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A new species of *Pseudophanias* Raffray from a cave in central Nepal (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Pselaphinae)

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Cave-associated beetles of the subfamily Pselaphinae (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae) comprise some 170 species all over the world (Poggi *et al*. 1998 and subsequent papers), with Europe and North America having the highest species diversity (Besuchet 1985; Chandler 1992; Chandler & Reddell 2001; Hlaváč *et al.* 2006, 2008). The Asian fauna began to draw an increased attention after 2010 (Yin *et al*. 2011a, 2011b, 2015; Nomura 2012; Yin & Li 2015), with the number of the species growing from 10 to 25. Most of these species were found in southern to southwestern China and Japan, where many caves are scattered in the karst areas. However no species has been so far known from the Himalayan region. Most species of cavernicolous pselaphines belong to the tribes Batrisini, Amauropini, and Bythinini, while members are relatively rare in other tribes. Currently, the pselaphite tribe Tmesiphorini has no true troglobitic/cavernicolous species; all of the few existing records indicated that occurrence of some species of the genera *Dacnotillus* Raffray, *Tmesiphorus* LeConte, and *Tmesiphorites* Jeannel at the entrance or inside of caves or sinkholes are probably accidental, because there are no obvious morphological adaptions for cavernicolous life, and some species (e.g., *Tmesiphorus costalis* LeConte) are widely distributed, being found also in leaf litters, under bark, and with ants (Raffray *et al*. 1892; Chandler 1992; Jeannel 1953).

The genus *Pseudophanias* Raffray is one of the 30 extant genera of the Tmesiphorini (Yin *et al*. 2013), its members are distinct in possessing small, unmodified maxillary palpi, and often strongly modified antennae in the male. Achille Raffray described (Raffray 1890a, 1890b, 1895, 1905) all ten hitherto known species that occur in West Malaysia (Penang; 4 spp.), Singapore (2 spp.), and Indonesia (Sumatra; 4 spp.). All of these are localized species, with four collected from sifted litter samples in forests, and the rest of uncertain ecological status. In this paper we describe a new species with remarkably elongate body form and appendages, collected by Dr. Petar Beron (Sofia, Bulgaria) in a cave (Mahendra Gupha) in central Nepal. While the genus *Pseudophanias* requires a complete revision, this species is quite distinctive in comparison to its nemoricolous relatives.

Material and methods

The type material treated in this paper is housed in the following public institutions:
MHNG—Muséum d'histoire naturelle de la Ville de Genève, Switzerland (G. Cuccodoro);
NMNHS—National Museum of Natural History, Sofia, Bulgaria (R. Bekchiev).

Dissected parts were preserved in Euparal Mounting Medium or Canada balsam on plastic slides that were placed on the same pin with the specimen. Habitus images were taken using a Canon 7D camera in conjunction with a Canon MP-E 65mm f/2.8 1-5X Macro Lens and a Canon MT-24EX Macro Twin Lite Flash. Images of the morphological details were made using a Canon G9 camera mounted on an Olympus CX31 microscope. Line drawings were made using adobe illustrator CS3. Zerene Stacker (version 1.04) was used for image stacking. All images were modified and grouped in Adobe Photoshop CS5 Extended. The collecting data of the material are quoted verbatim. Each type specimen bears the following label: 'HOLOTYPE [red] (or PARATYPE [yellow]), ♂ (or ♀), *Pseudophanias spinitarsis* sp. n., det. Yin, Coulon & Bekchiev, 2015'.

The following abbreviations are applied: AL—length of the abdomen along the midline; AW—maximum width of

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