

DISCOVERY OF GENUS *PLATOLENES* (COLEOPTERA : TENEBRIONIDAE) FROM INDIA WITH DESCRIPTION OF TWO NEW SPECIES

By

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INTRODUCTION

The genus *Platolenes* belonging to the subfamily Tenebrioninae was described by Gebien (1913) from the Philippine. Since then fifty species have been described from different parts of the world including thirteen species from the Oriental Region. From the Indian Sub Region Kaszab described one new species from Nepal (1976) and another six new species from Sri Lanka (1980). So far the genus was not known from India, it is reported here for the first time. The genus is redescribed and two new species one each from West Bengal and Sikkim are described.

Genus *Platolenes* Gebien

1913. *Platolenes* Gebien, *Philipp. J. Sci.*, (D) 8 : 420.

1951. *Platolenes* : Kulzer, *Ent. Arb. Mus. Frey*, 2 : 540.

Body hard, usually curved, shiny, winged, head deflexed and inserted into prothorax nearly to middle of eyes ; labrum transverse ; eyes fairly transverse and deeply emarginate in front ; pronotum convex at basal region and explanate laterally ; antenna 11 segmented, slender, clavate, mandibles very broad at base, triangular in shape and moderately sharp apically ; apical segment of the maxillary palpi strongly flattened and fairly triangular in shape ; prosternum short ; pro and mesoternal processes concave ; procoxae generally rounded ; metasternum long ; femora broad ; tibiae elongate ; tarsi with thick hairs, claws simple.

Platolenes darjilingensis sp. nov.

(Fig. 1)

Female : Body elongate-oval, fairly curved, shiny, metallic black, length 11 mm. *Head* : Small ; labrum transverse, nearly semi-circular apically ; mandibles moderately strong,

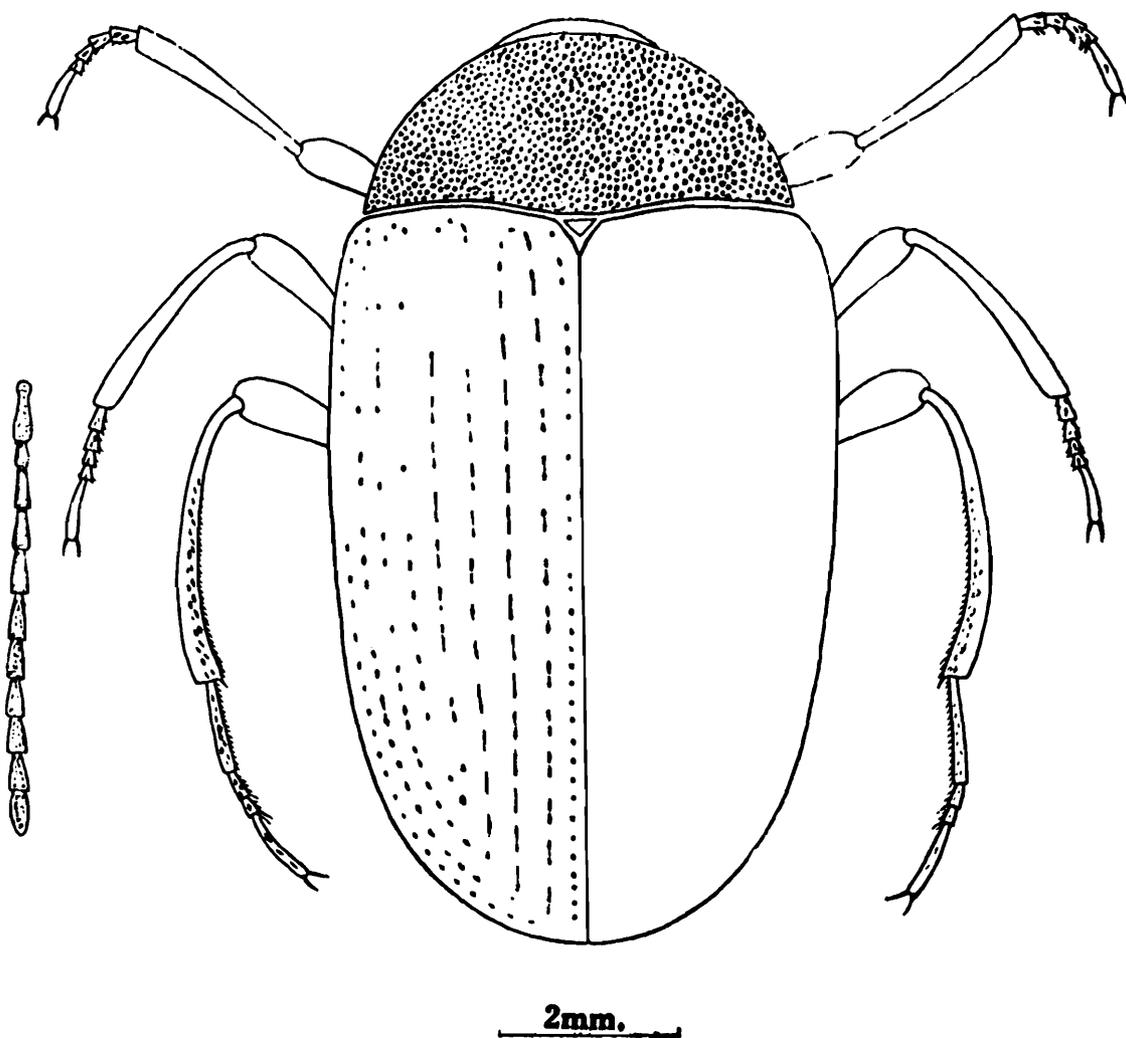


Fig. 1. *Platolenes darjilingensis* sp. nov. (a) Dorsal view (b) Antenna

apically blunt ; clypeus finely and thickly punctate, front margin membranous ; fronto-clypeal suture present ; frons finely punctate and with fine distinct impressions ; interocular space narrow ; eyes large, emarginate, transverse and finely granular ; antenna moderately elongate, scape rounded towards apex, pedicel smallest, segments III-IV slender, segments V-XI wider apically and forming a poor club. *Pronotum* : Convex, irregularly and finely punctate, apically narrowed, explanate laterally, lateral and apical margins with fine carina, basal margin moderately lobed at middle.

Scutellum : Moderately large, triangular in shape, with a few punctures and impressions. *Elytra* : Elongate, fairly curved, with elongate bluish punctures in longitudinal rows, narrowed apically and with narrow epipleura.

Ventral side : Mentum moderately large and elevated in middle ; maxillary palpi very large and triangular ; prosternum moderately convex, prosternal process elevated but concave in middle ; metasternum with a medium longitudinal depressed line in middle ; tibiae and tarsi slender and with indistinct tibial spines.

Holotype : female (Z.S.I. Reg. No. 10768/H₄A) INDIA : West Bengal : Darjeeling Dist., E. Himalaya, Pashok, 14.vi.'16, (F. H. Gravely coll.).

This new species can be easily separated from the other species of the genus by its fairly elevated frons, short, antenna, non-striate elytra and depressed mesosternal process.

***Platolenes sikkimensis* sp. nov.**

(Fig. 2)

Female : Body moderately curved, oblong, very shiny, body metallic black except metallic brownish elytra, length 10 mm. *Head* : Small ; labrum transverse, with a few hairs ; mandibles triangular in shape, thick, fairly wide at base, narrowed apically ; clypeus truncate apically, front margin membranous, rest part finely and thickly punctate ; fronto-clypeal suture distinct ; frons fairly punctate, slightly elevated and covering base of scape and extends into emargination of eyes ; vertex fairly punctate ; interocular space moderately narrow ; eyes large, strongly transverse and finely granular ; antenna slender, short, scape slightly rounded apically, pedicel very small, antennal segments VII-XI gradually becoming wider and with fine setiferous punctures and forming a somewhat club. *Pronotum* : Fairly convex, finely and irregularly punctate, strongly transverse, narrowed apically, basal margin, broadly lobed at middle, sides with a crrina and moderately explanate. *Scutellum* : Moderately large, distinctly triangular in shape, flat with a few punctures.

Elytra : Moderately convex, with elongate punctures in longitudinal rows, rounded fumerus, gradually narrowed apically and with narrow epipleura.

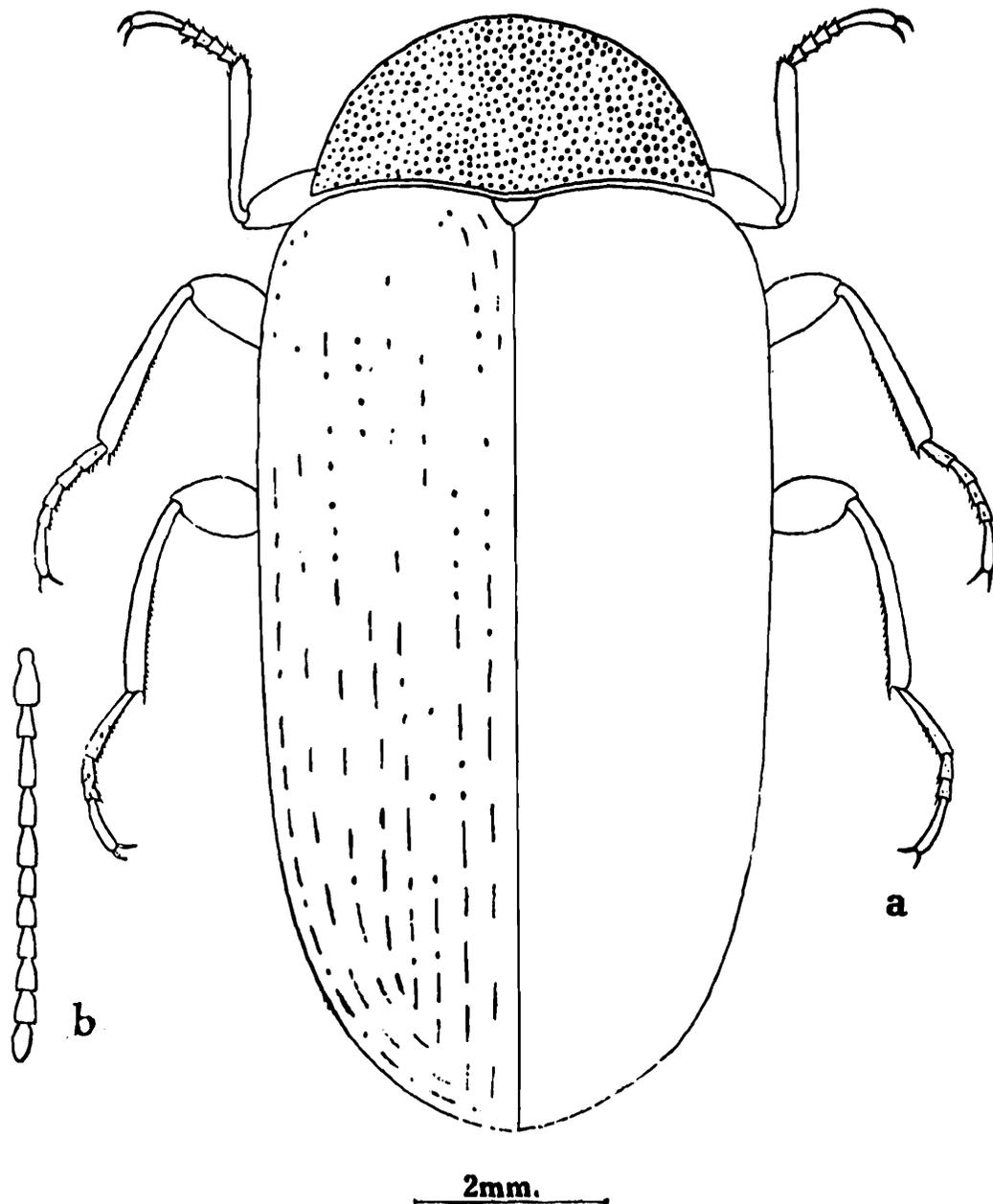


Fig. 2. *Platolenes sikkimensis* sp. nov. (a) Dorsal view (b) Antenna

Ventral side : Mentum and labial palpi small, apical segment of the maxillary palpi moderately large, flattened and distinctly triangular in shape ; pronotum small ; mesosternal process concave ; coxal cavities elongate ; tibial spines small and indistinct.

Holotype : Female (Z.S.I. Reg. No. 10767/H₄A) INDIA, SIKKIM (without any other data).

This species is very near to *P. dargilingensis* but differs

for its metallic brownish colour on elytra (blackish in *dargilingensis*), more convex pronotum and foreleg having smaller tarsal segments with less setae on the ventral side.

SUMMARY

The genus *Platolenes* Gebien is recorded for the first time from India and redescribed. Two new species, namely, *Platolenes dargilingensis* and *Platolenes sikkimensis* are described here from West Bengal and Sikkim states.

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