



## A new species of *Mimothrix* Majer, 1989 (Coleoptera: Dasytidae) from Xizang, China

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### Abstract

A new dasytid species of the genus *Mimothrix* Majer, 1989 is discovered from Mêdog, Xizang, China, and described as *M. medogensis* Yang & Miao, **sp. nov.** The description is supported by illustrations of the habitus, pygidium, abdominal sternite VIII, and genitalia of both sexes. The new species can be readily distinguished from other species of *Mimothrix* by its relatively short and stout median lobe, which is regularly shaped at base and blunt at apex. Additionally, *M. montivaga* Majer, 1995, is redescribed in detail and illustrated with habitus, pygidium and abdominal sternite VIII of both sexes, as well as the female genitalia for the first time, to make comparison with the new species.

**Key words:** alpha taxonomy, dasytid beetles, new taxon, morphology, eastern Himalaya

### Introduction

The genus *Mimothrix* Majer, 1989 is currently classified within the subfamily Chaetomalachiinae Majer, 1987 of the beetle family Dasytidae (Majer 1995, 1996a, b; Mayor 2007; Constantin 2015) or alternatively within the subfamily Dasytinae of the family Melyridae *sensu lato* (Gimmel *et al.* 2019; Gimmel & Mayor 2019, 2024; Tshernyshev *et al.* 2025). Adults of *Mimothrix* can be easily distinguished from all other genera of dasytid beetles by the pronotum without sublateral lines on disc, abdominal sternite VIII without median process in males, and tegmen with a more or less distinct median keel at base and/or an often protruded apex (Majer 1995).

In the original description (Majer 1989), *Mimothrix* was described monotypically, with *M. olivacea* Majer, 1989 designated as the type species. Subsequently, another 28 species were added (Majer 1995, 1996a, b; Constantin 2015). These species are distributed in China (Yunnan, Sichuan), Afghanistan, Bhutan, Burma, India, Nepal, Kashmir, Tajikistan (Majer 1989, 1995, 1996a, b; Constantin 2015).

Prior to this study, 11 species of *Mimothrix* had been documented in China, all of which are restricted to the provinces of Yunnan and Sichuan. In our recent research, we discovered a new species of this genus from Mêdog, Xizang, which is described herein. These findings contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of species diversity within the dasytid beetle fauna of China.

### Material and methods

In this study, we adhere to the conventional taxonomic classification of dasytid beetles as a separate family, Dasytidae (Majer 1994, 1995; Mayor 2007; Bocakova *et al.* 2012; Constantin 2015; Miao *et al.* 2024, 2025a, b, c, d, e),

although the phylogenetic evidence suggests that dasytid beetles should be treated as a subfamily within Melyridae (Gimmel *et al.* 2019). This issue does not impact the species descriptions of *Mimothrix* in the present study.

The studied specimens are deposited in the Museum of Hebei University, Baoding, China (MHBUC). The specimens were initially soaked in water for softening, followed by the separation of their abdomens. The separated abdomens were then immersed in a 10% sodium hydroxide (NaOH) solution and heated at a constant temperature for several minutes using a metal bath. Once the fat had dissolved, they were transferred to a Nikon SMZ1500 stereo microscope for the dissection of the pygidium, abdominal sternite VIII and genitalia. To facilitate observation, the spiculum gastrale, tegmen, and median lobe were isolated respectively. The ovipositor was stained with hematoxylin to enhance the clarity of its photograph, owing to its membranous nature. Subsequently, the dissected genitalia were placed on a glass slide with glycerol and photographed using a Leica M205A stereo microscope before being stored in glycerol for preservation. Glycerol is widely recognized as a standard medium due to its chemical inertness and physical stability. It provides exceptional flexibility and structural integrity, making it ideal for curatorial purposes while ensuring the specimen remains accessible for future research endeavors.

A Canon EOS 80D digital camera was used to capture images of habitus which were later processed using Helicon Focus 7 software. Adobe Photoshop CC 2019 version 20.0.4 was utilized for editing in plate preparation. The body length was measured from the anterior margin of the head to the elytral apices. The terminology of genital segments follows Lawrence *et al.* (2010) and that of genitalia follows Gimmel and Mayor (2019). In addition, some other terms of male genitalia are proposed in the present study as follows: apical limb: distal part of median lobe, generally slender; basal limb: basal part of median lobe, generally stout; subapical ring: an orifice of tegmen, which is a space delimited by membranes of the subparts of tegmen.

## Taxonomy

### Class Insecta Linnaeus, 1758

### Order Coleoptera Linnaeus, 1758

### Superfamily Cleroidea Latreille, 1802

### Family Dasytidae Laporte, 1840

### Subfamily Chaetomalachiinae Majer, 1987

### Genus *Mimothrix* Majer, 1989

*Mimothrix* Majer, 1989: 752. Type species: *Mimothrix olivacea* Majer, 1989, by original designation.

**Updated diagnosis.** Body small to medium-sized, 1.9–5.7 mm in length. Body covered with more or less prominent dual pubescence, either long, stout and erect, or short, fine and adpressed. Pronotum rounded, without sublateral lines. Tarsi simple, tarsomeres 4 obviously smaller than 3. Abdominal sternite VIII with median process absent in male (Fig. 2A, H), present in female (Fig. 3A, D). Tegmen in ventral view subparallel-sided or slightly dilated at basal part, with submedian dilation distinctly angled, mostly with a protruded and narrowed apex, which is covered with a few setae (Fig. 2C, J); tegmen in lateral view more or less bent ventrally at base (Fig. 2D, K), the bent part with a more or less distinct median keel on outer surface and a median line on inner surface. Apical limb of median lobe mostly slender (Fig. 2F, M). Internal sac mostly with numerous distinct and conical spines (Fig. 2E, F, L, M). Spiculum gastrale Y-shaped (Fig. 2G, N). Ovipositor stout and membranous, gonostylus long and nearly cylindrical, transverse coxital baculum short and arcuate, baculum long and oblique (Fig. 3C, F).

**Distribution.** China (Yunnan, Sichuan, Xizang), Afghanistan, Bhutan, Burma, India, Nepal, Kashmir, Tajikistan.

## *Mimothrix montivaga* Majer, 1995

(Figs 1A, B, 2A–G, 3A–C)

*Mimothrix montivaga* Majer, 1995: 202, figs 88–90.

**Material examined.** CHINA, Yunnan: 6 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀ (MHBUS), Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture, Nanjian Yi Autonomous County, Wuliang Medicine Valley, 24.84781°N, 100.59200°E, 2529 m, 2–3.VII.2023, leg. J.B. Tong & C. Fang.

**Description. Male** (Fig. 1A). Body length 4.0–4.5 mm, width at the base of elytra 1.2–1.5 mm and at widest part of elytra 1.3–1.5 mm.

Body black with strong green metallic lustre. Antennae black, except for antennomeres 2 brown. Legs almost black, except for basal parts of profemora, and ventral sides of meso- and metafemora yellow. Body surface densely and finely punctate, densely covered with short and recumbent pale yellow pubescence, and a few long and erect pale yellow setae.

Eyes prominent, head width across eyes obviously wider than anterior margin of pronotum. Antennae extending to basal 1/3 of elytra when directed posteriorly, with antennomeres 1 nearly conical, 2 ellipsoidal, 3–10 triangular and longer than wide, 11 fusiform, 2.8 times as long as wide.

Pronotum nearly as long as wide, widest near middle, anterior and posterior margins nearly arcuate, lateral margins widely angled, inconspicuously crenulate, anterior and posterior angles widely rounded. Elytra subparallel-sided, 2.3 times longer than humeral width, 3.2 times longer than pronotum, broadly rounded at apices. Legs slender and simple.

Abdominal sternite VIII (Fig. 2A) strongly transverse and bilobed, with antero-lateral angles acute, surface covered with a few long curly black setae and some short erect setae near posterior margin. Pygidium (Fig. 2B) slightly transverse, 1.2 times wider than long, feebly narrowed posteriorly, arcuately emarginate in middle of anterior margin, straight at posterior margin, with antero-lateral angles protruding and pointed at apices, which directed antero-laterally, surface covered with a few long curly black setae and some short erect setae along lateral and posterior margins. Spiculum gastrale (Fig. 2G) with basal trunk shorter than apical branch.

Aedeagus: Tegmen in ventral view slightly dilated at basal part, with submedian dilation angled or nearly arcuate, the subapical ring pyriform rounded at base and reaching middle, apex arcuate (Fig. 2C); tegmen in lateral view strongly bent ventrally at basal third, with a less distinct median keel on outer surface (Fig. 2D). Median lobe in lateral view with basal limb relatively stout and irregularly shaped, apical limb slender, 6.3 times longer than basal width, with gradually tapering apex which is slightly incurved ventrally (Fig. 2F); median lobe in ventral view pointed at apex (Fig. 2E). Internal sac with numerous distinct, small and conical spines (Fig. 2E, F).

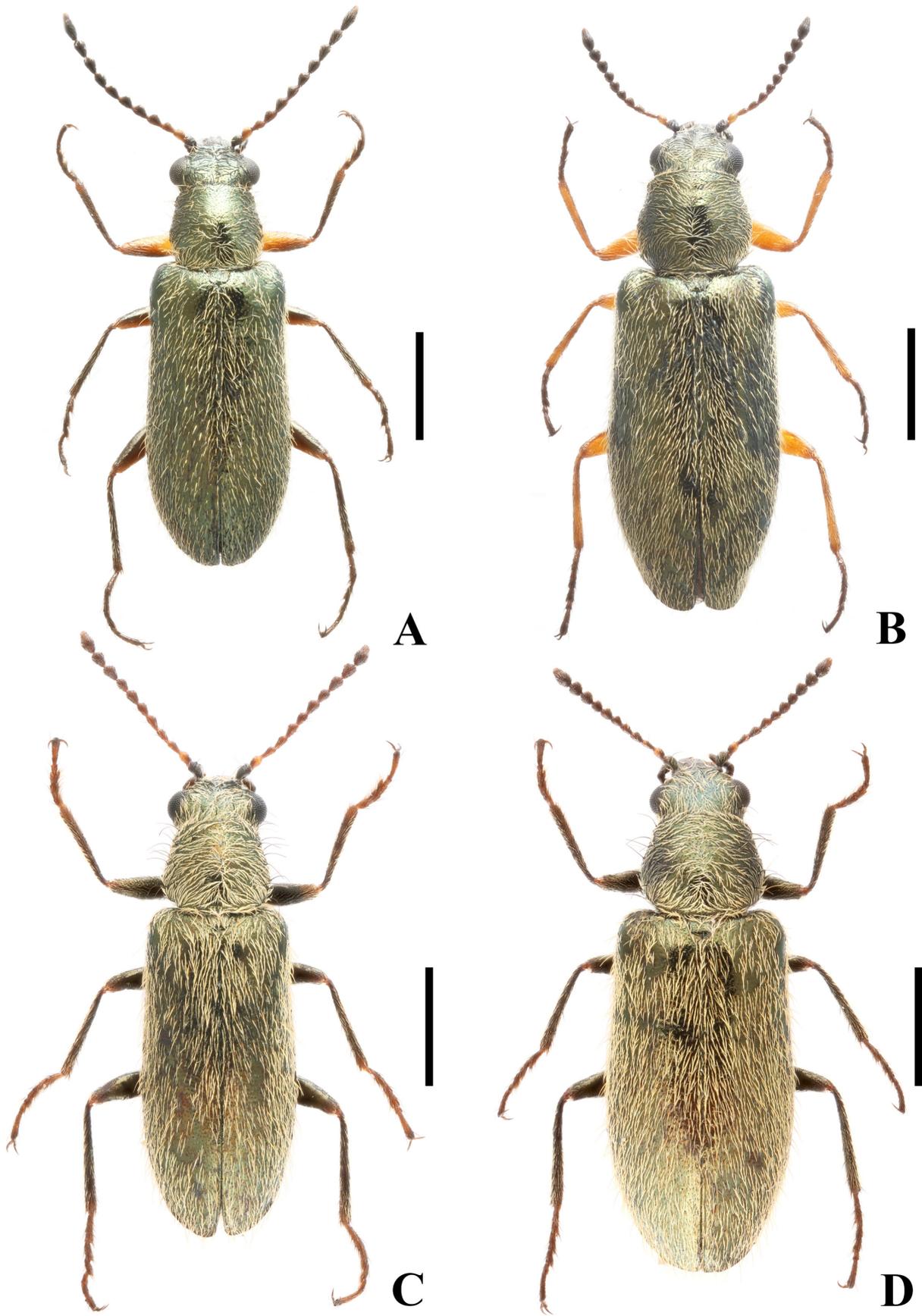
**Female** (Fig. 1B). Similar to male, but body larger, body length 4.3–4.6 mm, width at the base of elytra 1.3–1.5 mm and at widest part of elytra 1.5–1.7 mm. Femora and tibiae uniformly yellow. Antennae slightly shorter, extending to elytral base when directed posteriorly, with antennomeres 7–10 nearly globular, 11 slightly shorter, 2.1 times as long as wide. Pronotum 1.1 times as wide as long, lateral margins arcuate. Elytra slightly dilated posteriorly. Abdominal sternite VIII (Fig. 3A) bilobed, each lobe slightly narrowed laterally, about 3.4 times as long as wide, with antero-lateral angles acute, the median process very slender and distinctly extending beyond antero-lateral angles. Pygidium (Fig. 3B) as long as wide, arcuately emarginate in middle of anterior margin, hardly emarginate at posterior margin, with antero-lateral angles slightly blunt at apices, which directed anteriorly. Each baculum of ovipositor (Fig. 3C) with a short branch near apical 1/3.

**Distribution.** China (Yunnan).

## *Mimothrix medogensis* Yang & Miao, sp. nov.

(Figs 1C, D, 2H–N, 3D–F)

**Type material. HOLOTYPE:** CHINA: ♂ (MHBUS), Xizang: Nyingchi City, Mêdog County, Gedang Township, 29.45272567°N, 95.69954733°E, 1975 m, 10.VIII.2024, leg. C. Fang & S.L. Yuan. **PARATYPES:** CHINA: 2 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀ (MHBUS), same data as the holotype.



**FIGURE 1.** Habitus of *Mimothrix* species, dorsal view. **A, B.** *M. montivaga* Majer, 1995. **C, D.** *M. medogensis* sp. nov. **A, C.** Male; **B, D.** Female. Scale bars: 1.0 mm.

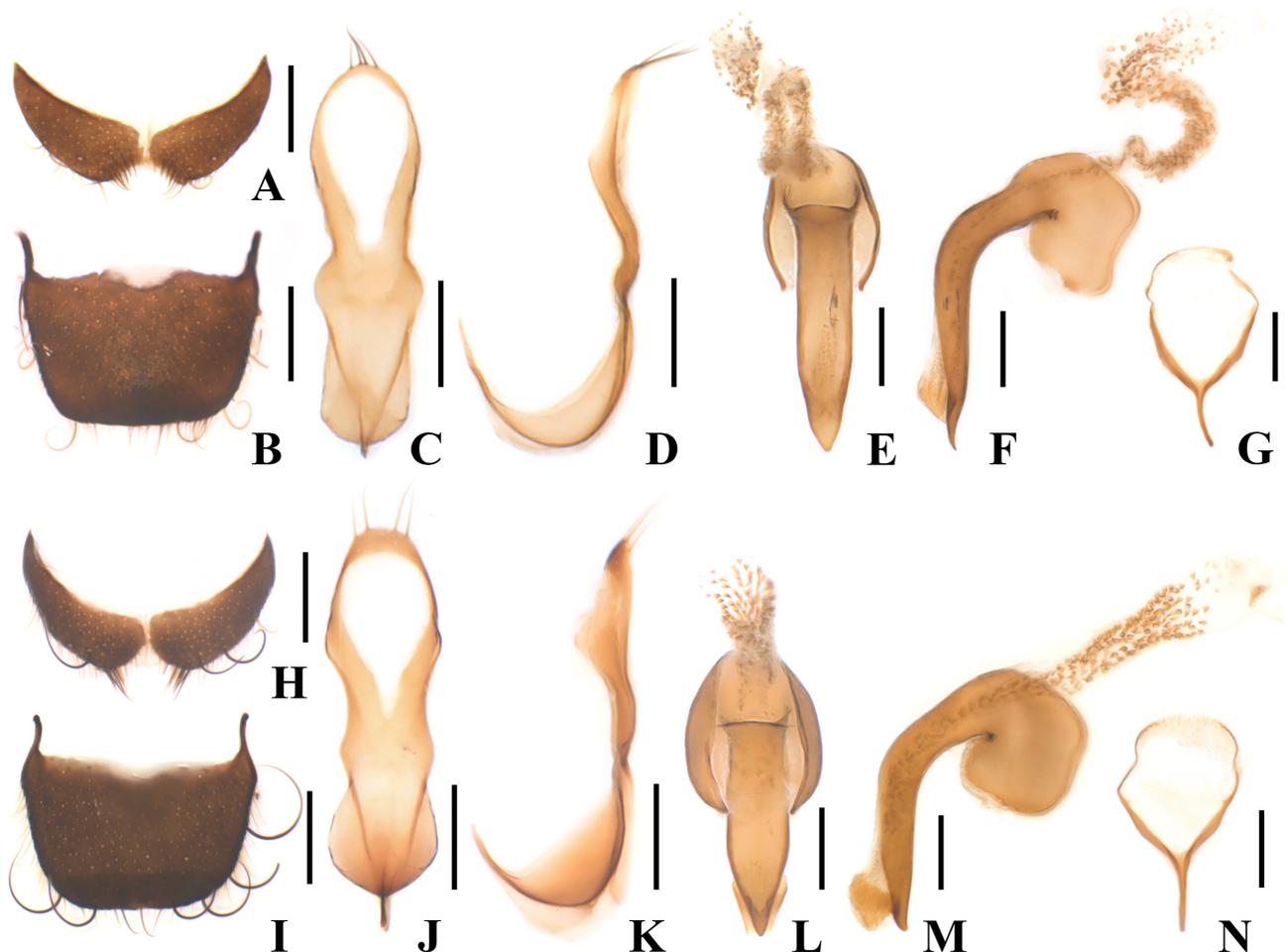
**Differential diagnosis.** This species can be easily distinguished from all other species of *Mimothrix* by the shape of tegmen and median lobe of aedeagus. It looks similar to *M. montivaga*, but can be distinguished by the following combination of characters: legs uniformly black in both sexes (Fig. 1C, D); tegmen in ventral view strongly dilated at basal part, with the subapical ring bulb-like acute at base, apex slightly protruded and nearly truncate (Fig. 2J); median lobe in lateral view with apical limb less elongate, at most 5.0 times longer than basal width, apex blunt (Fig. 2M). Unlike in *M. montivaga*, legs black, except for basal parts of profemora, and ventral sides of meso- and metafemora yellow in males (Fig. 1A), femora and tibiae uniformly yellow in females (Fig. 1B); tegmen in ventral view slightly dilated at basal part, with the subapical ring pyriform rounded at base, apex arcuate (Fig. 2C); median lobe in lateral view with apical limb slender, more than 6.0 times longer than basal width, apex sharp (Fig. 2F).

**Description. Male** (Fig. 1C). Body length 4.0–4.1 mm (4.0 mm in holotype), width at the base of elytra 1.1–1.3 mm (1.2 mm in holotype) and at widest part of elytra 1.2–1.3 mm (1.3 mm in holotype).

Body black with strong green metallic lustre. Antennomeres 1 black, 2 brown, 3–11 brownish black and gradually darkened towards apex. Body surface densely and finely punctate, densely covered with short and recumbent pale yellow pubescence and a few long and erect pale yellow setae, as well as a few long and erect black setae on head and pronotum.

Eyes prominent, head width across eyes obviously wider than anterior margin of pronotum. Antennae extending to basal 1/6 of elytra when directed posteriorly, with antennomeres 1 nearly conical, 2 ellipsoidal, 3–10 triangular and longer than wide, 11 fusiform, 1.9 times as long as wide.

Pronotum slightly transverse and 1.2 times as wide as long, widest near middle, anterior and posterior margins nearly arcuate, lateral margins arcuate, sparsely crenulate, anterior and posterior angles widely rounded. Elytra subparallel-sided, 2.4 times longer than humeral width, 3.1 times longer than pronotum, broadly rounded at apices. Legs slender and simple.



**FIGURE 2.** A–G. *M. montivaga* Majer, 1995, male. H–N. *M. medogensis* sp. nov., holotype, male. A, H. Abdominal sternite VIII, ventral view. B, I. Pygidium, dorsal view. C, J. Tegmen, ventral view. D, K. Tegmen, lateral view. E, L. Median lobe, ventral view. F, M. Median lobe, lateral view. G, N. Spiculum gastrale, ventral view. Scale bars: 0.2 mm.



**FIGURE 3.** A–C. *M. montivaga* Majer, 1995, female. D–F. *M. medogensis* sp. nov., female. A, D. Abdominal sternite VIII, ventral view. B, E. Pygidium, dorsal view. C, F. Ovipositor, ventral view. Scale bars: 0.2 mm.

Abdominal sternite VIII (Fig. 2H) strongly transverse and bilobed, with antero-lateral angles acute, surface covered with a few long curly black setae and some short erect setae near posterior margin. Pygidium (Fig. 2I) slightly transverse, 1.2 times wider than long, feebly narrowed posteriorly, slightly and arcuately emarginate in middle of anterior margin, hardly emarginate at posterior margin, with antero-lateral angles protruding and pointed at apices, which directed antero-laterally, surface covered with a few long curly black setae and some short erect setae along lateral and posterior margins. Spiculum gastrale (Fig. 2N) with basal trunk shorter than apical branch.

Aedeagus: Tegmen in ventral view strongly dilated at basal part, with submedian dilation distinctly angled, the subapical ring bulb-like acute at base and reaching middle, apex slightly protruded and nearly truncate (Fig. 2J); tegmen in lateral view strongly bent ventrally at basal third, with a distinct median keel on outer surface (Fig. 2K). Median lobe in lateral view with basal limb regularly rectangular, apical limb slender, 5.0 times longer than basal width, apex blunt and slightly incurved ventrally (Fig. 2M); median lobe in ventral view pointed at apex (Fig. 2L). Internal sac with numerous distinct, small and conical spines (Fig. 2L, M).

**Female** (Fig. 1D). Similar to male, but body stouter, body length 4.4–4.6 mm, width at the base of elytra 1.4–1.6 mm and at widest part of elytra 1.6–1.8 mm. Antennae extending to posterior margin of pronotum when

directed posteriorly, with antennomeres 8–10 nearly globular, 11 shorter, 1.9 times as long as wide. Elytra slightly dilated posteriorly, 2.2 times longer than humeral width, 2.9 times longer than pronotum. Abdominal sternite VIII (Fig. 3D) bilobed, each lobe slightly narrowed laterally, about 3.2 times as long as wide, with antero-lateral angles acute, the median process very slender and distinctly extending beyond antero-lateral angles. Pygidium (Fig. 3E) 1.3 times wider than long, slightly and nearly arcuate emarginate in middle of anterior margin, largely and triangularly emarginate at posterior margin, with antero-lateral angles blunt at apices and directed anteriorly. Each baculum of ovipositor (Fig. 3F) with a short branch near apical 1/3.

**Etymology.** The name of the species is derived from the name of the type locality, Mêdog County, in the Xizang Autonomous Region, China.

**Distribution.** China (Xizang).

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## 西藏脊毛花萤属 *Mimothrix* 一新种 (鞘翅目: 毛花萤科)

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**摘要:** 描述西藏墨脱脊毛花萤属 *Mimothrix* 一新种, 命名为墨脱脊毛花萤 *M. medogensis* sp. nov.; 附成虫整体、末节背、腹板及雌雄外生殖器特征图。新种可通过中叶整体相对粗短, 基部形状规则和顶端钝等特征与该属其他物种区分。此外, 对高山脊毛花萤 *M. montivaga* 进行了重描述, 并首次提供其成虫整体照、末节背、腹板以及雌性外生殖器特征图, 以便与新种进行比较。

**关键词:**  $\alpha$ 分类; 毛花萤; 新分类单元; 形态学; 东喜马拉雅