

DISCOVERY OF THE GENUS *CAENOSCELIS* THOMSON (COLEOPTERA :  
CRYPTOPHAGIDAE) FROM INDIAN REGION AND DESCRIPTION  
OF A NEW SPECIES FROM NEPAL

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ABSTRACT

The genus *Caenoscelis* Thomson is recorded for the first time from Indian region and a new species *C. franzi* is described from Nepal.

In Junk Catalogus Schenkling (1923) placed the genus *Caenoscelis* Thomson under the subfamily Atomariinae and listed 18 species under this genus from Europe, North and South America. Sengupta in his unpublished Ph. D. thesis (1967) retained it under the Subfamily Atomariinae and separated the genus *Caenoscelis* from other genera of Atomariinae in having 5-5-4 tarsal formula in male, antennal club two-segmented, transverse line on vertex present, sternal fittings between the mesocoxae with two separate knobs, aedeagus with articulated parameres and metatarsal and abdominal pits absent. A joint work by Sengupta and Crowson on the family Cryptophagidae (will be published elsewhere) where they treated *Caenoscelis* as a separate tribe which includes the New Zealand genus *Picrotus* Sharp (the latter genus listed by Hetschko (1930) at the end of family Cucujidae as unknown systematic position) for double knobbed meso-metasternal junctions, heteromerous male tarsi and lack of Atomariinae-type of sternal gland openings.

So far, this genus was unknown from Indian region, in the present study only one

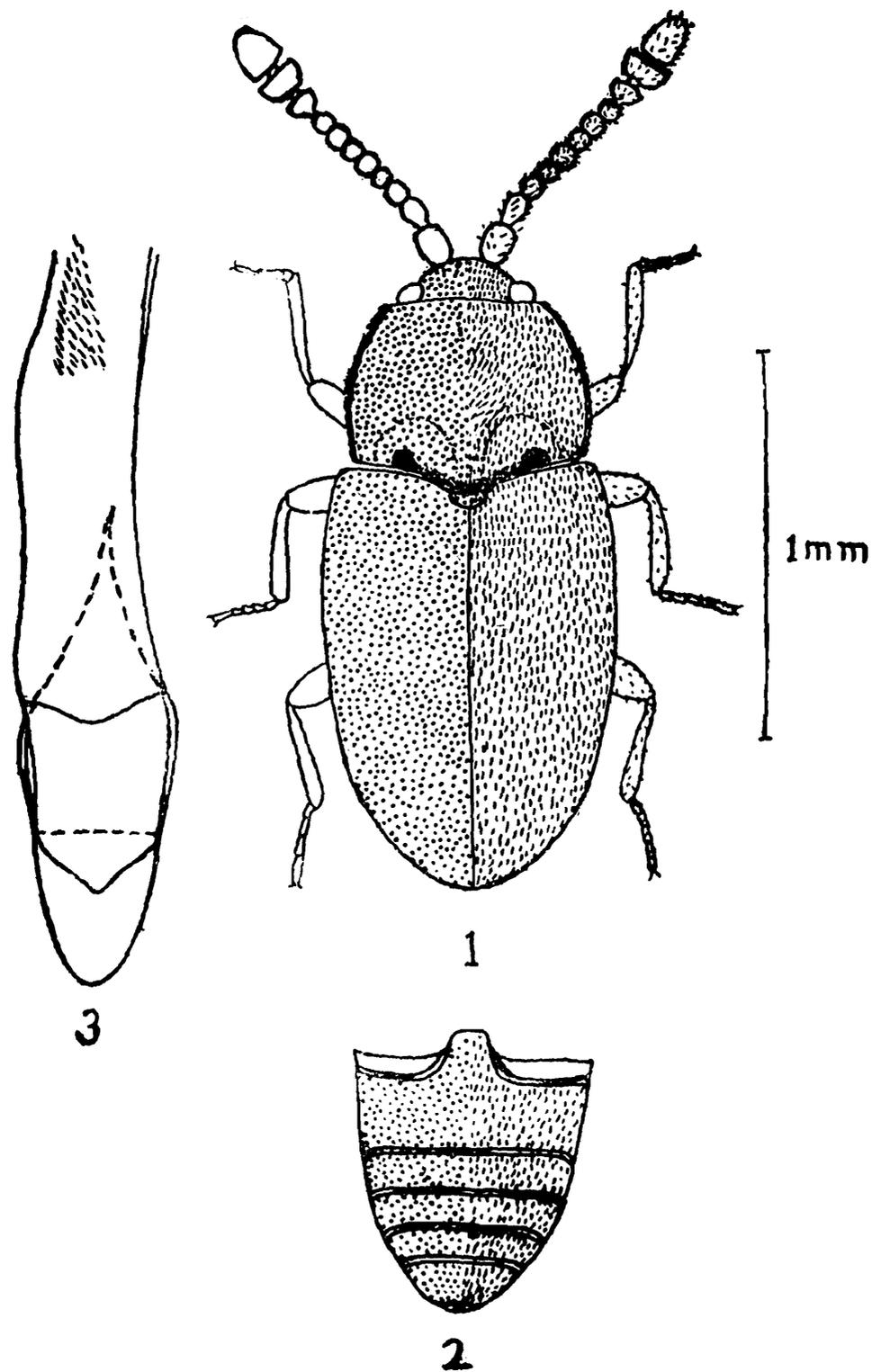
male specimen (which described below as a new) collected by H. Franz from Nepal. The new species is nearest to *C. ferruginea* Sahlb. but differs from the latter species in having elytral punctures fine, antennal segment 9 distinctly transverse, pronotum rather strongly narrowed in front and its puncturation distinct, strong and dense, elytral puncturation finer and less distinct than that of on elytra.

***Caenoscelis franzi* sp. n.**

(Figs. 1-3)

General appearance small, somewhat oblong, more or less uniformly narrowed in front and less so in behind. Dorsal surface uniformly reddish brown and covered with fine, short and dense pubescence.

Head partly exposed, vertex distinctly, uniformly and densely punctured. Antennal insertion closely situated and almost exposed. Eye large and coarsely faceted. Antenna moderately large, segment moniliform, scape moderately large and slightly elongated, pedicel moderately large and slightly elongated but smaller than scape, segment 3-9 alternately

Figs. 1-3. *Caenoscelis franzi* sp. n.

large and small, segment 9 distinctly smaller than segment 10 and transverse, club 2-segmented, segment 11 distinctly longer than segment 10. Prothorax transverse, narrowed in front, less so posteriorly, lateral margin

dark, finely serrated and uniformly bordered throughout, front margin almost straight, front and hind angles slightly obtuse. Pronotum uniformly convex with a pair of distinct prebasal impressions and with a pair of

depressed oblong impressions of basal half (more distinct when seen from inclined position), puncturation distinct, uniform, width of each puncture is slightly greater than the space between them, pubescence fine, uniformly projecting posteriorly, slightly inwards towards middle line. Scutellum large, transverse, its posterior margin rounded, punctured and pubescent. Elytra elongated broadest in anterior one third, and distinctly narrowed posteriorly, puncturation finer, denser and less distinct than pronotum. Pubescence uniform, recumbent and directed posteriorly. Ventrites uniformly punctured and pubescent. Aedeagus as figured (Fig. 3).

*Measurements* : Total length 1.66 mm ; width of head across the eyes 0.34 mm ; length of head 0.05 mm ; length of antenna 0.82 mm ; length and width of prothorax 0.45 mm ; 0.62 mm ; length and width of elytra 1.14 mm, 0.76 mm.

*Holotype* 1 ♂, Zentral- Nepal, Sept-Okt.

1971, Ig. H. Franz ; *Umg Goropani W Pokhara* ; deposited in Manchester Museum.

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