

New species of the genus *Mendaxinus* Gildenkov, 2004 from India (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Oxytelinae)

Новый вид рода *Mendaxinus* Gildenkov, 2004 из Индии (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Oxytelinae)

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KEY WORDS: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Oxytelinae, *Mendaxinus*, new species, Oriental Biogeographic Region, India.

КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Oxytelinae, *Mendaxinus*, новый вид, Восточная биогеографическая область, Индия.

ABSTRACT: *Mendaxinus oblitus*, **sp.n.**, a new species from India, West Bengal is described and illustrated. Given the great similarity between many species of *Mendaxinus* in colouration and body proportions, the new species can be clearly distinguished only by the structure of aedeagus and spermatheca.

РЕЗЮМЕ: Из Индии, Западной Бенгалии, описан и проиллюстрирован новый вид *Mendaxinus oblitus*, **sp.n.** Учитывая высокую степень сходства многих *Mendaxinus* в окраске и пропорциях тела, новый вид надёжно отличается только строением эдеагуса и сперматеки.

Introduction

We have previously discussed in detail [Gildenkov, 2019] the history of the genus *Mendaxinus* Gildenkov, 2004, which is highly distinct in the structure of hypomeron, aedeagus and spermatheca [Gildenkov, 2004, 2005, 2019]. The present paper continues the author's studies on the world fauna of the genus *Mendaxinus* [Gildenkov, 2007, 2013, 2015a, b, 2019].

This paper is based on the specimens deposited in the following collections: cMG — private collection of M. Gildenkov (Smolensk, Russia); MHNG — Museum d'Histoire Naturelle Geneva (Switzerland). In the present study, standard methods were used for the taxonomic research of insects; the preparations were made on an MBS-10 binocular microscope. The genitalia were treated with 10% KOH and then fixed in euparal. In the descriptions and diagnoses giving the length to width ratio for the head, pronotum, and elytra, the following

standard units were used: 7 standard units = 0.1 mm; thus, 1 standard unit constitutes about 0.0143 mm. Photographs were taken with a Canon EOS 5D Mark III camera and a Canon MP-E 65 mm objective using the extended focus technology.

Mendaxinus oblitus Gildenkov, **sp.n.** Figs 1–3.

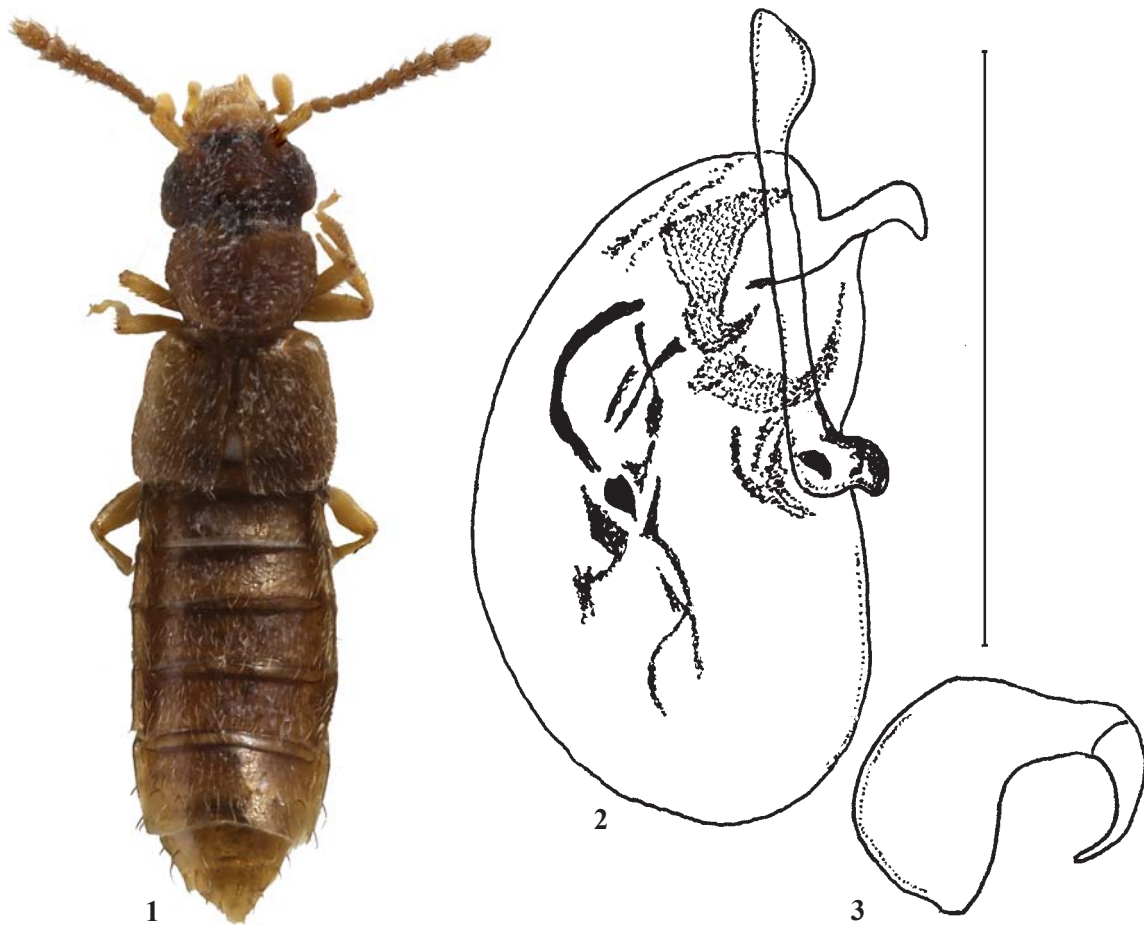
MATERIAL. Holotype, ♂, India, West Bengal, with labels: “INDIA W Bengal Darjeeling distr. Mahanadi 1200m 19.X. | Besuchet-Löbl 78” (MHNG). Paratypes: 5♀♀, 1 ex. (without abdomen) “INDIA W Bengal Darjeeling distr. Mahanadi 1200m 19.X. | Besuchet-Löbl 78” (MHNG; 2♀♀ — cMG).

DESCRIPTION (holotype). Length 1.8 mm. Body completely brown; anterior margin of frons black. Body with short, light-coloured setation.

Head transverse, with wide base, ratio of its length (from posterior margin of head to anterior margin of clypeus) to maximum width about 18:25. Neck constriction prominent. Eyes small, temples well-developed, round, eye diameter in dorsal view about 2.5 times as small as temple length. Head widest across temples. Head surface with very delicate, fine and dense punctation, punctures are barely visible giving smoothly shagreened effect. Antennae short, antennal segments 1–3 elongate; segments 4–10 transverse; segment 11 elongate, conical.

Pronotum maximum broad after about 2/3 of length from base. Lateral margins slightly notched at base, then broadly rounded. Length of pronotum related to its maximum broad approximately as 19:24. Surface of pronotum with very delicate, fine and dense punctation, punctures are barely visible giving smoothly shagreened effect. Pronotal disc without pronounced impressions (Fig. 1).

Length of elytra related to their combined width approximately as 31:36. Elytra with very delicate, fine and dense punctation, punctures are barely visible giving smoothly shagreened effect.



Figs 1–3. *Mendaxinus oblitus* sp.n.: 1 — holotype, male, dorsal view; 2 — aedeagus, lateral view; 3 — spermatheca (paratype). Scale bar: 0.25 mm.
 Рис. 1–3. *Mendaxinus oblitus* sp.n.: 1 — голотип, самец, сверху; 2 — эдеагус, сбоку; 3 — сперматека (паратип). Масштаб: 0.25 мм.

Abdomen delicately shagreened.

Aedeagus of characteristic structure (Fig. 2).

Female. Sexual dimorphism absent, female morphologically similar to male. Spermatheca of characteristic structure (Fig. 3).

COMPARATIVE REMARKS. Given the great similarity between many species of *Mendaxinus* in colouration and body proportions, the new species can be clearly distinguished only by the structure of aedeagus and spermatheca (Figs 2–3).

DISTRIBUTION. India, West Bengal.

ETYMOLOGY. From the Latin “*oblitus es*” — “forgotten”, the name is given because the material has not been studied for a long time.

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