# *Neopachylopus secqi,* a new species from Djibouti and North Yemen (Coleoptera: Histeridae)

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*Abstract: Neopachylopus secqi*, a new species from Djibouti and Yemen, is described and figured. A key to the species of *Neopachylopus* is added.

*Keywords:* Coleoptera, Histeridae, *Neopachylopus,* Africa, Arabian peninsula, key.

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In 1984 and 1985 Mr Michel Secq collected great numbers of Histeridae in the Republic of Djibouti. Among this material eight specimens of a new species of *Neopachylopus* were encountered. Other specimens from North Yemen were present among unidentified material in the collection of Y. Gomy, and still another specimen from Djibouti was present in my own collection, identified by Dr S. Mazur as "*? Hypocaccus (Baeckmanniolus) laevis* (Thérond, 1963)".

The genus *Neopachylopus* belongs to the subfamily Saprininae. It was erected by Reichardt (1926) when he divided the genus *Pachylopus* Erichson into several new genera, because at that time the latter genus was very heterogeneous. The genus *Neopachylopus* combines the following characters: 1. Pronotum impunctate, or with some punctation along the base only; 2. Carinal prosternal striae already united between the procoxae and thence continued anteriorly as a sharp keel; 3. Lateral prosternal striae present; 4. Middle and hind tibiae strongly thickened, their outer faces entirely or nearly entirely covered with short thick spines.The description of the new species is presented here with:

## *Neopachylopus secqi* spec. nov.
(figs 1 - 8)

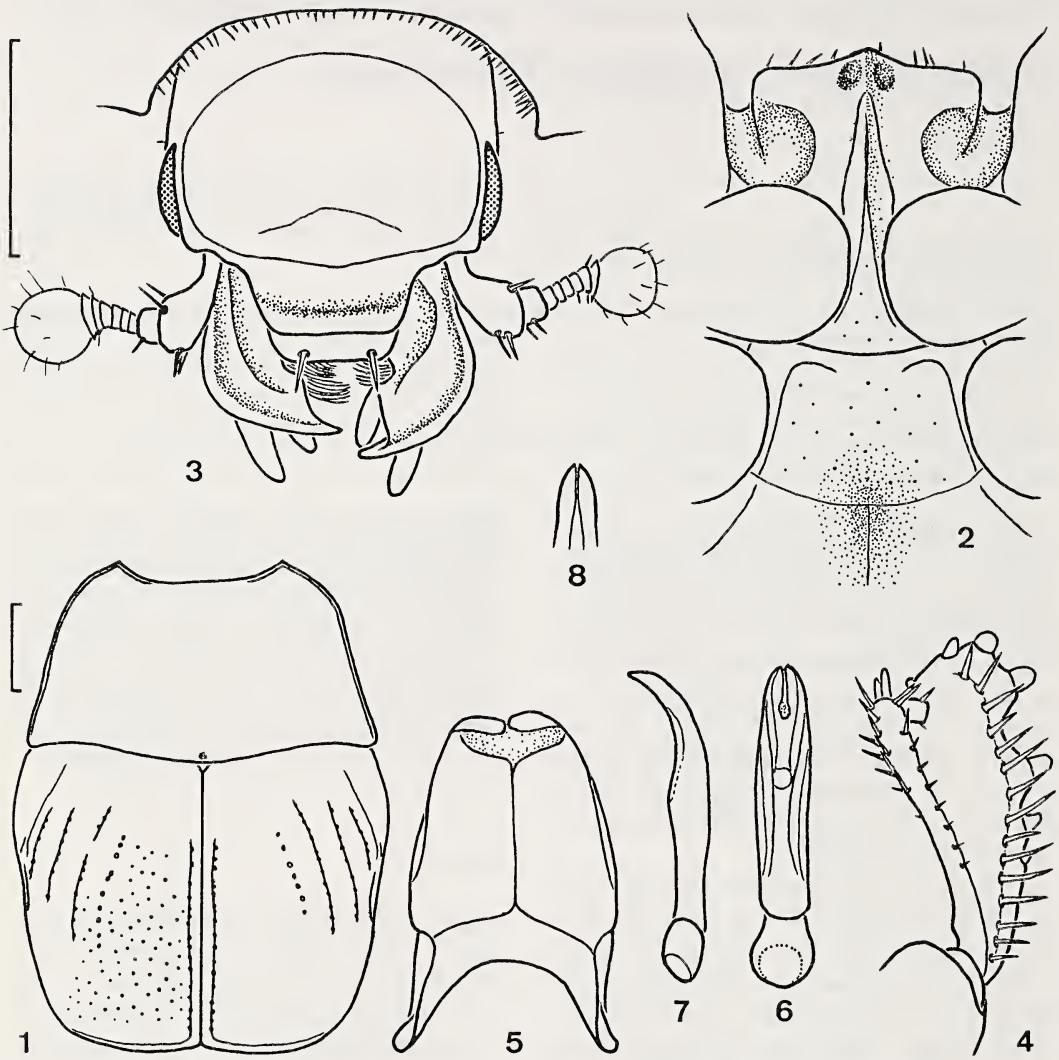
*Type material*

Holotype: ♂, four segments of right protarsus and three segments of right metatarsus missing: Djibouti, Salines EST, Trou des Italiens, under algae near a dead porpoise on the seashore and in the sand under the dead porpoise, 15.vi.1984, leg. M. Secq. Paratypes: 2 ♀, same data as holotype; 3 ♂, 1 ♀, Salines EST on sand under dead turtle, 31.xii.1984, leg. M. Secq; 1 ♀, Salines EST under human excrements, 31.xii.1984, leg. M. Secq; 1 ♀, As-Eyla, viii.1976. North Yemen: 3 ♂, 2 ♀, Hodeidah, i.1970, Plage des Russes, under algae, leg. J. Beneteau. Holotype in the National Museum of Natural History, Leiden, paratypes in the collections of Y. Gomy and P. Kanaar.

*Description*

Length (without head, propygidium and pygidium) 2.7 mm, width 2.2 mm, height 1.6 mm. Body form (fig. 1) oval, strongly convex, shiny. Colour piceous black, mouthparts, antennae, anterolateral parts of the pronotum, elytra, legs, hind margin of first sternite and other sternites rufous.

Head (fig. 3): Mandibles curved, their superior side slightly concave and at the lateral side progressively margined by an elevated rim. Labrum transverse, not emarginate, with two setigerous points. Clypeal apex marked by an elevated rim. Frons and vertex sparsely punctulate. Frontal keel faintly bisinuous, front not impressed, with a single, not very marked chevron. Eyes little protruding in dorsal view. Supraorbital striae curved, continuous with frontal keel and occipital stria. Antennal scape bent, widened distally; first segment of the antennal flagellum almost square, much thicker than the other segments,




Figs 1-8. *Neopachylopus secqi* spec. nov. 1, dorsal view (in part, punctation on right elytron omitted); 2, pro- and mesosternum; 3, head (dorsal view); 4, right protibia (inner face); 5, eighth sternite, male (ventral view); 6, aedeagus, dorsal view; 7, idem, right lateral view; 8, tip of the aedeagus, seen perpendicularly to its plane (Scale: 0.5 mm, in the [middle] fig. 1, at the top figs 2-8).

these slightly widening towards the antennal club. Club rounded, at the underside with indistinct fovei near the tip, sutures indistinct by pubescence.

Thorax. Pronotum (fig. 1) about 1.9 times wider than long in the median line, with a small antescutellar fovea, disc sparsely punctulate, no points along the base. Posterolateral angles rounded, anterolateral angles rather blunt. No postocular foveae. Marginal stria complete at the sides, widely interrupted behind the anterior emargination. Epipleura not fimbriate. Elytra (fig. 1) sparsely punctulate with small points of unequal size intermixed in the apical two-third, not extending laterally from the third dorsal striae and not reaching the apical striae. Elytral epipleuron with elongate impression near the middle. Marginal epipleural stria fine, epipleural stria distinct, posteriorly merging with the marginal epipleural stria. Marginal elytral stria deeply impressed, continuous with the complete apical

stria. Outer subhumeral stria marked by a distinct short, punctate, oblique trait behind the humerus, its posterior end meeting the marginal elytral stria, and with a short trait just laterally from the posterior end of the oblique humeral stria, which is long, distinct. Dorsal striae one to three deeply impressed, punctate, abbreviated both anteriorly and posteriorly (fig. 1), fourth dorsal stria indicated by some aligned deep points. Sutural stria distinct, apical, abbreviated just before the elytral middle and continuous with the apical stria.

Prosternum (fig. 2): Keel strongly sinuous in lateral view; prosternal carinal striae fine, beginning between the procoxae, convergent anteriorly, thence very closely together and almost confused continued for some distance on the sharp anterior keel. Lateral prosternal striae nearly connected a little behind the apex, enclosing the carinal striae. Preapical foveae distinct, rounded.

Meso- and metasternal discs sparsely punctulate, interstices smooth. Mesosternal marginal stria widely interrupted behind prosternum (fig. 2). Male impression distinct and large in posterior half of mesosternum and anterior part of metasternum, gradually less deeply impressed towards hind-margin. Lateral parts of metasternum with deep points of unequal size, not closely set.

Legs: Protibia fig. 4. Middle and hind femora thickened. Middle and hind tibiae strongly thickened, their outer faces but for a narrow smooth band along their inferior margin entirely covered with thick short spines. Middle and hind tarsus with thick spines at their underside, the end-segments bearing two stout bent nails.

Aedeagus: figs 6-8; eighth male sternite: fig. 5.

Abdominal sternites smooth with sparse punctulation, almost margined behind by an irregular row of distinct points.

Propygidium with sparse distinct points, smaller and almost disappearing towards apex, interspaces with fine linear microsculpture. Pygidium convex, with scarce small points, the interspaces less distinctly microsculptured as propygidium. No marginal stria.

*Variation*

Length: Males: 1.7 - 2.9 mm, females: 2.5 - 3.1 mm; the specimens from Yemen are in general smaller than the specimens from Djibouti. The frontal chevron is indistinct or even absent in most paratypes. Also the dorsal punctation is less marked in many specimens. The length of the third dorsal stria is rather variable; in a few specimens there is a real short fourth dorsal stria instead of the row of points. Also the outer subhumeral stria is subject to variation both in length and in the presence of the basal trait. The latter is often indistinct or absent, especially in the specimens from North Yemen, in other specimens it is connected with the oblique humeral stria, simulating a bifid rear end of the latter.

*Etymology*

The name is given in honour of Mr Michel Secq (Montcaret, France), for his efforts to collect histerid beetles in Djibouti and for his contributions to the faunistics of the histerid beetles of France.

## Discussion

Hitherto three species have been described in the genus *Neopachylopus,* one from California, one from New Zealand and one from Somalia. *Neopachylopus secqi* differs from *Neopachylopus kochi* Thérond (1963) from Somalia by the following characters: the generally bigger size, the more transverse pronotum with more convergent sides and the more reduced striation of the elytra, with the absence of an arch between the fourth dorsal and sutural striae. Contrary to these two species the elytra of the species from New Zealand and from California are strongly and densely punctate. The following key may be helpful to identify the species.

## Key to the species of *Neopachylopus*

1 Elytra for the greater part covered with a strong and dense punctation; pronotal base

with distinct punctation; bigger species, length (without head, propygidium and pygidium) usually exceeding 3.9 mm .... 2
– Elytra at most with a fine, sparse punctation in their posterior twothird; pronotal base at most with a fine and sparse punctulation: species smaller, length usually not exceeding 3.1 mm. ..... 3
2 Pronotal epipleurae not fimbriate; punctation along the pronotal base constituted by two paramedian triangular areas; postocular pronotal foveae absent. Distribution: California, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon ..... *N. sulcifrons* (Mannerheim)
– Pronotal epipleurae fimbriate; narrow band of sparse points along the pronotal base without triangular forward projections; postocular pronotal foveae present. Distribution: New Zealand ..... ..... *N. lepidulus* (Broun)
3 Sutural striae complete, connected by an arch with the short but distinct fourth dorsal striae; pronotum less transverse, 1.5 times wider than long in the median line, its lateral sides less convergent; smaller species, length (without head, propygidium and pygidium) usually not exceeding 1.9 mm. Distribution: Somalia ... *N. kochi* Thérond
– Sutural striae abbreviated anteriorly, not connected by an arch with the vestigial fourth dorsal striae; pronotum more transverse, 1.9 times wider than long in the median line, its lateral sides more convergent; bigger species, length only exceptionally 1.9 mm or less. Distribution: Djibouti, North Yemen ..... *N. secqi* spec. nov.

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