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A new subgenus and species of *Xuthea* Baly from Burma (Coleoptera Chrysomelidae, Alticinae)

Abstract - *Xuthea* (*Paraxuthea*) *leonardii*, a new subgenus and species from Burma is described. *Paraxuthea* subg. n. differs from *Xuthea* by having body fulvous and broadly ovate instead of metallic and elongate, and clypeus devoid of longitudinal ridge or elevation. Two species belong to this new subgenus: *sinuata* Gressit & Kimoto and *leonardii* sp. n. Aedeagus of both species is figured. A key for the genus is proposed.

Riassunto - Un nuovo subgenere e specie di *Xuthea* Baly dalla Birmania (Coleoptera Chrysomelidae, Alticinae).

Viene descritta *Xuthea* (*Paraxuthea*) *leonardii*, nuova specie di Birmania, inquadrata in un nuovo sottogenere. *Paraxuthea* subg. n. si distingue a prima vista dal sottogenere *Xuthea* per il corpo fulvo e largamente ovale anzichè metallico e allungato e per il clipeo privo di cresta o elevazione. Al nuovo sottogenere appartengono due specie: *sinuata* Gressit & Kimoto e *leonardii* sp. n.; è raffigurato l'edeago di ambedue le specie e si propone una chiave analitica per l'intero genere.

Key words: Alticinae, *Xuthea*, *Paraxuthea*.

During my visit in Milan in the autumn of 1994 I found in the Natural History Museum of that town a new species of *Xuthea* of rather unusual form, representing also a new subgenus. I am grateful to the curator of the mentioned museum, Dr. C. Leonardi, for the opportunity to study this very interesting species.

***Paraxuthea* subg. n.**

Body robust, ovate. Clypeus without longitudinal ridge or elevation, uniformly convex. Frontal tubercles distinctly limited, but hind impression not deepened. Ocular grooves very narrow and feeble, not deepened. Setiferous pores of frons small. Interantennal space broad. Body fulvous with more or less black legs. Wings present.

Type of subgenus - *Xuthea* (*Paraxuthea*) *leonardii*, sp. nov. A Chinese species *X. sinuata* Gressitt & Kimoto also must be included in this subgenus.

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Xuthea (Paraxuthea) leonardii sp. n.

Reddish fulvous, antennae with segments 1-3 fulvous; 4 fulvous at base, dark brown apically; 5-11 black; tibiae and tarsi black, fore and mid femora fulvous with black apices, hind femora black with fulvous base.

Glabrous above except for scattered pubescence on head near eyes; labrum with a transverse row of long pale hairs.

Body broadly ovate, 1,7 times as long as broad. Head slightly wider than long, much narrower than breadth of prothorax at anterior margin, feebly concave; clypeus triangular, practically impunctate and not ridged along middle; interantennal space rather flat, almost as broad as length of antennal segment 1; frontal tubercles transverse, slightly elevated and not touching each other. Frons finely punctured and shagreened, with feeble impressed line near inner margin of eye, ending anteriorly in a shallow fovea just near frontal tubercle; a small but distinct setiferous pore on each side of frons just near middle of impressed line. Antennae reach the middle of body, proportions of segments are as 13-6-10-12-12-13-11-11-9-9. Prothorax 2,1 times as broad as long, widest at middle, narrower than basal margin of elytra; anterior margin straight, anterior angle swollen and acute, lateral margin convex, posterior angles rectangular, basal margin sinuate, with broad prescutellar lobe; surface finely punctate, antebasal impression sinuate and ending in a deeper sublateral impression. Scutellum triangular, pointed apically, impunctate. Elytra about 1,2 times as long as broad, their apex obliquely rounded to briefly truncated, humerus slightly swollen, basal convexity not developed, disc with 9 complete, regular rows of punctures; 1 indistinct row along lateral margin and a scutellar row not exceeding basal

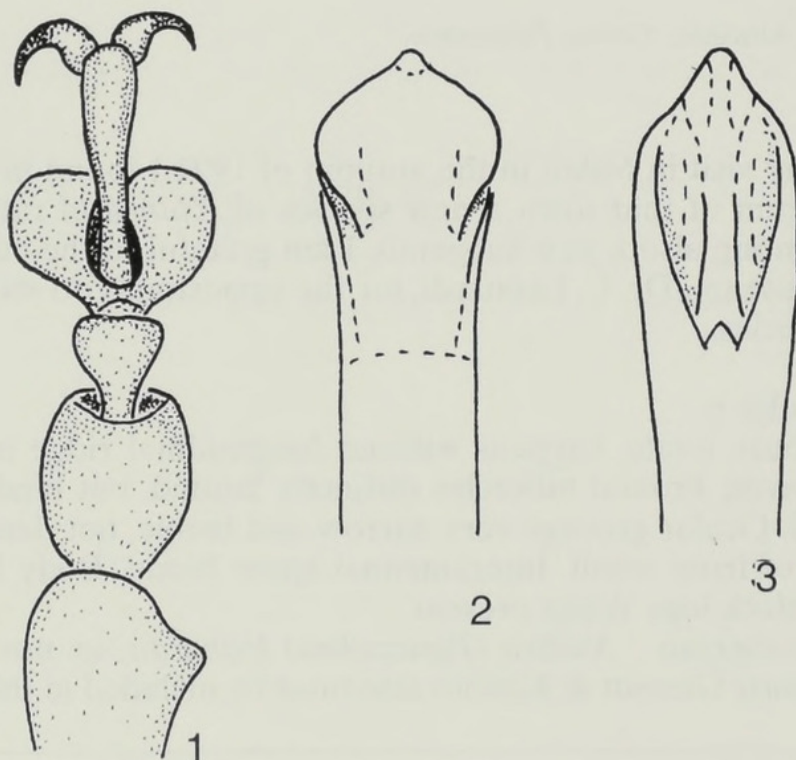


Fig. 1-3 - 1) Fore and mid tarsi of male *Xuthea leonardii*. 2) Aedeagus of *Xuthea leonardii*. 3) Aedeagus of *Xuthea sinuata*.

third; interspaces of rows flat or slightly elevated. Epipleurae sinuate, widest on the basal quarter. Fore and mid tarsi of male with segment 1 strongly widened (Fig. 1). Last abdominal sternite of male with hind margin rounded, without central lobe. Aedeagus: Fig. 2. Length of male 3,7 - 4,7 mm, of female 4,7 - 4,8 mm.

Holotype (male): Birmania, S.S.S., Canai, 1.200 m, VIII.1935, leg. R. Perego.

Paratypes: same locality, 2 males and 2 females.

Type series in the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Milan; 2 paratypes in author's collection.

I dedicate this interesting species to Dr. C. Leonardi, well known specialist on Alticinae.

Remarks - Very near to *X. sinuata* Gressitt & Kimoto from China, differs by more robust body, absence of basal convexity on elytra, other form and sculpture of aedeagus etc.

The genus *Xuthea* Baly is practically connected with continental tropical Asia. It was revised by Gressitt & Kimoto (1963) and more profoundly by G. Scherer (1969) with figures of genitalia for all included species. After this revision 3 more species were described (Sen Gupta & Basu, 1977, Scherer, 1983). I propose below a key for all species of the genus.

1 (14) Body metallic, elongate. Clypeus with longitudinal ridge or elevation. Ocular grooves deep, frons with deep fovea on each side behind frontal tubercles and large setiferous pore behind fovea (*Xuthea* s.str.).

2 (7) Elytra with distinct basal convexity, delimited behind by a transverse impression. Clypeus with sharp and high ridge.

3 (6) All body blue, greenish blue or violaceous. Ocular grooves very deep.

4 (5) Body large, 7,5-8,5 mm. Segment 1 of all tarsi strongly widened in male. Aedeagus with obtuse and rather long apical protuberance. India, Burma, Nepal, SW China..... *X. (s.str.) orientalis* Baly 1865

5 (4) Body smaller, 5-6,3 mm. Segment 1 of tarsi moderately widened in male. Aedeagus without distinct apical protuberance, with more or less rounded apex. Assam, SW China... *X. (S.str.) yunnanensis* Heikertinger 1948

6 (3) Body green or greenish blue with base of antennae, tibiae and tarsi fulvous. Ocular grooves moderately deep. Aedeagus with truncate apex. Length of body 5,5-6,5 mm. S. India..... *X. (s.str.) metallica* (Jacoby 1896)

7 (2) Elytra without basal convexity and transverse impression. Body green or blue. Aedeagus with triangular apex.

8 (9) Antennae and legs dark, almost black, tarsi fulvous. Humeral tubercle developed. Aedeagus very narrow, with longitudinal ridge on underside. Length of body 6 mm. S. India *X. (s.str.) fulvitaris* Scherer 1969

9 (8) Antennae and legs more or less fulvous.

10 (13) Interspaces of elytral rows flat. Wings absent. Aedeagus rather broad, without ridge on underside.

11 (12) Scutellum and legs fulvous, hind femora slightly darkened. Clypeus with a narrow ridge. Length of body 5-5,2 mm. Nepal*X. (s.str.) nepalensis* Scherer 1983

12 (11) Scutellum dark, legs fulvous with black femora. Clypeus with broad and flat longitudinal elevation. Length of body 6,5-7,5 mm. W. Bengal*X. (s.str.) laevicollis* Chen 1933

13 (10) Interspaces of elytral rows convex. W. Bengal (I don't know these species)*X. (s.str.) bengalensis* Sen Gupta & Basu, 1977
X. (s.str.) elliptica Sen Gupta & Basu, 1977

14 (1) Body fulvous, broadly ovate, legs black with bases of femora more or less fulvous. Clypeus without longitudinal ridge or elevation. Ocular grooves very feeble, not deepened, as well as hind margin of frontal tubercles (subg. *Paraxuthea*).

15 (16) Elytra with feeble, but distinct basal convexity, delimited behind with transverse impression. Frontal tubercles touch each other. Aedeagus with deep impression on underside, ridged laterally (Fig. 3). Length of body 4,9-5,4 mm. China (Szechuan).....*X. (P.) sinuata* Gressitt & Kimoto, 1963

16 (15) Elytra without basal convexity and transverse impression. Frontal tubercles don't touch each other. Aedeagus on underside with 2 lateral ridges, but without deep impressions (Fig. 2). Length of body 3,7-4,8 mm. Burma *X. (P.) leonardii* sp.n.

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