

# A new relative of *Onthophagus palatus* from Java (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae)

J. KRIKKEN & J. HUIJBREGTS

---

KRIKKEN, J. & J. HUIJBREGTS, 1988. A NEW RELATIVE OF *ONTHOPHAGUS PALATUS* FROM JAVA (COLEOPTERA: SCARABAEIDAE). – *ENT. BER. AMST.* 48(1): 13-15.

*Abstract:* The *Onthophagus palatus* group is briefly discussed and a new species, *O. parapalatus*, is described from West Java. The three known species are keyed and lectotypes are designated for *O. foedus* Boucomont, 1914, and *O. palatus* Boucomont, 1914.

J. Krikken, Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Postbus 9517, 2300 RA Leiden.  
J. Huijbregts, c/o same address.

---

## Introduction

The majority of the species of the large dung beetle genus *Onthophagus* Latreille (about 2000 species described) have a marginate pygidial base, i.e. there is a low transverse ridge, separating the pygidial surface from the propygidium. In identification keys the species with an immarginate pygidium are quickly separated out, usually in one of the initial couplets (cf. for instance, Balthasar, 1963). In Southeast Asia several species lack the basal pygidial ridge; there is an unusually high incidence of such *Onthophagus* on Sulawesi. In this paper we describe a new one from Java, belonging to what we have termed the *palatus* group. Other species with an immarginate pygidium will be dealt with in due course, as results of Project Wallace (i.e. Sulawesi representatives). This paper is preparatory to our survey of laparostict scarabs of the Indo-Australian islands.

We are indebted to the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (Y. Cambefort) for the loan of types.

## Characters of the *palatus* species-group

Base of pygidium immarginate. Intercoxal metasternal lobe medially slightly protuberant. Elytral interstriae more or less asperate-rugulate, not simply punctate. Clypeal

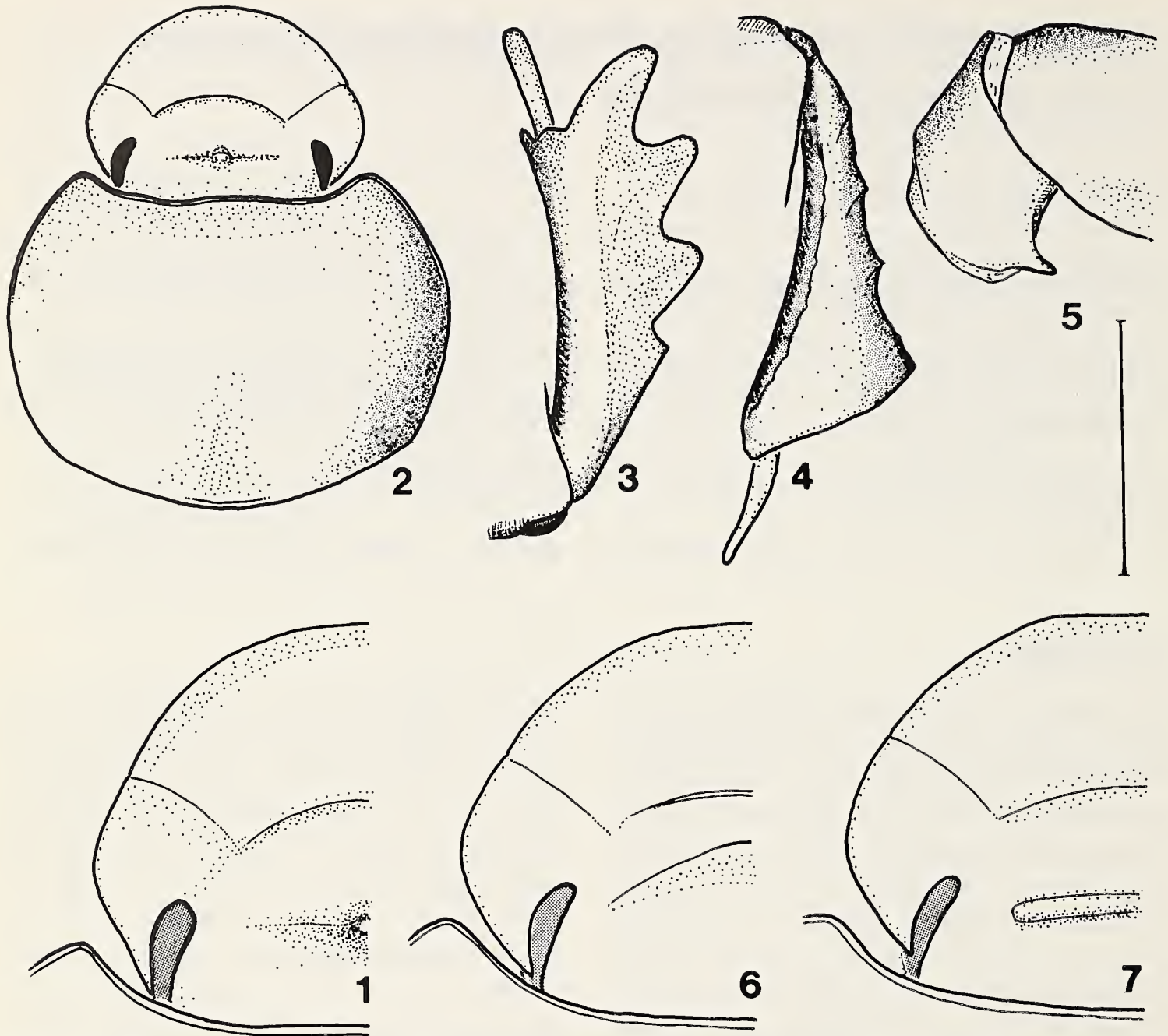
border widely rounded, somewhat truncate in front. Clypeofrontal ridge distinct, curved (convex in front). Frons with variably developed, more or less transverse interocular protrusion (males). Pronotum without distinct ridges or other protrusions, though anterior declivity may be steep. Anterolateral angle of pronotum shortly rounded, lateral border evenly rounded to distinctly sinuate posterior section. Protibia 4-dentate. Parameres with small, distinct distal-inferior lobe. Blackish or brownish (elytra may be light rufous, but never patterned). Length 5-8 mm.

Range: Java, Borneo, Sumatra and nearby islands. Identity of Sumatran records to be checked as new material becomes available.

## Key to the *palatus* group species (males)

Compare the figures (especially 1, 6, 7)

- 1a. Interocular elevation is an extensive transverse ridge.....2
- 1b. Interocular elevation is shorter, medially conical or dentiform. Length 6-7 mm. Java.....*parapalatus*
- 2a. Interocular ridge strongly curved, (sub)parallel to clypeofrontal ridge; strongly elevated medial part situated in front of



Figs. 1-7. *Onthophagus palatus* group. 1-5, *parapalatus*, holotype. 1, left half of head; 2, forebody; 3, right protibia; 4, left metatibia (ventral view); 5, parameres (dextralateral view); 6, left half of head of *palatus*, lectotype; 7, ditto, *foedus*, lectotype. (Scale lines 1 mm).

eyes. Pronotal disc densely punctate, laterally punctate-setose. Elytral interstriae 2 etc. shiny, with double row of seta-bearing punctures, setae long, semi-erect. Length 7 mm. Java.....*palatus*

2b. Interocular ridge straight, or nearly so. Pronotum densely punctate, laterally (sparsely, always?) punctate-setose. Elytral interstriae opaque, granulate- to asperate-setose. Length 6.5-7.5 mm. Borneo, elsewhere?.....*foedus*

**Lectotype designations**

Lectotype, male, of *Onthophagus foedus* Boucomont (1914: 282), here designated, la-

belled "BORNEO/LABUDAN", "EX MUSEO //N. VAN DE POLL", "MUSEUM PARIS / 1936 / COLL. A. BOUCOMONT", "Typus // O. foedus / Bouc." (red label, name indication in Boucomont's hand), in Paris museum. Specimens reported from Sumatra and specimens before us from Java may well belong to a different species, but the material now at hand is inadequate for a proper judgement.

Lectotype, male, of *Onthophagus palatus* Boucomont (1914: 281), here designated, labelled "Java occident. / Sukabumi / 2000' 1893 / H. Fruhstorfer", "EX MUSEO / N. VAN DE POLL", "MUSEUM PARIS / 1936 / COLL. A. BOUCOMONT", "Typus"

(red label), "Boucomont det. 1914 / *Onthophagus / palatus* n.sp." (in Boucomont's hand), in Paris museum.

***Onthophagus parapalatus* sp. nov.**  
(figs. 1-5)

*Material examined*

Two males (holotype, paratype), two females (paratypes), all with same data: Java: Preanger, leg. P. F. Sijthoff (Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden). Exact collecting date not given. The collector was active on Java around 1900. The Preanger is a region constituted by a number of districts on West Java, including Bandung.

*Description*

Holotype (male): Length ca 6.5 mm. Colour black-brown, largely opaque. Pilosity brownish, dorsal side abundantly setose. Clypeal margin slightly reflexed, border anteriorly nearly straight, clypeogenal margin continuous; clypeofrontal ridge arcuate, distinct; clypeal surface finely, densely punctate. Frons in front of subconical, transverse elevation also densely punctate. Cephalic punctation more or less double (consisting of two size classes). Eyes with ca 6 facet rows across widest point. Pronotum moderately convex, narrow anterior declivity steep; basomedian slightly impressed; anterior section of lateral border widely rounded; anterolateral angle shortly rounded, ca 90°; posterior section of lateral border distinctly sinuate, base indistinctly marginate medially (x60); pronotum with dense punctation throughout; punctures simple, their density on disc ca 10 / 0.1 sq.mm, diameters ca 0.05 mm; secondary punctures indistinct, roughly 0.2 of primary

diameters. Elytral striae discally well-defined, with moderately distinct punctures, mostly separated by 4 times their diameter, distinctly crenulating interstriae; interstriae very slightly convex, shiny, interstria 2 etc. with rows of seta-bearing, somewhat asperate-rugulate punctures; setae erect, laterally on elytra much longer.

Antennal club brown. Anteromedian lobe of metasternum slightly swollen. Abdominal sternites each with transverse row of simple, seta-bearing punctures. Pygidial disc with densely set, coarse, seta-bearing punctures, setae very long; pygidial base immarginate. Protibia broad, with 4 larger denticles, proximally serrate; terminal spur elongate, apex rounded. Meso- and metatibiae robust, their terminal spurs unmodified. Undersides of femora sparsely punctate-setose. Segment 1 of metatarsus slightly shorter than segments 2-4 combined. Parameres, cf. fig. 5; with distal-inferior lobe.

Measurements in mm: Maximum width of head 2.2. Median length of pronotum 2.5, maximum width 3.8. Sutural length of elytra 2.9, maximum width 3.8.

Variation and sexual dimorphism. – Length 6-7 mm. No significant variation. Sexual dimorphism mainly evident in stronger compaction of male abdominal sternites.

**References**

- BALTHASAR, V., 1963. *Monographie der Scarabaeidae und Aphodiidae der palaearktischen und orientalischen Region (Coleoptera Lamellicornia)* 2: 1-627.  
BOUCOMONT, A., 1914. Les Coprophages de l'archipel malais (Coleopt.). – *Annls Soc. ent. Fr.* 83: 238-350.

Accepted 4.viii.1987