

A study of the *Litargus jakli* species group (Coleoptera: Mycetophagidae) from the Oriental Region

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Abstract. The following new species belonging to the *Litargus jakli* species group from the Oriental Region are described, illustrated and compared: *Litargus (Litargosomus) jendeki* sp. nov. (India: Meghalaya); *Litargus (Litargosomus) jaechi* sp. nov. (Thailand); *Litargus (Litargosomus) horaki* sp. nov. (Thailand, Vietnam).

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Litargus* Erichson, 1846 can be divided into the following 4 subgenera: *Alitargus* Casey, 1900 including 3 species, *Litargosomus* Motschulsky, 1858 including 20 species, *Litargus* Erichson, 1846 including 16 species, *Paralitargus* Casey, 1900 including 1 species, and 21 species as incertae sedis (Háva 2022, 2023).

During the determination of some unidentified material deposited in Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien I three new species from India, Thailand and Vietnam belonging to the *Litargus jakli* species group were found.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The material is deposited in the following collections:

JHAC Jiří Háva, Private Entomological Laboratory & Collection, Únětice u Prahy, Prague-West, Czech Republic;

NHMW Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien, Austria (M. Seidel).

The size of the beetles or of their body parts can be useful in species recognition and thus, the following measurements were made:

total length (TL) - linear distance from anterior margin of head to apex of elytra.

elytral width (EW) - maximum linear transverse distance.

Specimens of the presently described species are provided with red, printed label with text as follows: „HOLOTYPE [or PARATYPE] *name of species* sp. nov. Jiří Háva det. 2023”.

RESULTS

Genus *Litargus* Erichson, 1846

Subgenus *Litargosomus* Motschulsky, 1858

Litargus jakli species group

Diagnosis. The species group is characterized by brown unicolorous pronotal and elytral cuticula.

Distribution. Oriental Region.

***Litargus (Litargosomus) jakli* Háva, 2021**
(Figs. 1-3)

Litargus (Litargosomus) jakli Háva, 2021: 18.

Type material. Holotype (♂), Paratypes (1 ♂, 35 unsexed specimens): W Timor, Buraen, 50 km south of Kupang, 350 m, 26.1.-9.2.2006, St. Jakl lgt. / PARATYPE *Litargus (Litargosomus) jakli* sp. nov. Jiří Háva det. 2021.



Figs. 1-3. *Litargus (Litargosomus) jakli* Háva, 2021 (paratype): 1-body, dorsal aspect; 2-body, lateral aspect; 3-antenna.

Distribution. Indonesia: Timor

***Litargus (Litargosomus) jaechi* sp. nov.**
(Figs. 4-6)

Type material. Holotype (♀): Thailand, Tham Than Loti NP, 27.11.1990, Forster leg., (NHMW). Paratypes (4 ♀♀): same data, (2 NHMW, 2 JHAC); (1 ♀): Thailand, Ko Chang, Klong Prao, Wasserfallbach (13, 2), Jäch leg., (NHMW).

Description. Female. Body measurements TL 2.3-2.4 mm, EW 1.0-1.1 mm; oblong-oval, flat; brownish-black on dorsal and ventral surfaces, covered with short, yellow recumbent setation.

Head brown, with finely punctures; covered by yellowish, recumbent setation; labrum brown; eyes prominent laterally in dorsal view, coarsely faceted and slightly emarginate near antennal insertions; antennae with 11 antennomeres, entirely brown with brown setation, antennal club with three antennomeres (Fig. 6); palpi brown, apical maxillary palpomere large, cylindrical.

Pronotum brown, flat, rugose, with large and dense punctures, covered with yellow recumbent setation; widest at middle, gradually narrowed anteriorly and posteriorly; anterior margin slightly arcuate; sides roundly arcuate; basal margin sinuate, without short and circular grooves on subbasal parts.

Scutellum broadly triangular, with short recumbent yellow setation.

Elytra brown without colour patterns, covered by yellow recumbent setation, elongate,

subparallel-sided, narrowing from apical 1/4 to apex. Epipleuron brown, covered with yellow recumbent setation. Metamesoventrite brown, with yellow recumbent setation. Prosternal process broad.

Legs entirely light brown with light brown spines, covered with yellow recumbent setation. Tibiae with long brown spines apically.

Abdominal visible ventrites brown, covered with yellow recumbent setation. Pygidium brown, covered with yellow recumbent setation.

Male. Unknown.



Figs. 4-6. *Litargus (Litargosomus) jaechi* sp. nov. (paratype): 4- body, dorsal aspect; 5- body, lateral aspect; 6- antenna.

Differential diagnosis. See the key to species below.

Etymology. Patronymic, dedicated to Manfred Jäch (Wien, Austria), collector of the new species.

***Litargus (Litargosomus) jendeki* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 7-10)

Type material. Holotype (♂): NE India, Meghalaya, W Garo Hills, Bagmara, ca 100 m, 25°11.5'N 90°38.5'E, 19-21.5.1996, Jendek & Sausa leg., (NHMW). Paratype (1 ♂): same data, (JHAC).

Description. Male. Body measurements TL 2.0-2.2 mm, EW 0.9-1.0 mm; oblong-oval, subparallel-sided; weakly convex dorsally, weakly glossy; brown on dorsal and ventral surfaces, covered with short, yellow recumbent setation.

Head brown, with dense and coarse punctures; covered by yellowish, recumbent setation; labrum brown; eyes prominent laterally in dorsal view, coarsely faceted and slightly emarginate near antennal insertions; antennae with 11 antennomeres, entirely light brown with yellow

setation, antennal club with three antennomeres (Fig. 9); palpi brown, apical maxillary palpomere large, cylindrical.

Pronotum brown, convex dorsally, rugose, with large and dense punctures, covered with yellow recumbent setation; widest at middle, gradually narrowed anteriorly and posteriorly; anterior margin slightly arcuate; sides roundly arcuate; basal margin sinuate, without short and circular grooves on subbasal parts.

Scutellum broadly triangular, with short recumbent yellow setation.

Elytra brown without colour patterns, covered by yellow recumbent setation, elongate, subparallel-sided. Epipleuron brown, covered with yellow recumbent setation. Metamesoventrite brown, with yellow recumbent setation. Prosternal process broad.

Legs entirely brown with light brown spines, covered with yellow recumbent setation. Tibiae with long brown spines apically.

Abdominal visible ventrites brown, covered with yellow recumbent setation. Pygidium brown, covered with yellow recumbent setation.

Male genitalia (Fig. 10).

Female. Unknown.



Figs. 7-10. *Litargus (Litargosomus) jendeki* sp. nov. (paratype): 7- body, dorsal aspect; 8- body, lateral aspect; 9- antenna; 10- male genitalia.

Differential diagnosis. See the key to species below.

Etymology. Patronymic, dedicated to Eduard Jendek (Bratislava, Slovakia), collector of the new species.

***Litargus (Litargosomus) horaki* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 11-13)

Type material. Holotype (♀): S Vietnam, Nam Cat Tien Nat. Park, 1-15.5.1994, Pacholátko & Dembicky leg., (NHMW). Paratypes (3 ♀♀): same data, (2 NHMW, 1 JHAC); (2 ♀♀): S Thailand, Betong, Gunung Cang dun vill., Yala distr., 26.3.-22.4.1993, Horák & Strnad leg., (1 NHMW, 1 JHAC).

Description. Female. Body measurements TL 2.0 mm, EW 0.9 mm; oblong-oval, subparallel-sided; weakly convex dorsally, weakly glossy; brown on dorsal and ventral surfaces, covered with short, yellow recumbent setation.

Head brown, with finely punctures; covered by yellowish, recumbent setation; labrum brown; eyes prominent laterally in dorsal view, coarsely faceted and slightly emarginate near antennal insertions; antennae with 11 antennomeres, entirely brown with yellow setation, antennal club with three antennomeres (Fig. 13); palpi brown, apical maxillary palpomere large, cylindrical.

Pronotum brown, convex dorsally, rugose, with large and dense punctures, covered with yellow recumbent setation; widest at middle, gradually narrowed anteriorly and posteriorly; anterior margin slightly arcuate; sides roundly arcuate; basal margin sinuate, without short and circular grooves on subbasal parts.

Scutellum broadly triangular, with short recumbent yellow setation.

Elytra brown without colour patterns, covered by yellow recumbent setation, elongate, subparallel-sided. Epipleuron brown, covered with yellow recumbent setation. Metamesoventrite brown, with yellow recumbent setation. Prosternal process broad.

Legs entirely light brown with light brown spines, covered with yellow recumbent setation. Tibiae with long brown spines apically.

Abdominal visible ventrites brown, covered with yellow recumbent setation. Pygidium brown, covered with yellow recumbent setation.



Figs. 11-13. *Litargus (Litargosomus) horaki* sp. nov. (paratype): 11- body, dorsal aspect; 12- body, lateral aspect; 13- antenna.

Male. Unknown.

Note. Specimens from Thailand are more darkish brown, other characters are identical.

Differential diagnosis. See the key to species below.

Etymology. Patronymic, dedicated to Jan Horák (Prague, Czech Republic), one of the collectors of the new species.

Key to the species of *Litargus jakli* species group

- 1 (2) body flat; body length 2.3-2.4 mm, (Figs. 4-5), antennae (Fig. 6); Thailand *L. jaechi* sp. nov.
2 (1) body convex
body length 1.7-2.0 mm, (Figs. 1-2), antennae (Fig. 3); Indonesia: Timor *L. jakli* Háva, 2021
body length 2.0 mm, (Figs. 11-12), antennae (Fig. 13); Thailand, Vietnam *L. horaki* sp. nov.
body length 2.0-2.2 mm, (Figs. 7-8), antennae (Fig. 9); India: Meghalaya *L. jendeki* sp. nov.

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