

**NEOBLEDIUS KARACHIENSIS, A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF THE OXYTELINAE
(COLEOPTERA: STAPHYLINIDAE) FROM WEST PAKISTAN***

MOHAMMAD ABDULLAH and NOORUN-NISA QADRI

Central Laboratories, Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Karachi

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A new genus (*Neobledius* **gen. n.**) and species (*N. karachiensis* **sp. n.**) of the Oxytelini is described from four males in the Karachi University collection.

Introduction

The material described below keys out to the genus *Bledius* Mannerheim, 1830 in Cameron (ref. 1, p. 169) to which it is more closely related than to other genera of the Oxytelini but differs in the shape of the pronotum, etc. (*vide infra*). The following couplet serves to distinguish the two genera.

Paraglossae well-developed; labial palp with first segment very thick, second narrower, third oval; maxillary palp with third segment oval, truncate at base and apex, fourth a little shorter than third; pronotum with base not much narrower than apex, sides rounded; front tibiae with two rows of spines.....*Bledius* Mannerheim, 1830

Paraglossae absent; labial palp with second segment thicker than first, third conical; maxillary palp with third segment thickened throughout, subcylindrical, fourth less than half of third; pronotum (Fig. 1) with base nearly half as wide as apex, sides parallel except near base where they converge; front tibiae with more than two rows of spines.....*Neobledius* **gen. n.**

In addition to the above differences, the antennae are more strongly geniculate and with the first segment much longer in *Bledius* than in *Neobledius*.

Description

Neobledius, **new genus**

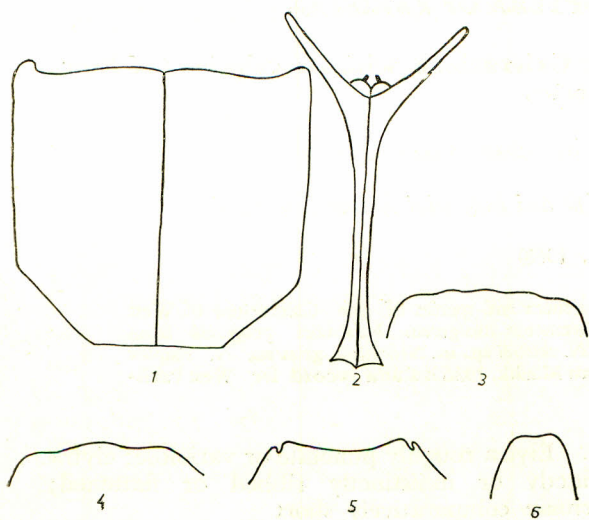
More or less cylindrical, parallel species.

Head.—Head (without mandibles) as long as wide; across eyes narrower than front margin of pronotum; constricted behind eyes. Tempora reduced. Vertex with a median depression. Frons with each anterior lateral margin elevated as a narrow, long, apically emarginate and ciliate process. Epistomal suture distinct. Clypeus with anterior margin slightly raised; base narrower than

apex. Labrum transverse, slanting downwards, with apex broadly tapering and provided with longish hairs. Eyes entire, convex, coarsely faceted; each with a prominent seta on dorsal margin. Mandible long, slender, curved with a short, subapical dorsal tooth; prostheca absent. Maxilla with lacinia (inner lobe) pointed, inner margin furnished with curved spines and cilia; galea as long as broad, extending beyond lacinia, apex truncate and furnished with curved spines and cilia. Maxillary palp with first segment nearly half as long as second; second shorter than third, thickened apically; third longest, thickened throughout, densely ciliate; fourth less than half of third, conical, narrow. Gular sutures fused except behind where they are divergent and enclose a small triangular gular plate, sometimes hidden under prosternum. Submentum (mentum of Cameron¹) transverse, sides subparallel, anterior margin truncate, base produced in middle; mentum transverse, apex bent dorsally, rounded; ligula at apex broad, emarginate and ciliate; paraglossae of Cameron (ref. 1, Fig. 6) absent. Labial palp with first segment as long as second; second thicker than first; third narrowest, conical, nearly as long as second. Antenna slightly geniculate, pubescent, inserted under raised margin of front in front of eye ventrally; first segment longest, club-shaped; second and third equal, together more than half of first; fourth to tenth increasingly transverse, short; eleventh twice as long as broad, tapering at apex, nearly twice longer than tenth.

Thorax.—Pronotum (Fig. 1) nearly as long as wide; medially sulcate; apex nearly straight, at sides slightly raised, a little depressed in middle; sides parallel except near base where they converge; base half as wide as pronotum at apex; sparsely hairy. Coxae contiguous, metacoxae only slightly separated. Prosternum short; intercoxal process narrow, keeled, pointed at apex, not projecting beyond procoxae. Epimeron (*vide* Cameron, ref. 1, Fig. 7) not meeting prosternum, suture with epipleura not distinct. Mesosternum nearly as long as broad, triangular and pointed between mesocoxae, extending for about a third of length of coxae. Metasternum long, slightly

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Figs. 1—6. *Neobledius karachiensis* Gen. et. sp. nov., (1) pronotum; (2) metendosternite; (3) apex of seventh abdominal sternite of male; (4) apex of seventh sternite of male; (5) apex of seventh tergite; (6) apex of lateral lobes of the aedeagus.

emarginate behind in front of coxae; intercoxal process very short, bilobed. Metepimeron narrower than and extending beyond metepisternum. Scutellum longer than wide to nearly as long as wide, pointed at apex. Metendosternite with stalk long, slender; anterior tendons arising from a small bilobed projection above arms (Fig. 2). Elytron with apex nearly rounded to very slightly produced in middle; epipleuron continued from base to apex. Hind wing with a well-developed pterostigma, M, Cu and I A. Legs short; coxae, femora and front tibiae stout, tarsi slender; front and middle tibiae strongly spinose (usually with three rows and some irregularly arranged spines), latter also on hind tibiae. Tarsi 3,3,3; first and second segments short, third much longer than

first two combined; claws simple, long, lightly curved.

Abdomen.—Seven visible sternites, apex of eighth also visible. Tergites margined on sides which are raised. In male, aedeagus with lateral lobes fused (Fig. 6).

Type of the genus.—*Neobledius karachiensis* sp. n.

Neobledius karachiensis, new species (Figs. 1—6)

Light brown to dark brown; eyes black; in one, head and pronotum fuscous.

Head and pronotum minutely sculptured above. Pronotum, in addition with a few coarse punctures. Elytra minutely, sparsely punctate. Abdominal sternites and tergites with a few scattered longish hairs of lighter colour in addition to darker and stiffer hairs.

In the male, seventh abdominal sternite with apex irregularly rounded (Figs. 3 and 4); seventh tergite nearly truncate to weakly, broadly emarginate at apex (Fig. 5); aedeagus with the fused lateral lobes slightly truncate at apex (Fig. 6).

Female not known.

Length 6—7 mm.

Holotype, male, W. Pakistan, Karachi (Q. J. Qureshi). *Paratypes*, 3 males, with the above data. The types are at the University of Karachi.

Reference

1. M. Cameron, *The Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. Coleoptera, Staphylinidae I.* (Taylor & Francis Ltd., London, 1930).