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Palpistela aldoi sp. nov. (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Alleculinae: Alleculini), the second species of the genus from Vietnam

Vladimír Novák

Nepasické náměstí 796, CZ–190 14 Praha 9 – Klánovice, Czech Republic,
e-mail: alleculinae.vn@centrum.cz; https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9287-2014

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Abstract. **A** new species of Alleculini – *Palpistela aldoi* sp. nov. from North Vietnam (Tam Dao in Vinh Phuc Province) is described, illustrated including male genitalia and compared with habitually similar species *P. hoanglienica* Novák, 2020 known from North Vietnam (Lao Cai Province).

Key words. Taxonomy, new species, description, Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, Alleculinae, Alleculini, *Palpistela*, North Vietnam, Oriental Region.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Palpistela* Novák, 2021 with the type species *Palpistela hoanglienica* Novák, 2021 was established by Novák (2021). Species of this genus have small, elongate oval body with foliform antenna and space between eyes wider than diameter of one eye. Ultimate maxillary palpomere is unusually long, shoe-shaped without protuberance. Only type species has been known from the territory of Vietnam and worldwide so far: *P. hoanglienica* Novák, 2021.

A new species, *Palpistela aldoi* sp. nov., the second species of this genus, is described, illustrated including male genitalia and compared with the most habitually similar species from North Vietnam (Lao Cai Province) – *P. hoanglienica* Novák, 2020.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Two important morphometric characteristics used for the descriptions of species of the subfamily Alleculinae, the "ocular index" dorsally (Campbell & Marshall 1964) and "pronotal index" (Campbell 1965), are used in this paper as well. The ocular index equals (100×minimum dorsal distance between eyes) / (maximum width of head across eyes). The pronotal index is calculated as (100×length of pronotum along midline) / (width across basal angles of pronotum).

"Type material" information is taken from locality labels. In the list of type material, a slash (/) separates data in separate rows.

The following collection code is used: VNPC – Vladimír Novák, private collection, Praha, Czech Republic.

Measurements of body parts and corresponding abbreviations used in text are as follows: AL – total antennae length, BL – maximum body length, EL – maximum elytral length, EW – maximum elytral width, HL – maximum length of head (visible part), HW – maximum width of head, OI – ocular index dorsally, PI – pronotal index dorsally, PL – maximum pronotal length, PW – pronotal width at base, RLA – ratios of relative lengths of antennomeres 1–11 from base to apex (3=1.00), RL/WA – ratios of length / maximum width of antennomeres 1–11 from base to apex, RLT – ratios of relative lengths of tarsomeres 1–5 respectively 1–4 from base to apex (1=1.00).

Measurements were made with an Olympus SZ 40 stereoscopic microscope with continuous magnification and with the Soft Imaging System AnalySIS. Snapshots were taken by using camera Canon EOS 550 D and Canon Macro Photo Lens MP-E and software Helicon Focus 7.7.5.

TAXONOMY

Tribe Alleculini Laporte, 1840
Subtribe Alleculina Laporte, 1840

Genus *Palpistela* Novák, 2021

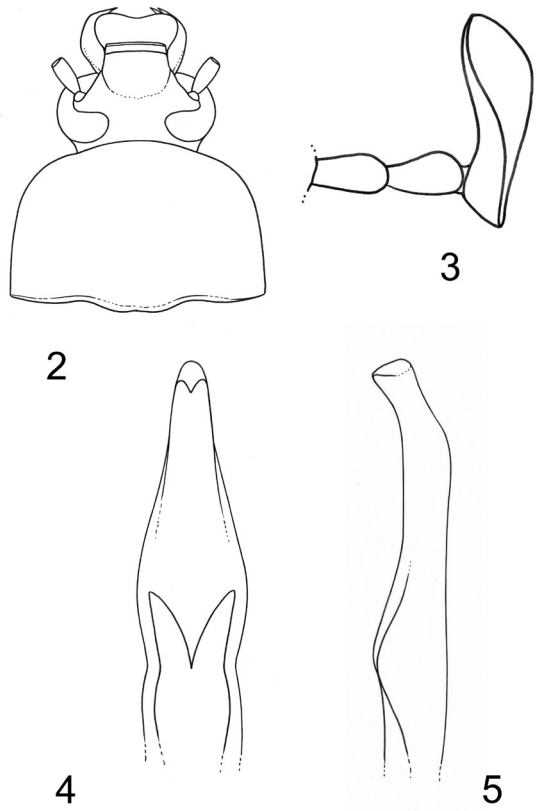
Type species. *Palpistela hoanglienica* Novák, 2021: 78 (by monotypy).

Palpistela aldoi sp. nov.
(Figs. 1–5)

Type locality. North Vietnam, Tam Dao in Vinh Phuc Province, 900 m.

Type material. Vietnam, Vinh Phuc province. **Holotype** (♂): "N. VIETNAM 900 m / TamDao 13.–24. / A. Olexa 5 1989" (VNPC). **Paratypes**: (3 ♂♂): same data as holotype (VNPC); (1 ♂): "6.–10. 1990 TAM DAO / VINH PHU Distr. / N VIETNAM, 900 m / JAN HORÁK Leg." (VNPC).

Fig. 1. Dorsal habitus of *Palpistela aldoi* sp. nov. Not to scale.



Figs. 2–5. *Palpistela aldoi* sp. nov. 2 – head and pronotum; 3 – maxillary palpus; 4 – apical piece of aedeagus, dorsal view; 5 – apical piece of aedeagus, lateral view. Not to scale.

Description of holotype (♂)**.** Habitus as in Fig. 1, body small-sized, oval, convex, shiny, from ochre yellow to reddish brown, dorsal surface with pale setae, punctures and microgranulation, BL 5.19 mm. Widest near middle of elytral length; BL/EW 2.72.

Head (Fig. 2) reddish brown, slightly wider than long, through the eyes distinctly wider than anterior margin or base of pronotum. Dorsal surface slightly shiny, with dense, shallow punctures, sparse and long, pale setae and fine microgranulation. Anterior part and clypeus pale reddish brown, slightly paler than posterior part. Clypeus transverse, surface with sparse, long, pale setae, shallow punctures and fine microgranulation. Mandibles glabrous, semi-matte, reddish brown. HW 0.86 mm; HW/PW 0.61; HL (visible part) 0.74 mm. Eyes large, transverse, excised, space between eyes narrow, slightly wider than diameter of one eye, wider than antennomere 1; OI equal to 38.16.

Antenna ochre yellow (AL 3.14 mm, distinctly exceeding half body length, AL/BL 0.61). Antennomeres long and narrow. Dorsal surface with pale setae, small, sparse and shallow punctures and microgranulation. Antennomere 2 shortest, antennomere 4 longest.

RLA (1–11): 0.64 : 0.41 : 1.00 : 1.35 : 1.04 : 1.05 : 1.04 : 0.97 : 0.90 : 0.81 : 0.81.
RL/WA (1–11): 2.00 : 1.61 : 3.96 : 5.77 : 4.11 : 4.46 : 4.11 : 3.38 : 3.57 : 2.81 : 3.21.

Maxillary palpus (Fig. 3) ochre yellow, semi-matte, with sparse pale setae and microgranulation. Palpomeres 2 and 3 distinctly narrowest at base and widest at apex, ultimate palpomere darker than penultimate, long, shoe-shaped.

Pronotum (Fig. 2) reddish brown, slightly shiny, convex, widest at base, approximately as wide as elytra at humeri. Dorsal surface with long, pale setae, dense, coarse punctures and microgranulation. Interspaces between punctures narrower than diameter of punctures. PL 0.98 mm; PW 1.41 mm; PI equal to 69.50. Border lines narrow, margins clearly distinct dorsally. Lateral margins slightly narrowing in basal half, arcuate in apical part. Base slightly bisinuate, anterior margin rounded, anterior angles indistinct, posterior angles obtuse.

Elytra ochre yellow, oval, convex, shiny, widest near middle of elytral length. Dorsal surface with very dense and long, pale setae. EL 3.47 mm; EW 1.91 mm; EL/EW 1.82. Elytral striae with rows of coarse punctures, elytral intervals with very fine microgranulation and very small, sparse punctures.

Scutellum. Ochre yellow with sides darker, semi-elliptical, semi-matte, with fine microgranulation and shallow punctures.

Elytral epipleura well-developed, ochre yellow, shiny, with punctures and pale setae, narrowing to ventrite 1 on basal part, then relatively wide leads parallel on apical part.

Legs. Long, ochre yellow. Dorsal surface with pale setae and fine microgranulation. Pro- and mesotarsomeres 3 and 4 and penultimate metatarsomeres widened and lobed. RLT: 1.00 : 0.57 : 0.60 : 0.70 : 1.65 (protarsus), 1.00 : 0.67 : 0.40 : 0.42 : 1.00 (mesotarsus), 1.00 : 0.26 : 0.27 : 0.45 (metatarsus).

Both protarsal claws ochre yellow, with 8 teeth.

Ventral side of body reddish brown, shiny, with pale setae and large punctures. Abdomen pale brown, shiny, with sparse, short, pale setae, small punctures and very fine microgranulation.

Aedeagus (Figs. 4–5) large, ochre yellow, shiny. Basal piece slightly rounded laterally and gradually narrowing in dorsal view. Apical piece elongate triangular dorsally, and beak-shaped from lateral view. Ratio of length of apical piece to length of basal piece in dorsal view 1: 3.69.

Female unknown.

Variability. The type specimens somewhat vary in size; each character is given as its mean value, with full range in parentheses. Males (n=5). BL 5.47 mm (5.19–5.71 mm); HL 0.79 mm (0.74–0.82 mm); HW 0.93 mm (0.86–0.97 mm); OI 39.02 (38.16–40.00); PL 1.03 mm (0.98–1.07 mm); PW 1.48 mm (1.40–1.53 mm); PI 69.98 (69.93–70.00); EL 3.64 mm (3.47–3.81 mm); EW 1.98 mm (1.91–2.05 mm).

Differential diagnosis. This species is similar to *Palpistela hoanglienica* Novák, 2021 from North Vietnam (Lao Cai Province). The new species *Palpistela aldoi* sp. nov. clearly differs from the similar species *P. hoanglienica* mainly by the pronotum reddish brown, by elytra ochre yellow and by the shape of aedeagus as in Figs. 4, 5; while *P. hoanglienica* has pronotum orange and elytra blackish brown (Novák 2021: 79, fig. 1), shape of the aedaeagus see in Novák 2021: 79, figs. 6 and 7.

Etymology. Patronymic, named in honour one of the collector of type series, Czech entomologist Aldo Olexa (1927–2009), after his first name.

Distribution. North Vietnam (Tam Dao in Vinh Phuc Province).

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