

Third contribution to the *Litargus jakli* species group (Coleoptera: Mycetophagidae) from the Oriental Region

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Abstract

A new species, *Litargus (Litargosomus) majeri* sp. nov., belonging to the *Litargus jakli* species group from the Oriental Region (India: Andaman Isl.), is described, illustrated, and compared with similar species.

Keywords: Taxonomy, new species, Coleoptera, Mycetophagidae, *Litargus*, India, Andaman Islands, Oriental Region.

Introduction

The *Litargus jakli* group species have been described from the Oriental Region (Háva, 2023) and include seven species (Junk, 2022; Háva, 2023, 2024). During the determination of some unidentified material deposited in the National Museum, Prague, a new species from the Andaman Islands in India belonging to the *Litargus jakli* species group was discovered and is described below.

Materials and Methods

The materials are deposited in the following collections:

JHAC Jiří Háva, Private Entomological Laboratory & Collection, Únětice u Prahy, Prague-West, Czech Republic;

NMPC National Museum, Praha, Czech Republic (J. Hájek).

The size of beetles or of their body parts can be useful in species recognition, and thus, the following measurements were made:

Total length (TL) - linear distance from anterior margin of head to apex of elytra.

Elytral width (EW) - maximum linear transverse distance.

Specimens of the presently described species are provided with red, printed label with text as follows: "HOLOTYPE [or PARATYPE] *Litargus (Litargosomus) majeri* sp. nov. Jiří Háva det. 2024".

ZOOBANK: <https://zoobank.org/References/EA02AB9C-B82B-44BC-847E-276E750CE50D>

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Results

Genus *Litargus* Erichson, 1846 Subgenus *Litargosomus* Motschulsky, 1858

Litargus jakli species group

Litargus (Litargosomus) majeri sp. nov.

<https://zoobank.org/NomenclaturalActs/BB7883FF-FF6D-4DAF-82D7-A1AD0FE218F8>
(Figs. 1-2)

Type material. Holotype (♀): India, Andaman Isl., Havelock Isl., v.1997, K. & S. Majer leg., (NMPC). Paratypes (2 ♀♀): same data as holotype, (NMPC, JHAC).

Description. Female. **Body** measurements TL 1.7 mm, EW 1.0 mm; oblong-oval, subparallel-sided; weakly convex dorsally, weakly glossy; brown on dorsal and ventral surfaces, covered with short, light brown recumbent setation.

Head brown, finely punctate; covered by light brown, recumbent setation; labrum brown; eyes large, prominent laterally in dorsal view, coarsely faceted and slightly emarginate near antennal insertions; antennae with 11 antennomeres, entirely brown with brown setation, antennal club with three antennomeres (Fig. 2); palpomeres brown, apical maxillary palpomere very large, cylindrical.

Pronotum brown, rugose, with large and dense punctures, covered with light brown recumbent setation; widest at base, gradually narrowed anteriorly; anterior margin slightly arcuate; sides roundly arcuate; basal margin sinuate, without short and circular grooves on subbasal parts.

Scutellum broadly triangular, with short recumbent light brown setation.

Elytra brown without colour patterns, covered by light brown recumbent setation, elongate, subparallel-sided, narrowed from apical 1/4 to apex.

Epipleuron brown, covered with yellow recumbent setation. Meta-meso ventrite brown, with yellow recumbent setation. Prosternal process short and broad.

Legs entirely dark brown with light brown spines, covered with yellow recumbent setation. Tibiae with long brown spines apically. Abdominal visible ventrites brown, covered with light brown recumbent setation. Pygidium brown, covered with brown recumbent setation.

Male. Unknown.

Differential diagnosis. The new species differs from other known species belonging to the species group by the form of the body, structure of the antennae; it is externally similar to *L. jendeki* Háva, 2023 and *L. horaki* Háva, 2023, but differs from them by the structure of the antennae, light brown setation on dorsal and ventral surfaces and small body.

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Etymology. Patronymic, dedicated memoriam to the collector of the new species and my friend Karel Majer.



Figures 1-2. *Litargus (Litargosomus) majeri* sp. nov.: 1- body, dorsal aspect; 2- antennae.

List of *Litargus jakli* species group

- Litargus horaki* Háva, 2023
Distribution: Thailand, Vietnam
- Litargus jaechi* Háva, 2023
Distribution: Thailand
- Litargus jakli* Háva, 2021
Distribution: Indonesia: Timor
- Litargus jejudoensis* Jung, 2022
Distribution: South Korea: Jejudo
- Litargus jendeki* Háva, 2023
Distribution: India: Meghalaya
- Litargus kalimantanus* Háva, 2024
Distribution: Indonesia: Kalimantan
- Litargus majeri* sp. nov.
Distribution: India: Andaman Isl.
- Litargus philippinensis* Háva, 2024
Distribution: The Philippines

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Competing interest

The author declared that there are no competing interests exist in the preparation of the manuscript.

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