

New species of *Smaragdina* Chevrolat, 1837 from Jordan (Chrysomelidae, Clytrinae)

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**New species of *Smaragdina* CHEVROLAT, 1837 from Jordan
(Chrysomelidae, Clytrinae)**

by Lev N. Medvedev & Ahmad Katbeh-Bader

Abstract. A description of a new species, *Smaragdina jordanica* sp.nov. from Jordan is given, together with a key to the nearest species.

Key words. Coleoptera – Chrysomelidae – Clytrinae – *Smaragdina* CHEVROLAT, 1837 – new species – Jordan

The genus *Smaragdina* CHEVROLAT, 1837 is comparatively well studied in the Palaearctic region. Nevertheless, in one very distinct subgenus, known for a long time as the *Calyptorrhina* LACORDAIRE, 1848 (now a synonym of *Smaragdina* s.str.), a few new species have recently been described from the Near East. (MEDVEDEV 1992, ERBER & MEDVEDEV 1999). This group is almost entirely Mediterranean (13 species), but 2 species are also known from the Far East (COBOS 1955, MEDVEDEV 1990, MEDVEDEV 1992). The Near East fauna is especially rich and includes 9 species (ERBER & MEDVEDEV 1999); we describe here one more species from this region.

***Smaragdina jordanica* sp.nov.**

Material examined. Holotype (male) and 46 paratypes (34 males, 13 females): Jordan, Al Jubayhah, 950 m, April 2000, on leaves of fruit trees, leg. A. Katbeh. Holotype and 2 paratypes are deposited in the Natural History Museum Basel (Switzerland), 38 paratypes in the University of Jordan, Amman, 6 paratypes in the L. Medvedev collection, Moscow.

Description. Metallic blue, labrum fulvous with black base, antennae black with 4 or 5 basal segments fulvous, elytra fulvous with blue or black blue pattern, different in male and female (see below), tibiae and tarsi fulvous, two apical segments of tarsi usually darkened.

Body cylindrical, elongate. Head pubescent, grooved between eyes, clypeus and frons strongly punctate, vertex glossy, sparsely punctate. Antennae (Fig.1) distinctly serrate from the 5th segment, segments 2 and 3 short, cylindrical and subequal, 4 longer than 3, and widened to apex, 5–10 triangular, as wide as long, 11 feebly elongate. Prothorax 1.7–1.8 times as wide as long, broadest beyond centre, basal border feebly double-emarginate, surface glossy, with moderately large, sparse punctures and more numerous very fine punctures. Scutellum trapeziform with broadly truncate apex, distinctly elevated above level of elytra; surface glossy, finely and sparsely punctate, mostly on sides. Elytra 1.35–1.5 times as long as wide, dull, densely punctate, interspaces mainly as large as the punctures themselves, with dense microsculpture. Underside and legs moderately glossy, densely pubescent.

Male. Head enlarged, more broad than anterior margin of prothorax, mandibles enlarged, with distinct dorsal ridge, clypeus broad, its anterior margin concave (Fig. 2).

Eyes enlarged, frons about 3.6–3.7 times as wide as transverse diameter of eye. Prothorax feebly narrowed anteriorly. Elytra practically parallel-sided, fulvous with broad sutural stripe from base to apical slope (Fig. 5) and often with posterolateral spot (Fig. 6), not touching side margin but sometimes connected with sutural stripe (Fig. 7). Anterior legs more elongate, especially tibiae and tarsi, tibiae slightly curved, anterior tarsi with segment 1 as long as next two together (Fig. 3). Last abdominal sternite slightly impressed in middle.

Aedeagus thick in lateral view, with acute tip on apex, underside without distinct impressions (Fig. 4). Length of body 3.7–4.6 mm.

Female. Head not enlarged, as broad as anterior margin of prothorax. Mandibles short. Clypeus more narrow, its anterior margin almost straight. Eyes small, frons more narrow, about 3.0–3.2 as wide as transverse diameter of eye. Prothorax distinctly narrowed anteriorly. Elytra broadened in apical third, fulvous with broad sutural stripe from base to apical slope and transverse band beyond centre connected with side margin and sutural stripe (Fig. 8). Anterior legs not longer than mid ones, anterior tibiae straight, tarsi with segment 1 a little shorter than next two together. Last abdominal sternite with deep transverse groove.

Length of body 3.8–4.5 mm.

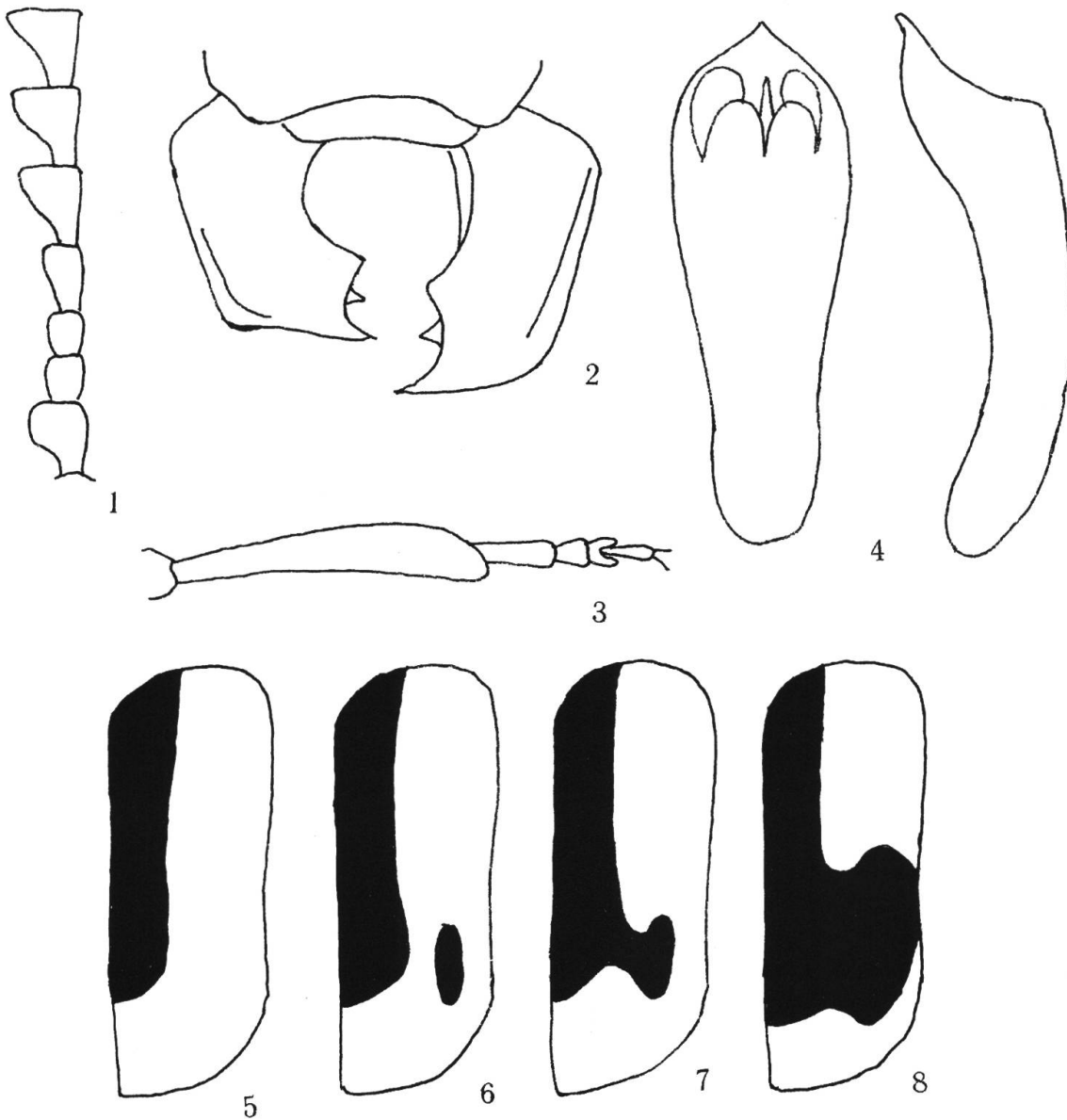
Variability. In males elytral pattern the sutural stripe may be alone (23 specimens), or with additional lateral spot (9 specimens), sometimes connected with sutural stripe (3 specimens). Elytral pattern in all 13 females is invariable.

Biology. The beetles were collected on fruit and nut trees (apple, pear, peach, apricot, almond) on red clay soil, moderately humid (annual rain fall is 400–500 mm/year). Feeding was recorded on apple, pear, and almond trees.

Diagnosis. This new species belongs to the *S. limbata* (STEVEN, 1806) group and is near *S. furthi* ERBER & MEDVEDEV, 1999 and *S. scutellaris* LEFÈVRE, 1872. It differs from the first in the absence of a humeral spot, from the second with elytral pattern and longer first segment of anterior tarsi in the male.

Species of the *S. limbata* group with fulvous elytra and metallic pattern might be divided as follows:

- 1(2) First segment of antennae and legs metallic. Body metallic green, elytra with broad fulvous lateral margin. Length 3.5–6.3 mm. Feeding on Tamarix, Quercus. Hungary, Greece, Bulgaria, Turkey, Caucasus, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Iran. *S. limbata* (STEVEN, 1806)
- 2(1) First segment of antennae, tibiae and tarsi fulvous.
- 3(8) Elytra with humeral spot. Upperside glossy, with strong punctures.
- 4(5) Elytra fulvous with small or large dark metallic spot beyond centre (rarely absent). Length 3.3–5.3 mm. Feeding mostly on Tamarix. Hungary, Turkey, Caucasus, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Israel, Egypt. *S. unipunctata* (OLIVIER, 1808)
- 5(4) Suture of elytra dark.



Figs 1–8. *Smaragdina jordanica* sp.nov.: 1, basal segments of antenna; 2, mandibles of male; 3, anterior tibia and tarsus of male; 4, aedeagus dorsal and lateral; 5–7, pattern of elytra in male; 8, ditto in female.

- 6(7) Body green blue, elytra with fulvous subquadrate spot in humeral area (including dark humeral spot) and apex. Length 4.8 mm. Israel.
 *S. furthi* ERBER & MEDVEDEV, 1999
- 7(6) Body blue or violaceous, elytra fulvous with whole central part metallic, only base, apex and narrow lateral margin fulvous. Length 4–4.9 mm. Iran: Luristan.
 *S. persica* (PIC, 1911)
- 8(3) Elytra without humeral spot. Prothorax and especially elytra mostly dull and microsculptured.

- 9(10) Male: segment 1 of anterior tarsus shorter than next two segments together. Elytra with broad sutural stripe, but without lateral spots or bands. Length 4.0–5.5 mm. Turkey, Syria, Lebanon.
 *S. scutellaris* LEFÈVRE, 1872
- 10(9) Male: segment 1 of anterior tarsus as long as next two segments together. Elytra with broad sutural stripe and often with lateral spots (male) or transverse band (female). Length 3.8–4.5 mm. Jordan.
 *S. jordanica* sp.nov.

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