

## A new *Hemicera* (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Stenochiinae: Cnodalonini) species from Laos

Yuka UTSUNOMIYA<sup>1</sup>, Maxwell V. L. BARCLAY<sup>2</sup> & Kimio MASUMOTO<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Gakushuin Women's College, 3-20-1, Toyama, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 162-8650 Japan

<sup>2</sup>Department of Life Science (Entomology), Natural History Museum, Cromwell Rd., London, SW7 5BD, United Kingdom

<sup>3</sup>Higashi-Ikebukuro 2-13-7-502, Toshima-ku, Tokyo, 170-0013 Japan

**Abstract.** A new *Hemicera* species from Laos is described under the name of *H. (H.) geiseri* sp. nov.

### INTRODUCTION

Among a huge number of tenebrionid specimens preserved in the collection of the Natural History Museum, London (formerly British Museum, Natural History, BMNH), we found an unknown species belonging to the genus *Hemicera* Laporte & Brullé, 1831. More than 110 species are distributed mainly in Southeast Asia. After careful examination, we concluded that it is new to science. Thus, we describe it herein as a new species.

### DESCRIPTION

#### ***Hemicera (Hemicera) geiseri* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 1-3)

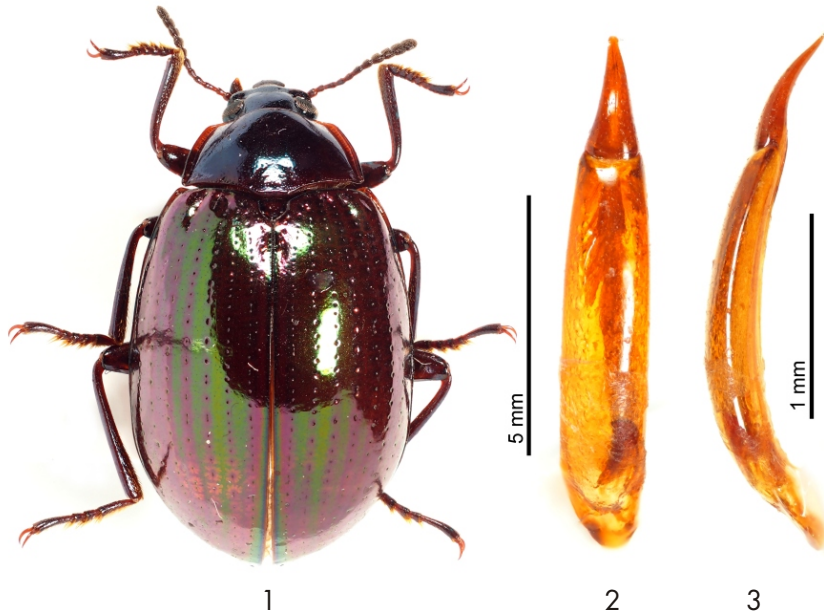
**Type material.** Holotype (♂): "LAOS, Phongsaly Prov., PHONGSALY env., Phu Fa, h: 1450-1600 m, 28. VII, 2006, leg. M. Geiser Bergregenwald // *Hemicera* sp., det. SCHAWALLER." (BMNH).

**Description of holotype.** Body subovate, 9.3 mm in length, 5.4 mm in width (across elytra), length / width 1.7, strongly convex dorsally; coloration almost black, 2nd interval of elytra with dark greenish reflection, the remaining intervals with dark purplish reflection under a certain light, hairs yellowish brown to blackish brown; dorsal surface strongly shining, ventral surface mostly gently shining; body almost glabrous, antennae, tibiae on apico-ventral faces and tarsi on ventral sides densely haired.

Head transversely hexagonal; clypeus short and transverse, weakly convex medially, fairly closely, minutely punctate, with apex widely truncate; clypeo-genal border obliquely depressed; genae raised antero-laterally, depressed before eyes, minutely punctate, with exterior margins rounded; fronto-clypeal border nearly straight but indefinite; frons rather wide and gently convex, scattered with small punctures, which are sparser than those on clypeus; ocular groove clear along anterior and posterior parts of eyes. Eyes almost transverse, gently convex laterally, slightly obliquely, roundly inlaid into head; Distance between eyes / Width of eye: 2.2. Antennae subclavate, six apical antennomeres forming club, tip of antennomere XI reaching to basal 1/3 of pronotum; length of each antennomere from I to XI in mm: 0.20, 0.13, 0.27, 0.20, 0.16, 0.18, 0.17, 0.21, 0.20, 0.22, 0.27.

Pronotum inverted subpentagonal, 1.9 mm in length, 3.5 mm in width, Width / Length: 1.8, widest at base; apex very slightly emarginate, weakly produced in medial part, grooved and weakly reflected in lateral parts; base gently, triangularly produced, truncate in area opposite to scutellum, slightly sinuous on both sides, finely bordered in lateral 2/7; front angles rectangular

with rounded corners; hind angles rectangular, with very slightly produced corners; disc weakly convex, highest at middle, weakly depressed in medio-basal portion, very weakly microsculptured, sparsely, minutely punctate, the punctures mostly round, similar in size to those of frons; sides gently declined to lateral margins, which are slightly roundly narrowed towards apex, and noticeably grooved and finely ridged, the grooves and ridges easily visible from above. Scutellum subcordate, very weakly convex, very weakly microsculptured, scattered with minute punctures.



Figs. 1-3. *Hemicera* (*Hemicera*) *geiseri* sp. nov.; 1. Habitus in dorsal view (holotype, male); 2. Aedeagus in dorsal view; 3. Ditto in lateral view.

Elytra subovate though the basal portion is truncate; 7.5 mm in length, 5.4 mm in width; Length / Width: 1.4; Elytral Length / Pronotal Length: 3.9; Elytral Width / Pronotal Width: 1.5; widest at middle, gently narrowed anteriorly and roundly so posteriorly from widest point; dorsum strongly convex, highest at basal 3/8; disc with rows of punctures, those of row I small and irregularly, closely set, those of rows II and III becoming larger, round and widely spaced from each other, those of row IV largest and widest spaced, those of rows V to VIII (lateral most row) becoming smaller and closer together; intervals feebly convex, very weakly microsculptured, scattered with microscopic punctures (visible x 15); sides steeply, roundly declined to lateral margins, which are grooved and finely reflected, and easily visible from above; humeri moderately swollen, scattered with minute punctures; apices weakly produced and slightly dehiscent.

Maxilla with terminal palpomere fairly large, subrectangular. Mentum rather small, inverted subtrapezoidal, convex at antero-medial part, almost glabrous. Gula rather narrow, subtriangular in basal part, subparallel-sided in apical part, rounded at apex, very weakly microsculptured and transversely wrinkled, with a pair of curved impressions in apical part.

Prosternum short; apex weakly emarginate and ridged; anterior part steeply inclined in lateral parts, microsculptured, with a longitudinal subfusiform elevation medially, which is flat and continues to the prosternal process; medial part (=area between procoxae) grooved along lateral margins; posterior part (=prosternal process) weakly declined and triangular, with lateral lobes strongly depressed. Mesoventrite short; anterior and medial parts strongly depressed, microsculptured and longitudinally wrinkled; posterior parts narrowed, strongly raised in V-shape opposite to prosternal process, flat and scattered with minute punctures. Metaventrite rather short, longitudinally impressed on median line in apical half, gently convex on both sides of the median impression, microsculptured, irregularly scattered with minute punctures, which are larger in basal part, becoming smaller in posterior part. Abdomen moderate-sized, microsculptured, scattered with minute punctures, microscopically wrinkled in lateral parts of abdominal sternite I to IV, sternite V with rounded apex.

Femora subclavate, weakly microsculptured, finely punctate, the punctures becoming closer apically. Tibiae gradually becoming broader apically, rather closely punctate and finely haired; protibiae slightly curved intero-ventrally, fairly densely clothed with subsetaceous hairs in apical 3/5 on intero-ventral face; mesotibiae slightly curved intero-ventrally, subsetaceously haired in apical 3/5 on intero-ventral face, the hairs becoming longer apically; metatibiae very slightly curved anteriorly, subsetaceously haired in apical 3/5 anteriorly. Tarsi rather long; lengths of tarsomeres I to III in mm: 0.33, 0.14, 0.15, 0.12, 0.74; 0.41, 0.22, 0.20, 0.19, 0.79; 0.78, 0.33, 0.23, 0.75.

Aedeagus subfusiform, 2.58 mm in length, 0.47 mm in width (widest point in basale), fairly strongly curved in lateral view; basale 1.95 mm in length, widest at middle, longitudinally convex, scattered with minute punctures; apicale elongate-triangular, gently curved ventrad in lateral view, 0.63 mm in length, prolonged in apical part, with apices slightly rounded.

**Differential diagnosis.** This new species somewhat resembles *Hemicera* (*Hemicera*) *krikkeni* Ando, 2003, from Sabah, but can be distinguished by its larger size (*H. krikkeni* is only 7 mm long and 4 mm wide). The new species also has the head becoming noticeably narrower towards the apex, the pronotum with the apex more strongly produced in the medial part and the base more noticeably bisinuous, the elytra more strongly convex with apical portions more noticeably produced, and the legs obviously more slender.

**Etymology.** The specific name, *geiseri*, is given in honour of M. F. Geiser, the collector of the holotype and a Coleoptera curator at the BMNH.

**Distribution.** Known from Phongsaly Province, in the extreme north of Laos, adjoining North Vietnam and Yunnan, China. The holotype was collected in 'bergregenwald' (montane rainforest). Phu Fa Hill has an altitude of 1450-1600 metres, and is covered with humid subtropical secondary montane forest (M. F. Geiser pers. comm.).

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