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# *Bolbostetha bachmaica* sp. nov. (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Alleculinae: Alleculini), a new species of comb-clawed beetles from Central Vietnam

VLADIMÍR NOVÁK

Nepasické náměstí 796, CZ-190 14 Prague 9 - Klánovice, Czech Republic. - E-mail: [alleculinae.vn@centrum.cz](mailto:alleculinae.vn@centrum.cz)- ZooBank: <https://zoobank.org/D5C7B806-1C9E-4C99-944A-13A71EE01B79>

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*Bolbostetha*;  
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new species;  
Central Vietnam;  
Oriental Region.

**Abstract.** – A new species of Alleculini Laporte, 1840 - *Bolbostetha bachmaica* sp. nov. from Central Vietnam (Bach Ma Nature Preserve in Thua Thien Hue Province) is described, illustrated including male genitalia and compared with habitually similar species *Bolbostetha hueica* Novák, 2020 from Central Vietnam.

Novák V., 2025. – *Bolbostetha bachmaica* sp. nov. (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Alleculinae: Alleculini), a new species of comb-clawed beetles from Central Vietnam. *Faunitaxys*, 13(41): 1 – 4.

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## Introduction

The genus *Bolbostetha* Fairmaire 1896 with the type species *Bolbostetha soleata* Fairmaire 1896 was established by Fairmaire (1896). Borchmann (1910) knew only two species worldwide, Novák & Pettersson (2008) five species and Novák (2020a) six species from the Palaearctic Region. The genus comprises 50 species today (Novák 2008, 2020b, 2022 and 2024); 40 living in the Oriental Region and 10 species are known from the Palaearctic Region. Only three species are known from the territory of Vietnam so far: *Bolbostetha daklakica* Novák, 2022, *Bolbostetha hueica* Novák, 2022 and *Bolbostetha vietnamica* Novák, 2022. A new species, *Bolbostetha bachmaica* sp. nov. is described, illustrated including male genitalia and compared with the most similar species from the territory of Central Vietnam (*Bolbostetha hueica* Novák, 2020).

## Material and Methods

Two important morphometric characteristics used for the descriptions of species of the subfamily Alleculinae, the ‘ocular index’ dorsally (Campbell & Marshall 1964) and ‘pronotal index’ (Campbell 1965), are used in this paper as well. The ocular index equals  $(100 \times \text{minimum dorsal distance between eyes}) / (\text{maximum width of head across eyes})$ . The pronotal index is calculated as  $(100 \times \text{length of pronotum along midline}) / (\text{width across basal angles of pronotum})$ . ‘Type material’ information is taken from locality labels.

In the list of type material, a slash (/) separates data in separate rows. The following collection codes are used:

ASGG: private collection of André Skale, Gera, Germany;

VNPC: Vladimír Novák, private collection, Praha, Czech Republic.

Measurements of body parts and corresponding abbreviations used in text are as follows:

AL - total antennae length,  
BL - maximum body length,  
EL - maximum elytral length,

EW - maximum elytral width,  
HL - maximum length of head (visible part),  
HW - maximum width of head,  
OI - ocular index dorsally,  
PI - pronotal index dorsally,  
PL - maximum pronotal length,  
PW - pronotal width at base,  
RLA - ratios of relative lengths of antennomeres 1-11 from base to apex (3=1.00),  
RL/WA - ratios of length / maximum width of antennomeres 1-11 from base to apex,  
RLT - ratios of relative lengths of tarsomeres 1-5 respectively 1-4 from base to apex (1=1.00).

Measurements were made with an Olympus SZ 40 stereoscopic microscope with continuous magnification and with the Soft Imaging System AnalySIS. Snapshots were taken by using camera Canon EOS 550 D and Canon Macro Photo Lens MP-E and software Helicon Focus 7.7.5.

## Taxonomy

Genus *Bolbostetha* Fairmaire, 1896

Type species: *Bolbostetha soleata* Fairmaire, 1896.

*Bolbostetha bachmaica* sp. nov.

(Fig. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9)

ZooBank: <https://zoobank.org/F2D241AC-7A36-4963-8EE6-4D061BC5BE0E>

**Holotype**, ♂, C-VIETNAM, Thua Thien-Hue / Prov., Phu Loc, Bach Ma NP, 16°11'39"N, 107°51'12"E, 1250- / 1400m; 05.-09.V. 2019 A. Skale, (VNPC).

**Paratype**, ♂, same data as holotype, (ASGG).

The types are provided with a printed red label: '*Bolbostetha* / *bachmaica* sp. nov. / HOLOTYPUS or PARATYPUS / V. Novák det. 2024'.

**Type locality.** – Central Vietnam, Thua Thien Hue province, Phu Lac, Bach Ma National Preserve, 16°11'39"N, 107°51'12"E, 1250-1400 m.

## Reviewer :

Jiří Háva (Prague-west, Czech Republic) - <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8076-9538> - <https://zoobank.org/71D662DB-2F3D-4418-98B6-E1DF82895AC5>



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### Description of the holotype

**Habitus.** – As in Fig. 1, body large-sized, elongate, narrow, *Leptura*-shaped, shiny, from ochre yellow to dark brown, dorsal surface with very sparse, pale setae, punctures and microgranulation, BL 19.75 mm. Widest near elytral humera; BL/EW 3.58.

**Head** (Fig. 3). – Approximately as wide as long, through the eyes slightly wider than anterior margin, narrower than base of pronotum. Dorsal surface semi-matte, with dense, coarse punctures, sparse pale setae and very fine microgranulation. Anterior part slightly paler than posterior part. Clypeus reddish brown, transverse, surface with long, pale setae, punctures and fine microgranulation. Mandibles glabrous, dark brown. HW 2.56 mm; HW/PW 0.69; HL (visible part) 2.61 mm. Eyes large, transverse, excised, space between eyes very narrow, approximately as wide as length of antennomere 2; OI equal to 14.20. Antenna pale brown (AL(1-8) 8.87 mm, AL(1-8)/BL 0.45). Antennomeres long and narrow. Dorsal surface semi-matte, with pale setae, dense, coarse punctures and microgranulation. Antennomere 2 shortest, antennomeres 4-8 longer than antennomere 3, antennomeres 3-8 slightly widened apically.

RLA(1-8): 0.46 : 0.29 : 1.00 : 1.54 : 1.21 : 1.25 : 1.08 : 1.17.

RL/WA(1-8): 1.57 : 1.40 : 4.36 : 5.29 : 5.27 : 8.57 : 6.50 : 7.00.

Maxillary palpus pale brown, matte, with long pale setae and microgranulation. Palpomeres 2 and 3 distinctly narrowest at base and widest at apex, ultimate palpomere longer than penultimate, widely triangular.

**Pronotum** (Fig. 3). – Dark brown, shiny, convex, widest at base, slightly narrower than elytra at humeri. Dorsal surface almost glabrous with dense punctures and microgranulation. Interspaces between punctures narrower than diameter of punctures, with longitudinal furrow in middle. PL 3.37 mm; PW 3.74 mm; PI equal to 90.11. Border lines narrow, margins clearly distinct dorsally. Base slightly bisinuate, anterior margin slightly rounded, anterior angles indistinct, posterior angles roundly obtuse.

**Elytra.** – Brown, elongate, narrow, shiny, widest near humera. Dorsal surface with very sparse, pale setae. EL 13.77 mm; EW 5.59 mm; EL/EW 2.50. Elytral striae with rows of coarse punctures, elytral intervals with fine microgranulation and punctures slightly smaller than those in striae. Scutellum. Brown, roundly triangular, shiny, with fine microgranulation and a few small, shallow punctures. Elytral epipleura well-developed, dark brown, with punctures and pale setae, narrowing to ventrite 1 on basal part, then relatively narrow and distinctly paler leads parallel on apical part.

**Legs.** – Long, ochre yellow, apex of femora and basal third of tibiae blackish. Dorsal surface with pale setae, small punctures and microgranulation, protibiae with sharp thorn near middle of inner side as in Fig. 5, mesotibiae slightly rounded and slightly excised on apical part of inner side. Metatibiae slightly excised in apical part of inner side. Pro- and mesotarsomeres 1-4 and penultimate metatarsomeres widened and lobed. RLT: 1.00 : 1.14 : 1.43 : 2.43 : 3.29 (protarsus), 1.00 : 0.85 : 1.00 : 1.20 : 2.10 (mesotarsus), 1.00 : 0.55 : 0.65 : 1.15 (metatarsus). Both protarsal claws reddish brown, with more than 30 teeth.

**Ventral side of body.** – Dark brown, shiny, with pale setae and small punctures. Abdomen brown, shiny, with pale setae, dense, small punctures and fine microgranulation.

**Aedeagus** (Fig. 7, 9). – Large, shiny. Basal piece ochre yellow, slightly rounded laterally and narrowing in dorsal view. Apical piece darker, elongate triangular dorsally, beak-shaped from dorsal and lateral views. Ratio of length of apical piece to length of basal piece in dorsal view 1: 2.66.

**Female** unknown.

**Variability.** – The type specimens somewhat vary in size; each character is given as its mean value, with full range in parentheses:

**Males** (n=2)

BL 19.18 mm (18.61-19.75 mm);

HL 2.64 (2.61-2.67 mm);

HW 2.59 mm (2.56-2.61 mm);

OI 14.20;

PL 3.27 mm (3.16-3.37 mm);

PW 3.63 mm (3.57-3.74 mm);

PI 90.07 (90.03-90.11);

EL 13.28 mm (12.78-13.77 mm);

EW 5.34 mm (5.17-5.51 mm).

**Differential diagnosis.** – This species is similar to *Bolbostetha hueica* Novák, 2022 from the same locality in Central Vietnam (Bach Ma National Preserve in Thua Thien Hue Province).

The new species *Bolbostetha bachmaica* sp. nov. clearly differs from the similar species *B. hueica* mainly by the body large (BL 19.2 mm approximately), by dorsal surface shiny, by the pronotum narrowing from base to apex, being widest at the base (Fig. 3), by the longitudinal furrow in the middle of pronotum, by the shape of protibia (Fig. 5), by the color of the legs (mostly ochre yellow) as in Fig. 1, by the space between eyes which is as wide as length of antennomere 2 and by the shape of apical piece of aedeagus as in Fig. 7 and 9; while *B. hueica* has the body smaller (BL 13.8 mm), dorsal surface is semi-matte, lateral margins of the pronotum are parallel from base to the middle (Fig. 4), disk of the pronotum is without longitudinal furrow, the shape of protibia is as in Fig. 6, the color of legs is mostly brown (Fig. 2), the space between eyes is distinctly wider than length of antennomere 2 and the shape of apical piece of aedeagus is as in Fig. 8 and 10.

**Etymology.** – Toponymic, named after the type locality Bach Ma Nature Preserve (Vietnam, Thua Thien Hue province).

**Distribution.** – Central Vietnam (Bach Ma Nature Preserve in Thua Thien Hue province).

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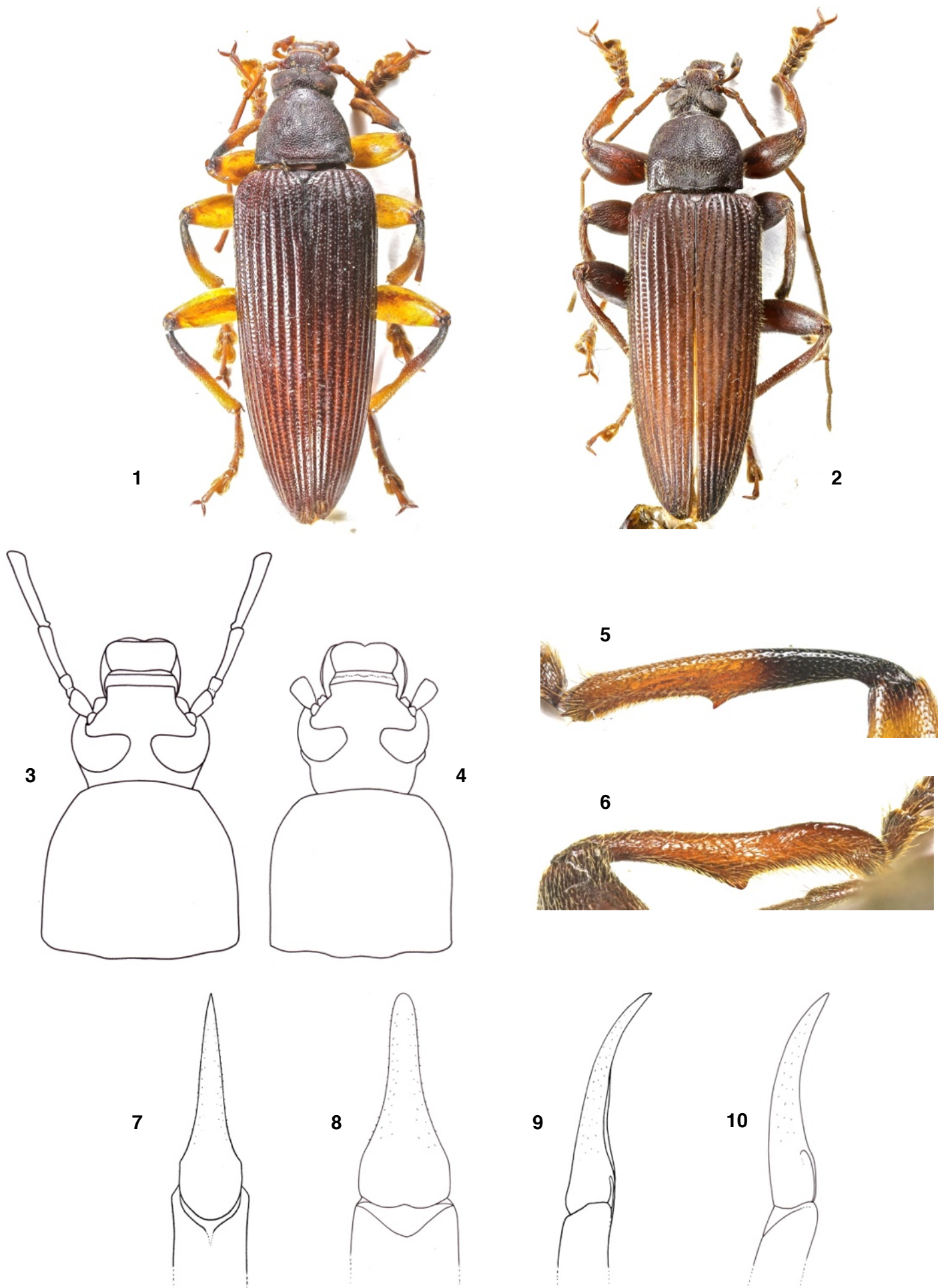


Fig. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9. *Bolbostetha bachmaica* sp. nov. (male holotype). Fig. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10. *Bolbostetha hueica* Novák, 2022.  
 1, 2. Habitus. 3, 4. Head and pronotum. 5, 6. Protibia. 7, 8. Apical piece of aedeagus, dorsal view. 9, 10. Apical piece of aedeagus, lateral view.

## Résumé

Novák V., 2025. – *Bolbostetha bachmaica* n. sp. (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Alleculinae: Alleculini), une nouvelle espèce du centre du Vietnam. *Faunitaxys*, 13(41): 1 – 4.

Une nouvelle espèce d'Alleculini Laporte, 1840 - *Bolbostetha bachmaica* sp. nov. du centre du Vietnam (réserve naturelle de Bach Ma, province de Thua Thien Hue) est décrite, illustrée, y compris les genitalia, et comparée à une espèce proche, *Bolbostetha hueica* Novák, 2020, du centre du Vietnam.

Mots-clés. – Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, Alleculinae, Alleculini, *Bolbostetha*, taxonomie, description, nouvelle espèce, Vietnam, Région orientale.

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### *Illustration de la couverture :*

*Bolbostetha bachmaica* **sp. nov.**, holotype (gauche) & *Bolbostetha hueica* Novák, 2022 (droite).

Crédits:

**Vladimír Novák** : Fig. 1, 2, 5, 6.

**Zuzana Čadová** : Fig. 3, 4, 7-10.