

ON A NEW GENUS AND A NEW SPECIES OF
ALTICINAE (COLEOPTERA : CHRYSOMELIDAE)
FROM ARUNACHAL PRADESH.

By

C. R. BASU AND T. SENGUPTA

Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta

(With 1 Text-figure)

Maulik (1926), classified the Alticinae having 11-jointed antennae into four subsections and placed all the Alticinae having front coxal cavities open behind in subsection IV. The new genus *Maulika* described in the present paper falls under the subsection IV. This genus is closely related to *Pentamesa* Harold. Maulik (1926) separated the genus *Pentamesa* from the other genera by its characteristic curved tibiae. Scherer (1969) separated *Pentamesa* and its allied genera from the others by the tarsal segment 3 being entire (not bilobed) and separated the genus *Pentamesa* from its allied genera by its characteristic curved front tibiae and incrassated femora. The present genus *Maulika* clearly falls in this group and nearest to *Pentamesa* for having similar types of tibiae and femora but can be easily separated from the latter genus by the following characters : Clypeus bilobed with apical margin strongly emarginated (Text-fig. 1B), pronotum glabrous with basal margin devoid of median lobe, elytral puncturation rather indistinct and irregularly arranged in rows. The genus *Maulika* shows also some resemblance with the genus *Argopus* Fischer, especially in having similar type of clypeus but can be easily separated by its elbowed front tibiae, hind tibiae with apical spurs and their longitudinal groove at outer side absent.

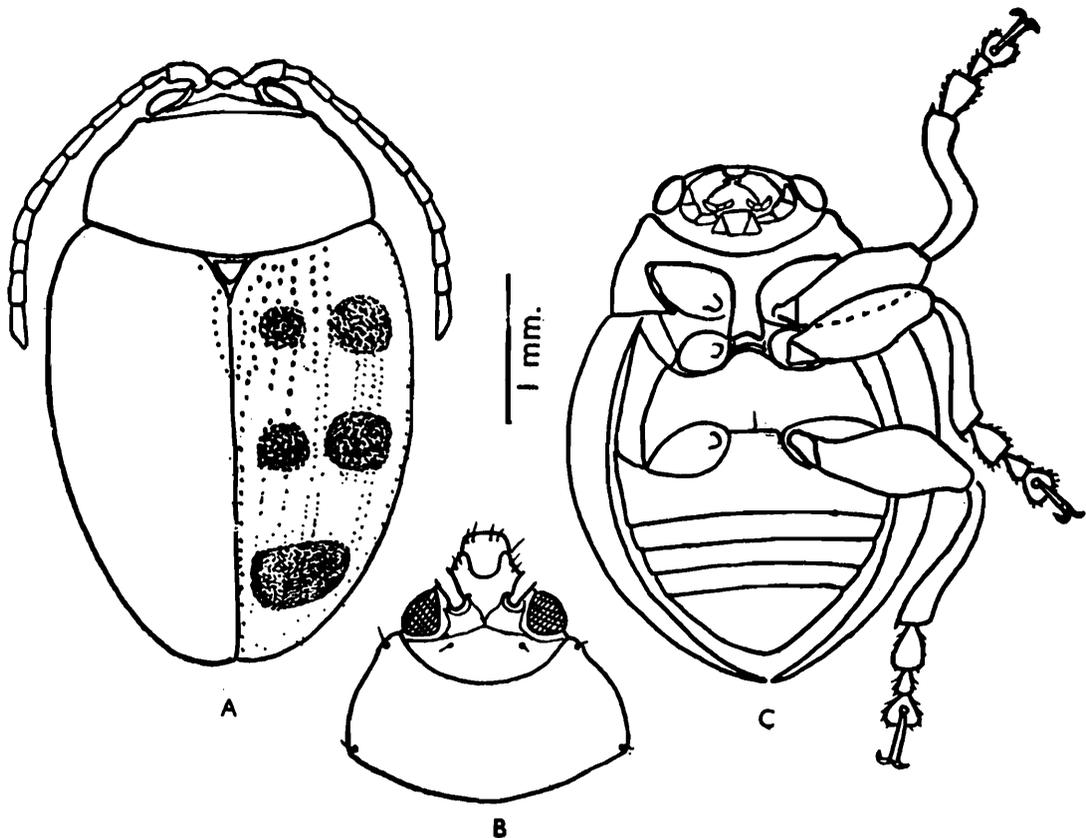
Type species *Maulika decemmaculata* sp. nov.

Maulika gen. nov.

General appearance (Text-fig. 1, A) almost hemispherical, dorsally strongly convex and ventrally almost flat, and small in size.

Head : (Text-fig. 1, B) transverse, frons separated from vertex by a deeply impressed oblique line, frontal tubercles well developed and almost quadrate, interantennal carina well developed, vertex with a setiferous pore behind each eye, antennal insertions dorsal, open and moderately closely situated ; clypeus bilobed with apical margin strongly emarginated in the middle (Text-fig. 1, B), labrum transverse, eyes large

and coarsely faceted. Antennae (Text-fig. 1, A) slender, scape elongated and clubbed, pedicel shorter than scape, joint 3 slightly narrower and longer than pedicel, joints 4 and 5 equal and slightly longer than joint 3, joints 6 to 11 almost equal and slightly thicker. Mouth parts not



Text-fig. 1. *Maulika decemmaculata* sp. nov. (A) Dorsal view : (B) Head and prothorax, dorsal view ; (c) Ventral view.

dissected, mandible with 3 visible apical teeth, maxillary palpi somewhat aciculate with segment 1 short, segment 2 long, segment 3 longest and broadened at apex, apical segment short and pointed. Labial palpi normal with apical segment elongated and fusiform.

Prothorax : (Text-fig. 1, B) transverse, narrow in front, moderately convex, hind margin evenly rounded, lateral side narrowly explanate, apical angles thickened, front margin strongly and uniformly concave, each angle of prothorax with a setiferous glandular pore. Front coxae closely situated, transverse with exposed trochantins and coxal cavities open behind (Text-fig. 1, C), prosternal process normal, extending almost upto metasternum and its apical margin slightly inwardly curved.

Meso- and metathorax : (Text-fig. 1, C), mesosternum markedly short, pentagonal and almost hidden by the projection of prosternal process, mesocoxae moderately widely separated, sternal fitting between them with a single broad knob from metasternum, mesocoxal cavities broadly open outwards and mesoepimera extending to mesocoxal cavities,

metasternum strongly transverse, median impressed line short and metacoxae widely separated.

Wing and Elytra : (Text-fig. 1, A), each elytron with five distinct spots. puncturation rather indistinct and arranged in irregular rows, epiplura complete, broad at base and progressively narrowed posteriorly. Wing not studied.

Legs : (Text-fig. 1, C) rather short, trochanter short and simple, femora broadened towards apex and grooved posteriorly where tibiae rest at repose, tibiae curved and broadened apically with distinct single spur, tarsal segments lobed, segment 1 longer than segment 2, segment 3 wider and more strongly lobed than segment 2 but not split longitudinally along the middle, segment 4 minute, segment 5 longer than segment 3, claws appendiculate.

Abdomen : (Text-fig. 1, C) almost as broad as long, ventrite 1 longer than ventrite 2, ventrite 2 to 4 equal, ventrite 5 longer than ventrite 4, intercoxal process of ventrite 1 broad, short and its apical margin straight.

***Maulika decemmaculata* sp. nov.**

Measurements : Total length 3.5 mm., width of head across eyes 1.0 mm., length of antenna 2.5 mm., width of prothorax across middle 1.8 mm., length of elytra 2.7 mm. and width of elytra across middle 2.5 mm.

With the general characters of the genus *Maulika*. General appearance (Text-fig. 1, A) somewhat hemispherical, shining, reddish brown, elytra with 10 black spots, pronotum glabrous, antennae slender.

Head moderately broad, convex, impunctate, clypeus and labrum with a few whitish hairs, eyes blackish, large, moderately convex and its margin bordered with black ring. Antennae yellowish brown, extending near the middle of elytra, six apical joints progressively thicker and comparatively densely pubescent, apical joint pointed. *Prothorax* almost one and half times broader than long, pronotum smooth, impunctate and glabrous. *Scutellum* impunctate, triangular and its apical margin rounded. *Elytra* broadest at middle and slightly wider than prothorax; each elytron with 5 rounded black spots, two at base, two across middle and apical one largest, and with 10 irregular rows of minute punctures, puncturation near apex rather indistinct, scutellary striole represented by 7 to 11 punctures. Ventral side reddish brown and covered with whitish hairs, sides and basal margin of metasternum, metacoxae, sides of abdomen and apical half of hind femora blackish,

Holotype : Memlachur vill., Arunachal Pradesh, alt. 700m., 9. VI. 1961, Coll. *K.C. Jayaram*, in the collection of Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

SUMMARY

A new genus *Maulika* is established and defined and a new species *M. decemmaculata* is described from Arunachal Pradesh.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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