures. Entire pronotum coarsely punctured, sides irregularly serrated, tooth in the hind angles of pronotum large.

Elytra oblong oval, ca. 1.5 times as long as together broad, broadest in front of the middle, separately rounded apically (Fig. 30). From sixth interstice elytra more abrupt to lateral margin; humeral bulges reaching slightly over the basal margin of the elytra. Elytra with rows of coarse, dark and close punctures, interstices flat and lighter than the striae of punctures. Setation in interstices pale, shining, curved and outstanding, ca. 0.09 mm long, striae setae shorter and more decumbent.

Anterior tibia 0.32-0.34 mm long, ca. 4.6-4.7 times shorter than body length, tooth before the midlength of tibia stronger.

Longitudinal coxal lines of first visible abdominal sternite slender, apical margin of fifth visible sternite in the middle part with deep emargination (Fig. 41). Aedeagus narrow, lateral margin very moderately raised behind the apex at each sides, from lateral view curved upwards, ventral aspect of the aedeagus of the *M. distinguenda* form (Figs 15, 16).

Female unknown.

Differential diagnosis. *Melanophthalma majeri* sp. n. belongs due to its colour, distinctly transverse pronotum and distinct temples to the subgroup of the genus *Melanophthalma* with *M. crebra* sp. n. and *M. malaysica* sp. n. (Fig. 30). It is recognisable from both of these species by the following characters: shorter temples, more bulging eyes, frons between eyes without longitudinal impressions, more developed humeral bulge, tooth in hind angles of pronotum and on male anterior tibia, different form of aedeagus (Figs 15, 16) and apical margin of the fifth visible sternite (Fig. 41), as well as from *M. crebra* sp. n. by its shorter antennae.

Etymology. New species is named in memory of Karel Majer from Brno.

Melanophthalma ranongica sp. n.

(Figs 17, 18, 31, 42, 45, 56)

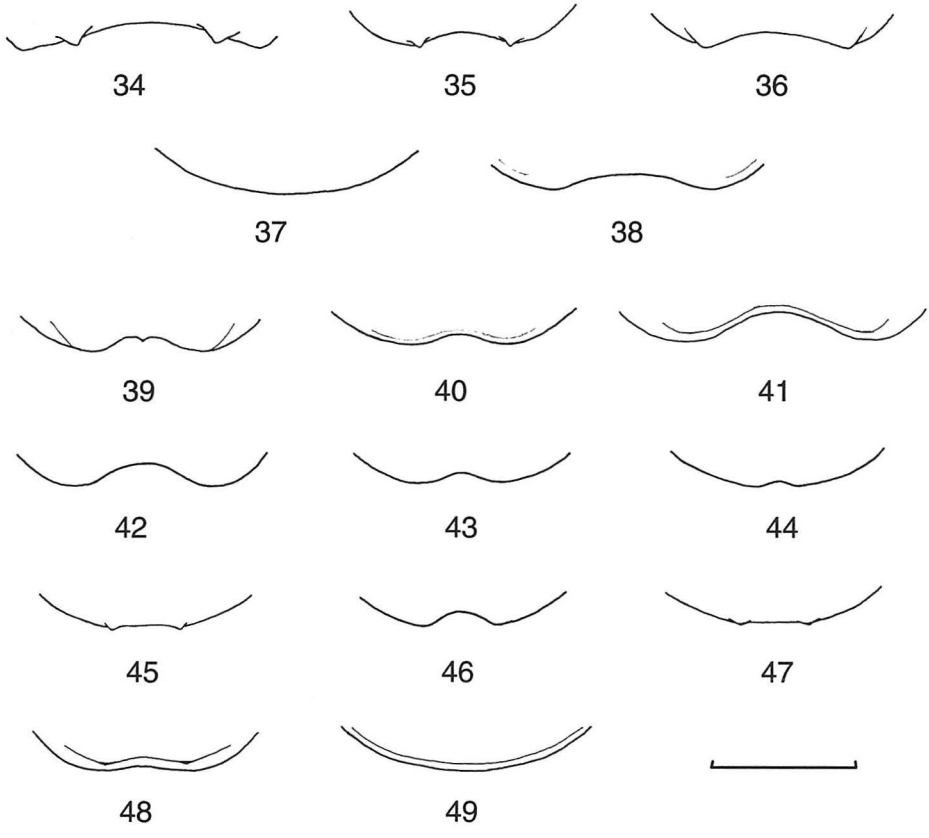
Material examined. Holotype: male, Thailand, Ranong prov., Hot Springs, 9°56' [N], 98°40' [E], 23.-27.ii.1996, P. Průdek leg. (NMPc); Paratypes (3 males): 2 ♂♂, same data as in holotype, (PPc); 1 ♂, Thailand, Chumphon prov., Pha To env., 9°48'98°47', 1.-21.iii.1996, K. Majer leg. (PMc).

Additional material examined (9 females)**.** 3 ♀♀, Thailand, Chumphon prov., Pha To env., 1.-21.iii.1996, K. Majer leg.; 3 ♀♀, same data except 27.iii.-14.iv.1996, K. Majer leg.; 2 ♀♀, same data except P. Průdek leg.; 1 ♀, same data except 14.-21.iii.1996, P. Průdek leg. (PMc, PPc, MMc).

Description. Male. Length 1.34-1.46 mm; head breadth 0.31-0.33 mm; antennal length 0.47-0.51 mm; pronotal breadth 0.35-0.38 mm; pronotal length 0.31-0.35 mm; elytral breadth 0.62-0.68 mm; elytral length 0.88-0.95 mm. Reddish-yellow or yellowish-brown species, legs and antennae, especially the segments of the flagellum lighter.

Head strongly punctured and, like pronotum, covered abundantly with light setae. Eyes facetted, bulging, frons ca 1.8 times the latitudinal diameter of eye in width. Behind eyes with clearly-developed temples, almost as long as the diameter of one eye-facet (Fig. 31). Antennae longer, ca. 2.8-3.0 times shorter than body length. Antennal club 3-segmented, segment 9 ca. twice as long as broad, segment 10 about as broad as long, the segments of the antennal flagellum slender (Fig. 56).

Pronotum very slightly transverse, only ca. 1.1 times broader than long, strongly punctured. In front part the pronotum more convex, in the basal half with the well developed deep basal depression, connecting both sides. In the middle of pronotum a little stronger and deeper punctures create flat depression. Pronotum broadest just before the middle, where the sides project into an



Figs 34-49. 34-44 - apical margin of fifth visible sternite (male), 45-49 - apical margin of fifth visible sternite (female). 34 - *Melanophthalma angulicollis* Motschulsky; 35 - *M. similis* sp. n.; 36 - *M. prudeki* sp. n.; 37 - *M. japonica* Johnson; 38 - *M. horaki* sp. n.; 39, 48 - *M. crebra* sp. n.; 40, 49 - *M. malaysica* sp. n.; 41 - *M. majeri* sp n.; 42, 45 - *M. ranongica* sp. n.; 43, 46 - *M. chumphonica* sp. n.; 44, 47 - *M. brevis* sp. n. Scale = 0.2 mm.

Obr. 34-49. 34-44 - Apikální okraj pátého viditelného sternitu (samec), 45-49 - apikální okraj pátého viditelného sternitu (samice). 34 - *Melanophthalma angulicollis* Motschulsky; 35 - *M. similis* sp. n.; 36 - *M. prudeki* sp. n.; 37 - *M. japonica* Johnson; 38 - *M. horaki* sp. n.; 39, 48 - *M. crebra* sp. n.; 40, 49 - *M. malaysica* sp. n.; 41 - *M. majeri* sp. n.; 42, 45 - *M. ranongica* sp. n.; 43, 46 - *M. chumphonica* sp. n.; 44, 47 - *M. brevis* sp. n. Měřítko = 0,2 mm.

obtuse angle. Sides before the angle converging more strongly anteriorly than posteriorly. Lateral margins posteriorly nearly subparallel, only very slightly emarginated (Fig. 31). Sides of pronotum only feebly and infrequently serrate. Hind angles only inconspicuously toothed.

Elytra oval, ca. 1.4 times longer than their combined breadth, broadest behind the middle, separately rounded at the apex (Fig. 31). Striae with coarse, dark punctures. Interstices externally lighter, 1 to 4 very slightly, 5 to 8 more convex, with series of ca. 0.09 mm long, pale, outstanding setae, setation of punctured striae decumbent and shorter. Humeral bulge well developed, reaching slightly over the basal margin of elytra.

Anterior tibia longer, 0.35-0.38 mm, ca. 3.9-4.0 times shorter than the length of body, tooth at inner side of anterior tibia small.

Longitudinal coxal lines on the first visible abdominal sternite short and slender, extending ca. half of the segment, apical margin of the fifth visible sternite with deeper emargination in the middle third (Fig. 42). Aedeagus narrow, apically pointed, in lateral view s-shaped, in ventral aspect of the *M. distinguenda* form (Figs 17, 18).

Female. Length 1.43-1.61 mm, antennae 0.43-0.48 mm, anterior tibia 0.32-0.38 mm. Length and other proportions of body in females generally larger than in males, only antennae and anterior tibia in relation to the body length shorter than in the males: antennae ca. 3.3 times shorter, anterior tibia ca. 4.2 times shorter than body length. Anterior tibial tooth absent. Other features of body agree with male. Apical margin of fifth visible sternite in the middle third less emarginate than in males and delimited by small angulate tubercles, which in some specimens are less developed and hardly distinguishable (Fig. 45).

Differential diagnosis. *M. ranongica* sp. n. is very closely allied to *M. chumphonica* sp. n. and *M. brevis* sp. n., but separable by possessing the following features: shorter temples, more bulging eyes, antennal segment 9 longer (Figs 56-58), shorter legs and different form of aedeagus (Figs 17-24) and apical margin of the fifth visible sternite (Figs 42-47). From *M. brevis* sp. n., it is readily recognisable on account of the narrower elytra and longer body (Figs 31 and 33).

Etymology. New species is named after the province Ranong in Southern Thailand, where it was collected.

Melanophthalma chumphonica sp. n.

(Figs 19-21, 32, 43, 46, 57)

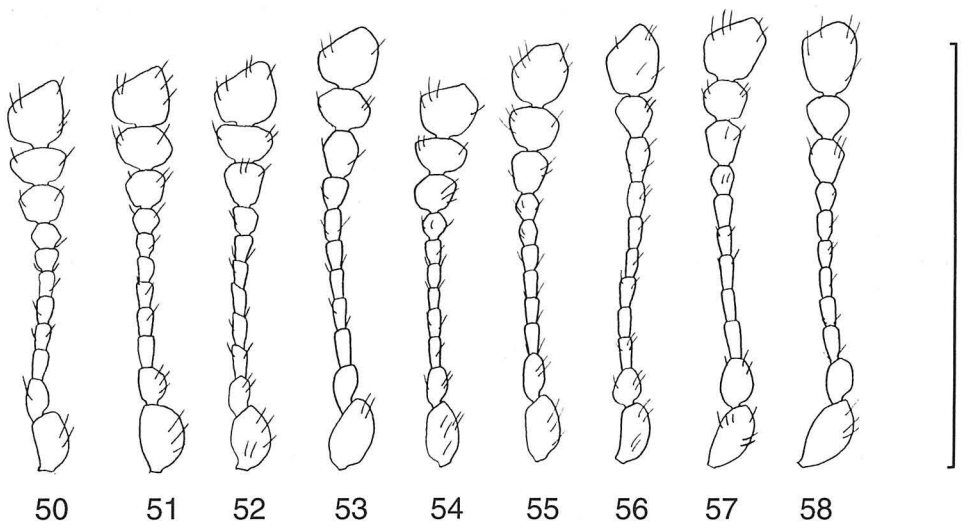
Material examined. Holotype: male, Thailand, Chumphon prov., Pha To env., 9°48' [N], 98°47' [E], 1.-21.iii.1996, K. Majer leg. (PMc); Paratypes (8 males): 7 ♂♂, same data as in holotype except 27.iii.-14.iv.1996, K. Majer leg. (PMc, MMc, WHRc); 1♂, same data as in holotype except 1.-12.iii.1996, P. Průdek leg. (PPc).

Additional material examined (5 females). 1 ♀, Thailand, Chumphon prov., Pha To env., 1.-21.iii.1996, K. Majer leg.; 1 ♀, same data except 27.iii.-14.iv.1996; 1 ♀, same data except P. Průdek leg.; 1 ♀, Thailand, Ranong prov., Hot Springs, 9°56' [N], 98°40' [E], 23.-25.ii.1996, K. Majer leg.; 1 ♀, same data except 23.-27.ii.1996, P. Průdek leg. (PMc, PPc).

Description. Male. Length 1.37-1.43 mm; head breadth 0.32-0.34 mm; antennal length 0.50-0.52 mm; pronotal breadth 0.36-0.38 mm; pronotal length 0.35-0.36 mm; elytral breadth 0.69-0.72 mm; elytral length 0.88-0.92 mm. Whole body yellowish-brown to yellowish-red, legs and antennae lighter, the antennal flagellum yellow.

Head strongly punctured, like pronotum covered with dense, light hairs, with large, facetted eyes, frons ca. 2.0 times the latitudinal diameter of an eye in middle width. Temples behind eyes well-developed, about ca. 1.5 times longer than the diameter of one eye-facet (Fig. 32). Antennae longer, ca. 2.8 times shorter than body length. Antennal club 3-segmented, segment 9 ca. 1.5 times as long as broad, extended forward, segment 10 ca. as long as broad (Fig. 57).

Pronotum only 1.0-1.1 times broader than long, broadest nearly the middle, wholly densely and irregularly puncture. Behind the middle with well-developed transverse depression; between this depression and strongly convex front part of pronotum, in middle of pronotal disc with a round shallow impression made up of several stronger punctures. Lateral margins of pronotum with less developed angular projections at their midlength, strongly converging anteriorly. Sides behind the projections slightly narrowed and slightly dilated before hind angles of pronotum, so that the base is only very little narrower, than the breadth across the middle of pronotum (Fig. 32). Sides of pronotum only weakly serrate, hind angles also only very slightly toothed.



Figs 50-58. Antenna (male), dorsal view. 50 - *Melanophthalma similis* sp. n.; 51 - *M. prudeki* sp. n.; 52 - *M. horaki* sp. n.; 53 - *M. crebra* sp. n.; 54 - *M. malaysica* sp. n.; 55 - *M. majeri* sp. n.; 56 - *M. ranongica* sp. n.; 57 - *M. chumphonica* sp. n.; 58 - *M. brevis* sp. n. Scale = 0.5 mm.
Obr. 50-58. Tykadlo (samec), shora. 50 - *Melanophthalma similis* sp. n.; 51 - *M. prudeki* sp. n.; 52 - *M. horaki* sp. n.; 53 - *M. crebra* sp. n.; 54 - *M. malaysica* sp. n.; 55 - *M. majeri* sp. n.; 56 - *M. ranongica* sp. n.; 57 - *M. chumphonica* sp. n.; 58 - *M. brevis* sp. n. Měřítko = 0,5 mm.

Elytra rather short oval, ca. 1.3 times as long as together broad, broadest around the middle, elytral apex separately rounded (Fig. 32). Lighter interstices slightly convex, with ca. 0.08 mm long, pale and outstanding setation. Setae in punctured striae shorter and more decumbent, punctures in rows dark and close. Humeral bulge slightly overlapping the basal margin of elytron.

Anterior tibia long, 0.38-0.42 mm, only 3.4-3.5 times as short as body length, tooth at inner side very small.

First visible abdominal sternite with slender coxal lines, distinct only along ca. half of the segment, apical margin of fifth visible sternite in the middle shallowly and narrowly emarginate (Fig. 43). Aedeagus narrow, longer, lateral margins raised behind the apex, from lateral view slightly arched, in dorsal view moderately asymmetrical (Figs 19-21).

Female. Length 1.43-1.64 mm, antennal length 0.46-0.56, length of anterior tibia 0.35-0.41 mm. Females of this species are larger than the males, only anterior tibia well marked and antennae slightly shorter than in the males. Anterior tibia 3.9-4.0 times, antennae ca. 2.9-3.0 times shorter than body length. Other proportions of the body agree with males. Tooth on anterior tibia absent. Emargination in the middle of apical margin of the fifth visible sternite deeper than in the male (Fig. 46).

Differential diagnosis. *M. chumphonica* sp. n. has even less transverse pronotum than the related *M. ranongica* sp. n. and *M. brevis* sp. n. (Figs 31-33). From *M. ranongica* sp. n., its closest relative, it differs by its longer temples, less bulging eyes and longer anterior tibia. From *M. brevis* sp. n., it differs by its longer elytra (Figs 32 and 33) and different antennal segments 9 and 10 (Figs 57 nad 58). From both these species *M. chumphonica* sp. n. is readily recognisable by the form of the aedeagus (Figs 17-24) and the apical margin of the fifth visible sternite (Figs 42-47).

Amongst all other species, *M. chumphonica* sp. n. is most similar to *M. evansi* Johnson, 1972, known only from female specimens from India and Japan. *M. evansi* belongs, according to the original description, to the same group of species (yellowish colouration, segments of antennal flagellum slender, temples well developed, pronotum feebly transverse, ca 1.2 times broader than long). It differs from *M. chumphonica* sp. n. in having the antennal segment 9 only slightly longer than broad, more transverse pronotum and strongly toothed hind angles of pronotum.

Etymology. New species named after the province Chumphon in Southern Thailand, where it was collected.

Melanophthalma brevis sp. n.

(Figs 22-24, 33, 44, 47, 58)

Material examined. Holotype: male, Thailand, Chumphon prov., Pha To env., 9°48' [N], 98°47' [E], 27.iii.-14.iv.1996, K. Majer leg. (PMc); Paratypes (11 males): 9 ♂♂, same data as in holotype; 1 ♂, same data except 1.-21.iii.1996; 1 ♂, same data as in holotype except P. Průdek leg. (PMc, PPc, MMc, WHRc).

Additional material examined (6 females)**.** 3 ♀♀, same data as in holotype; 1 ♀ same data except P. Průdek leg.; 1 ♀, same data as in holotype except 1.-21.iii.1996; 1 ♀, same data except 1.-12.iii.1996, P. Průdek leg. (PMc, PPc).

Description. Male. Length 1.19–1.47 mm; head breadth 0.29–0.35 mm; antennal length 0.42–0.51 mm; pronotal breadth 0.34–0.41 mm; pronotal length 0.31–0.35 mm; elytral breadth 0.60–0.74 mm; elytral length 0.71–0.84. Unicoloured reddish–yellow species, legs ant antennae lighter, antenal flagellum yellow.

Head densely and regularly punctured, facetted eyes less bulging, the frons ca 2.0 times the latitudinal diameter of an eye in width. Temples well-developed, almost 1.5 times as long as the diameter of one eye-facet (Fig. 33). Antennae longer with regard to body, ca 2.8-2.9 times shorter than body length. Antennal club 3-segmented, segment 9 slightly longer than broad, segment slightly 10 transverse, a little broader than long (Fig. 58).

Pronotum slightly transverse, 1.1–1.2 times as broad as long, broadest around or a little before the middle, entirely punctured. Very finely serrate lateral margins in the middle obtusely angulate, thence sides strongly narrowed in front. Basally sides slightly narrowed, shallowly excised and slightly widened before hind angles of pronotum (Fig. 33). Transverse depression along whole base across the hind third of pronotum. Before this, ca. in the centre of disc, with a shallow, approximately circular, impression. Hind angles of pronotum very inconspicuously toothed.

Elytra short, widely oval, only 1.1-1.2 times as long as together broad, broadest about or in front of the middle, separately rounded at the apex (Fig. 33). Elytra with obscure and closely punctured striae, externally lighter interstices slightly convex, with ca. 0.08 mm long, pale and outstanding setation. Setae in punctured striae more decumbent and shorter. Humeral bulge little exceeding the basal margin of elytron.

Anterior tibia long, 0.36-0.41 mm, only ca. 3.4-3.5 times shorter than body length, anterior tibial tooth small and slender.

First visible abdominal sternite with very fine but distinct longitudinal coxal lines. Fifth visible sternite in the middle of apical margin only with very narrow and shallow emargination (Fig. 44). Aedeagus narrow, in lateral view slightly arched, in dorsal view asymmetrical, the right margin more strongly raised behind apex than the left one (Figs 22-24).

Female. Length 1.36-1.47 mm, maximum length as in the male. Antennae 0.46-0.49 mm, ca. 2.9 times shorter than body length, almost equal to the male. Difference exists only in the length of anterior tibiae, 0.29-0.35 mm, which are 4.2-4.4 times shorter than body length. Tooth on anterior tibia absent. Apical margin of the fifth visible sternite in the middle third shallowly and more narrowly emarginate. This emargination is delimited by very fine tubercles, which are only partially distinguishable in some specimens (Fig. 47).

Differential diagnosis. *M. brevis* sp. n. belongs, due to its very slightly transverse pronotum and developed temples to the subgroup of the genus *Melanophthalma* including *M. ranongica* sp. n. and *M. chumphonica* sp. n. (Figs 31-33). It may be distinguished from both of these species as follows: short elytra almost as wide as long (Figs 31-33), more transverse antennal segment 10 (Figs 56-58), different form of aedeagus (Figs 17-24) and of the apical margin of the fifth visible sternite (Figs 42-47). Unlike *M. ranongica* sp. n., *M. brevis* sp. n. has longer temples, less bulging eyes and longer anterior tibia.

Etymology. Latin brevis, short (adjective in apposition) referring to the characteristic short body form.

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SOUHRN

V předložené práci je zpracována první část materiálu brouků čeledi Corticariidae z jižního Thajska, který sbírali v roce 1993 J. Horák a v roce 1996 P. Průdek a K. Majer v provinciích Pattani, Chumphon a Ranong: 235 exemplářů 11 druhů rodu *Melanophthalma* Motschulsky, 1866. O rozšíření druhů tohoto rodu v orientální oblasti a na Dálném východě je velmi málo známo (stručný přehled viz. úvodní část anglického textu) a z Thajska o něm doposud nebyly publikovány žádné údaje.

Jsou zde uvedeny dva druhy, nové pro faunu Thajska: *Melanophthalma angulicollis* Motschulsky, 1866 a *M. japonica* Johnson, 1976; a popsáno devět nových druhů: *M. similis* sp. n., *M. prudeki* sp. n., *M. horaki* sp. n., *M. crebra* sp. n., *M. malaysica* sp. n., *M. majeri* sp. n., *M. ranongica* sp. n., *M. chumphonica* sp. n. a *M. brevis* sp. n. Pro všech 11 dosud známých druhů z jižního Thajska je sestaven určovací klíč.

Klíč druhů rodu *Melanophthalma* Motschulsky, 1866 známých z jižního Thajska

1 Hlava za očima s více či méně vyvinutými spánky, jejichž délka dosahuje přibližně 2/3 až 3/2 průměru jedné oční facety (obr. 28-33). 2
- Hlava za očima beze spánků (obr. 25-27). 7
2 Štít příčný, 1,3-1,4x širší délky, strany tvoří okolo středu zřetelný úhel (obr. 28-30). Tělo červenohnědé. Čelo se dvěma podélnými vtisky (obr. 28, 29) nebo silnějšími tečkami (obr. 30). Přední holeně 4,3-5,1x kratší délky těla..... 3
- Štít slabě příčný, 1,0-1,2x širší délky, strany tvoří velmi tupý úhel (obr. 31-33). Tělo žluté až žlutohnědé. Hlava zřetelně tečkovaná, čelo bez podélných rýh. Přední holeně 3,4-4,2x kratší délky těla. 5
3 Spánky malé, ale zřetelné, jejich délka odpovídá přibližně 2/3 průměru jedné oční facety. Oči velké, vypouklé. Krovky dlouze oválné, asi 1,5x tak dlouhé jak dohromady široké (obr. 30). Tvar aedeagu (obr. 15, 16) a apikálního okraje 5. sternitu (obr. 41) charakteristický. ..... *M. majeri* sp. n.
- Spánky zřetelné, odpovídající přibližně průměru jedné oční facety. Oči méně vypouklé. Krovky oválné, 1,3-1,4x tak dlouhé jak dohromady široké (obr. 28, 29). 4
4 Tykadla 2,9-3,3x kratší délky těla, 9. článek delší než široký, 10. článek přibližně tak dlouhý jako široký (obr. 53). Štít silně příčný, asi 1,4x širší délky (obr. 28). Apikální okraj 5. sternitu u ♂♂ s drobným zoubkem ve středu vykrojení (obr. 39, 48), aedeagus charakteristický (obr. 11, 12). ..... *M. crebra* sp. n.
- Tykadla 3,3-3,4x kratší délky těla, 9. článek přibližně stejně široký jako dlouhý, 10. článek širší délky (obr. 54). Štít méně výrazně příčný, asi 1,3x širší délky (obr. 29). Apikální okraj 5. sternitu bez zoubku(obr. 40, 49), aedeagus charakteristický (obr. 13, 14). ..... *M. malaysica* sp. n.
5 9. tykadlový článek lehce delší šířky, 10. článek slabě širší než dlouhý (obr. 58). Krovky krátké, široce oválné, pouze 1,1-1,2x dlouhé jak dohromady široké. Štít slabě příčný, 1,1-1,2x širší délky (obr. 33). Apikální okraj 5. sternitu (obr. 44, 47) a tvar aedeagu (obr. 22-24) charakteristický. ..... *M. brevis* sp. n.
- 9. tykadlový článek zřetelně delší šířky, 10. článek přibližně stejně dlouhý jak široký (obr. 56, 57). Krovky 1,3-1,4x delší než dohromady široké. Štít pouze 1,0-1,1x širší délky (obr. 31, 32). 6

6 Spánky dlouhé téměř jako průměr jedné oční facety. Krovky oválné, přibližně 1,4x delší než dohromady široké (obr. 31). Přední holeň 3,9-4,2x kratší délky těla. Apikální okraj 5. sternitu (obr. 42, 45) a tvar aedeagu (obr. 17, 18) charakteristický. ..... *M. ranongica* sp. n.

- Spánky přibližně 1,5x delší průměru jedné oční facety. Krovky krátce oválné, asi 1,3x delší než dohromady široké (obr. 32). Přední holeň 3,4-4,0x kratší délky těla. Apikální okraj 5. sternitu (obr. 43, 46) a tvar aedeagu (obr. 19-21) charakteristický. ..... *M. chumphonica* sp. n.

7 8. tykadlový článek slabě, 9. článek zřetelně delší šířky a dopředu rozšířený (obr. 62). Krovky vejčité (obr. 27). Vykrojení apikálního okraje 5. sternitu u ♂♂ bez výběžků (obr. 38), tvar aedeagu charakteristický (obr. 9, 10). ..... *M. horaki* sp. n.

- 8. a 9. tykadlový článek přibližně stejně široký jako dlouhý (obr. 50, 51). Krovky oválné (obr. 25, 26). Vykrojení apikálního okraje 5. sternitu u ♂♂ ohraničeno drobnými výběžky nebo je pátý sternit zcela bez vykrojení (obr. 34-37). 8

8 Zadní rohy štítu s vyvinutými zoubky. Přední holeň u ♂♂ před středem vnitřní strany se zřetelným zoubkem. Krovky dlouze oválné (obr. 26). Dva velmi podobné druhy, bezpečně odlišitelné podle tvaru aedeagu a okraje pátého sternitu. 9

- Zadní rohy štítu se slaběji vyvinutými zoubky. Přední holeň u ♂♂ před středem vnitřní strany s drobným zoubkem. Dva velmi podobné druhy, spolehlivě rozlišitelné podle tvaru aedeagu a apikálního okraje 5. sternitu ♂♂. 10

9 Tělo tmavě červenohnědé. Krovky ve střední části zaoblené, ke konci více zúžené (obr. 26). Apikální okraj 5. sternitu ♂♂ (obr. 36) a tvar aedeagu (obr. 6-8) charakteristický. ..... *M. prudeki* sp. n.

- Tělo červenohnědé. Krovky ve střední části více paralelní, konec krovek šířeji zaoblený. Tvar aedeagu (obr. 1) a apikálního okraje 5. sternitu ♂♂ (obr. 34) charakteristický. ..... *M. angulicollis* Motschulsky, 1866

10 Délka těla 1,38-1,43 mm. Tykadla přibližně 3,1x kratší délky těla. 6.-8. mezirýží krovek slabě klenutá. Vykrojení 5. sternitu u ♂♂ s drobnými výběžky po stranách (obr. 35). Tvar aedeagu charakteristický (obr. 3-5). ..... *M. similis* sp. n.

- Délka těla 1,40-1,84 mm. Tykadla přibližně 3,5x kratší délky těla. Mezirýží na krovkách plochá. Pátý sternit u ♂♂ bez vykrojení (obr. 37), tvar aedeagu charakteristický (obr. 2). ..... *M. japonica* Johnson, 1976