A new *Mycetophagus* species from Laos in the subgenus *Mycetophagoides* Nikitsky, 1988 (Coleoptera: Mycetophagidae)

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Abstract. *Mycetophagus* (*Mycetophagoides*) *ruzickai* sp. nov. from Laos is described, illustrated and compared with similar species. The new species differs by the structure of the male genitalia and the elytral colour pattern.

INTRODUCTION

The family Mycetophagidae (Coleoptera) currently contains 220 species worldwide (Háva 2022, 2024). The subgenus *Mycetophagoides* Nikitsky, 1988 currently contains four species known from the eastern Palaearctic Region (Nikitsky 1988, Saitô 2006, Háva 2022): *Mycetophagus alni* Champion, 1917, *Mycetophagus hillerianus* Reitter, 1877, *Mycetophagus livshitzi* Nikitsky, 1988 and *Mycetophagus narukawai* Saitô, 2006. A new species recently collected in Laos (Houa Phanh Province) is described here.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

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.

The type material is deposited in the following collection:
JHAC Jiří Háva, Private Entomological Laboratory & Collection, Únětice u Prahy, Prague-West, Czech Republic.

The specimen of the presently described species is provided with red, printed label with text as follows: „HOLOTYPE *Mycetophagus* (*Mycetophagoides*) *ruzickai* sp. nov. Jiří Háva det. 2024".

RESULTS

Mycetophagus (*Mycetophagoides*) *ruzickai* sp. nov.

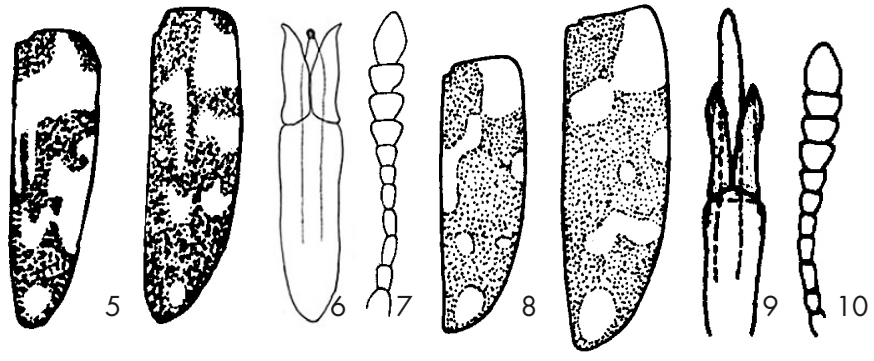
(Figs. 1-4)

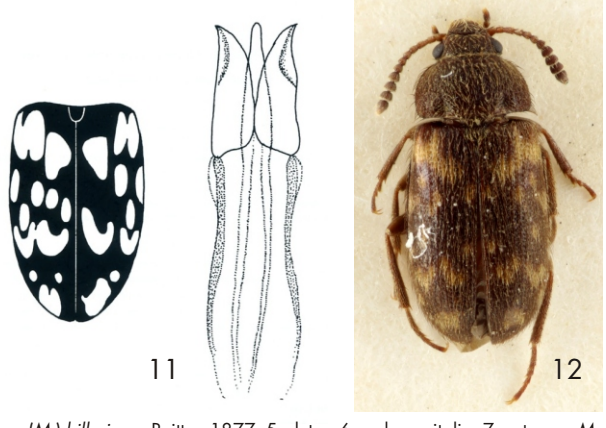
Type material. Holotype (♂): NE LAOS, Hua Phan Prov., Mt. Phu Pane, 1200-1600 m, 31.v.-11.vi.2011, 20°12′N, 103°59′E, St. Jákl and Lao collectors lgt., (JHAC).

Description. Male. Body measurements TL 3.8 mm, EW 1.6 mm; elongate-oval, subparallel-sided; weakly convex dorsally, weakly glossy; mostly brown, covered with brownish and yellow recumbent setation; mouthparts, legs brown; elytra brown with yellowish-brown patches.

Head with dense and coarse punctures; ocular distance about 2.7 times wider than diameter of eyes; covered by yellowish, erect setation; labrum light brown; eyes prominent laterally in dorsal view, coarsely faceted and slightly emarginate near antennal insertions; antennae with 11

Figs. 1-4. Mycetophagus (M.) ruzickai sp. nov.: 1- habitus, dorsal aspect; 2- right elytron; 3- antenna; 4- male genitalia.





Figs. 5-12. *Mycetophagus* (M.) *hillerianus* Reitter, 1877: 5- elytra; 6- male genitalia; 7- antenna; *Mycetophagus* (M.) *livshitzi* Nikitsky, 1988: 8- elytra; 9- male genitalia; 10- antenna; *Mycetophagus* (M.) *narukawai* Saitô, 2006: 11- elytra and male genitalia; *Mycetophagus* (M.) *alni* Champion, 1917 (lectotype): 12- habitus, dorsal aspect.

antennomeres, brown, antennal club with five antennomeres (Fig. 3); palpi dark brown, apical maxillary palpomere cylindrical.

Pronotum convex dorsally, rugose, with large and dense punctures and yellow setation; widest at middle, gradually narrowed anteriad and posteriad; anterior margin slightly arcuate; lateral sides distinctly margined, roundly arcuate; basal margin sinuate, with short and circular grooves subbasally.

Scutellum triangularly-oval, with short recumbent brown setation.

Elytra with yellow and brown recumbent setation, elongate, subparallel-sided, narrowed from apical fourth to apex; dark brown with many small, large and geometric yellowish-brown patches (Figs. 1-2); punctate-striate, strial punctures very deep, large and regular; interstices flat, narrower than striae.

Meta- and mesoventrites dark brown, with yellow recumbent setation.

Abdominal visible ventrites brown, with yellow recumbent setation.

Male genitalia as in Fig. 4.

Female. Unknown.

Differential diagnosis. The new species very similar to other known species from the subgenus, but differs from all the species by the structure of the male genitalia; externally similar to *Mycetophagus livshitzi* Nikitsky, 1988 but differs from it by the structure of the antennae and male genitalia.

Etymology. Patronymic, dedicated to my friend and entomologist Tomáš Růžička (Prague, Czech Republic).

Distribution. So far known only from Laos: Houa Phanh Province.

Mycetophagus (*Mycetophagoides*) *livshitzi* Nikitsky, 1988

Material examined: Russia, Primorje Reg., Kedrovaya Pad´N.R., 18.8.1985, Kompanztev lgt., 1 spec., J. Háva det., (JHAC).

Distribution. A species known from Russia: Far East (Nikitsky 1988, Háva 2022), new locality data from Primorje Region.

LIST OF SPECIES OF SUBGENUS *MYCETOPHAGOIDES* NIKITSKY, 1988

Mycetophagus alni Champion, 1917
Distribution: Nepal, India: Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, West Bengal

Mycetophagus hillerianus Reitter, 1877
Distribution: China, Hong Kong, Japan, Mongolia, E Russia, South Korea

Mycetophagus livshitzi Nikitsky, 1988
Distribution: Russia: Far East

Mycetophagus narukawai Saitô, 2006
Distribution: Japan: Tsushima

Mycetophagus ruzickai **sp. nov.**
Distribution: Laos

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