

A NEW SPECIES OF *ORTHALTICA* (COLEOPTERA : CHRYSOMELIDAE :
ALTICINAE) FROM INDIA

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ABSTRACT

A new species, *Orthaltica purba*, is described from Darjeeling District, West Bengal and a revised key to the Indian species of *Orthaltica* is given.

Livolia Jacoby (1903) was established on a single species, *L. sulcicollis* Jacoby, from Rhodesia. Scherer (1971) synonymized *Micrepitrix* Laboissiere with *Livolia*. Basu and Sengupta (1978) described two new species of *Livolia* from India. Scherer (1974) synonymized *Livolia* with *Orthaltica* Crotch, of which we were unaware during our previous work. A new species *O. purba*, related to *O. nigripennis* Scherer, is described below from Darjeeling. A revised key to the Indian species of *Orthaltica* is also given.

Anterior portion of clypeus not transversely raised ; antennal calli absent or indistinct and placed behind the oblique grooves. ... 3

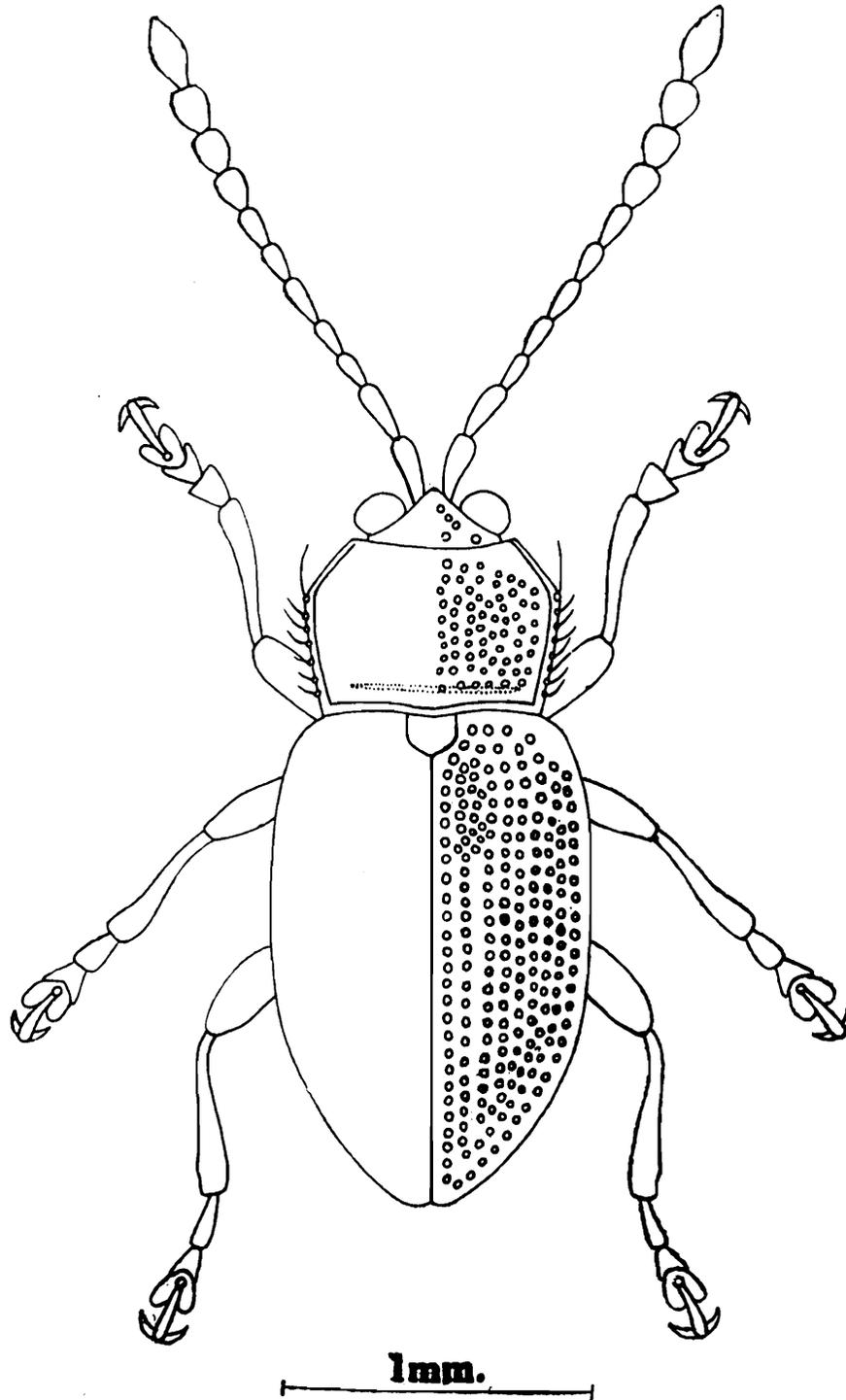
3. Antennal calli narrow, indistinct and oblique ; lateral margins of prothorax almost smooth with a few setiferous pores ; puncturation of pronotum strong, dense and uniform ; elytral interstices raised and more prominent at sides and fringed with distinct rows of pubescens. ... :*dakshina* (Basu & Sengupta)

Key to the Indian species of Orthaltica

1. Elytral interstices between eighth and ninth row of punctures sharply carinated ; prebasal transverse impression on pronotum sinuated. ... *assamensis* (Scherer)
- Elytral interstices between eighth and ninth row of punctures not carinated ; prebasal transverse impression on pronotum not sinuated. ... 2
2. Anterior portion of clypeus transversely raised ; antennal calli placed in front of the oblique grooves. ... 4

Antennal calli absent ; lateral margins of prothorax serrated due to a series of setiferous pores ; puncturation of pronotum strong, dense and uniform ; elytral interstices almost flat and raised at sides, and with a few scattered rows of pubescence. ... *purba* sp. nov.

4. Anterior raised portion of clypeus separated behind by a transverse groove ; carina on clypeus wide, oval and incomplete ; antennal calli indistinct and rounded ; lateral margins of prothorax distinctly rounded and pronotum finely punctate ;



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Fig. 1. Dorsal view of *Orthaltica purba* sp. nov.

elytral interstices flat, slightly prominent at sides and sparsely pubescent. ...

bengalensis
(Basu & Sengupta)

Anterior raised portion of clypeus not separated behind but triangularly continues to carina, latter short and narrow ;

antennal calli narrow, elongated and oblique ; lateral margins of prothorax slightly rounded in front, pronotum strongly punctate ; elytral interstices raised, distinctly prominent at sides and sparsely pubescent. ...

coomani
(Laboissiere)

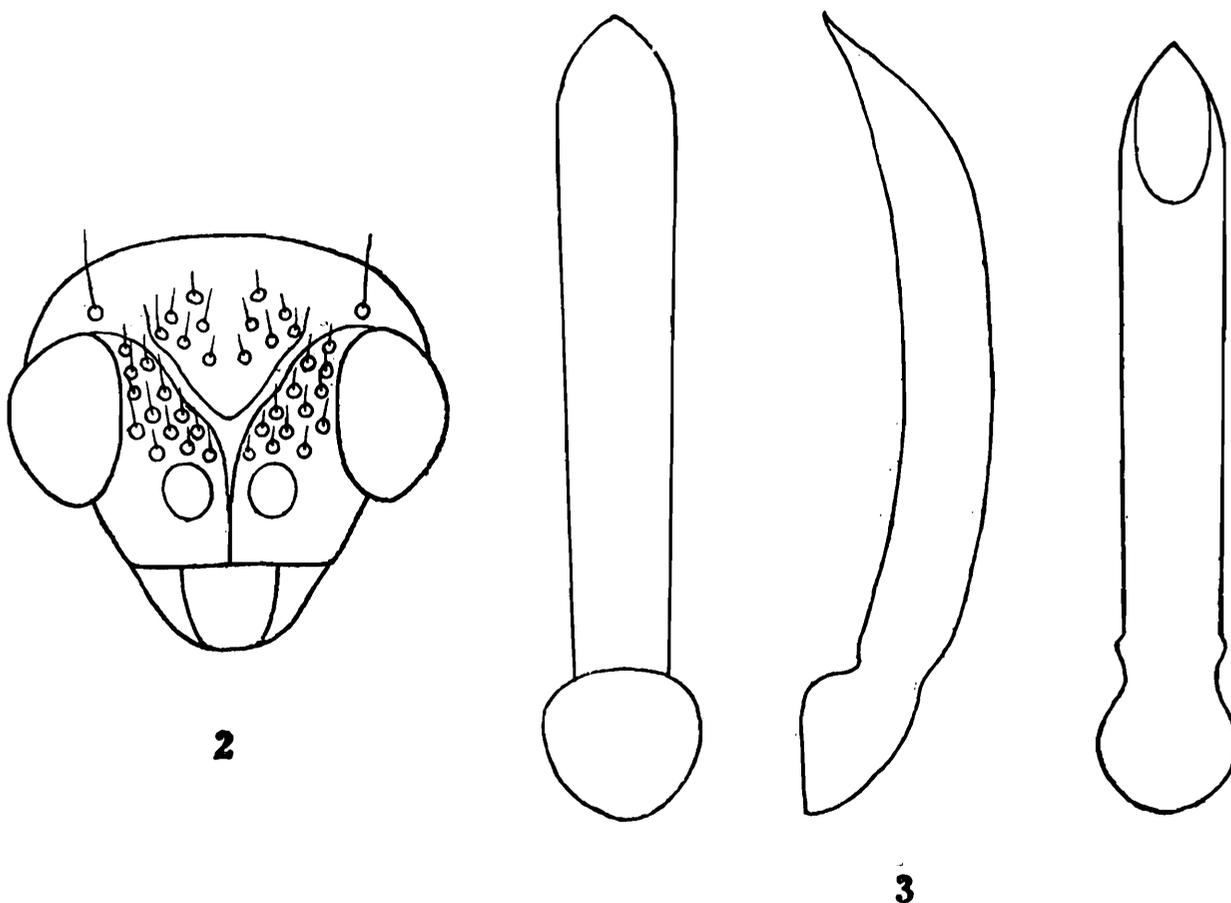
***Orthaltica purba* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 1-3)

Small but larger than other known Indian species, ovate, shiny, head and pronotum almost black, elytra dark brown with its suture almost black, antennae and legs reddish brown.

Head smooth, frontal area covered with strong setiferous punctures, antennal calli

segment 11 longer, segments 8-11 thicker. *Prothorax* more than one and half times broader than long, basal margin slightly sinuate, front margin inwardly curved, lateral margin slightly serrated with distinct setiferous punctures, pronotum strongly and closely punctate, pre-basal transverse impression deep and almost straight, *Scutellum* triangular, glabrous and impunctate. *Elytra* slightly broader than prothorax, humerus



Figs. 2-3. 2. Front view of head of *Orthaltica purba* sp. nov.

3. Ventral, lateral and dorsal views of aedeagus of *Orthaltica purba* sp. nov.

absent, frontal line deeply channeled, clypeal carina slender and strongly pronounced. Antennae long, extending to half of the body, scape long and thick, segment 2 as long as segment 1, segment 3 small, segment 4 longer than segment 3, segment 5 slightly longer than segment 4, segments 5-10 almost equal,

somewhat rounded but prominent, depression across anterior one-third distinct, each elytron with eleven rows of punctures, rows of punctures near scutellum irregular, interstices flat, slightly raised at sides, which are covered with a few rows of distinct and moderately long hairs. Ventral surface dark brown,

abdomen covered with strong punctures. *Aedeagus* as figured.

Measurements of the holotype : Length 2.40 mm, length of antennae 1.60 mm, width of head across eyes 0.50 mm, length of prothorax 0.55 mm, width of prothorax across middle 0.80 mm, length of elytra 1.75 mm and width of elytra across middle 1.00 mm.

Holotype ♂, INDIA : WEST BENGAL : Darjeeling district, 3km S. of Ghum, 19. IV. 1967, Gy. Topal (In the collection of Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest).

Remarks : This interesting species is distinctly longer than other known species and nearest to *O. nigripennis* (Scherer) but can be easily separated by the following characters : Antennal calli absent, frontal line curved and deeply channelled, clypeal carina slender and strongly pronounced, vertex of head with fourteen setiferous punctures, antennae long and stout with its scape equal to pedicel, sides of prothorax serrated due to a series of setiferous pores, pre-basal transverse impression almost straight and deep. Head, prothorax and elytral suture nearly black.

Orthaltica bengalensis (Basu & Sengupta),
Comb. nov.

Livolia bengalensis Basu & Sengupta, 1978, *Oriental Ins* 12 (4) : 483.

Distribution : India : West Bengal.

Orthaltica dakshina (Basu & Sengupta),
Comb. Nov.

Livolia dakshina Basu & Sengupta, 1978, *Oriental Ins.*, 12 (4) : 485.

Distribution : India : Tamil Nadu and Orissa.

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