

## ***Hydrovatus wewalkai* n.sp. described from Thailand (Coleoptera, Dytiscidae)**

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*Hydrovatus wewalkai* n.sp. is described on the basis of two specimens from Thailand. Diagnostic characters for separation of the new species from closely related species are given. A brief description of the collecting site is provided.

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Dr. Günther Wewalka, Vienna, detected a probable new taxon belonging to the genus *Hydrovatus* Motschulsky among unsorted dytiscid material kept in the Vienna Natural History Museum, Austria. The material of the peculiar new species was sent to the Zoological museum in Helsinki, Finland, for verification and publication. A thorough examination showed that the species was undescribed as had been suspected. It belongs to the species group 14 (sp. gr. *confertus*) as defined by Biström (1997a). At present this species group numbers 17 separate species (Biström 1994, 1997a, 1997b).

### ***Hydrovatus wewalkai* n.sp.**

*Type locality:* Khao Yai NP (15.23N, 99.22E), Thailand.

*Type material.* Holotype, male: Thailand 14.11. Khao Yai NP leg. Jäch 88 (4) (Natural History Museum, Vienna). - Paratype, female: Same data as holotype (1 ex. Zoological museum, Helsinki).

*Diagnosis.* The new species, together with *H. enigmaticus* Biström and *H. opacus* Sharp, is dis-

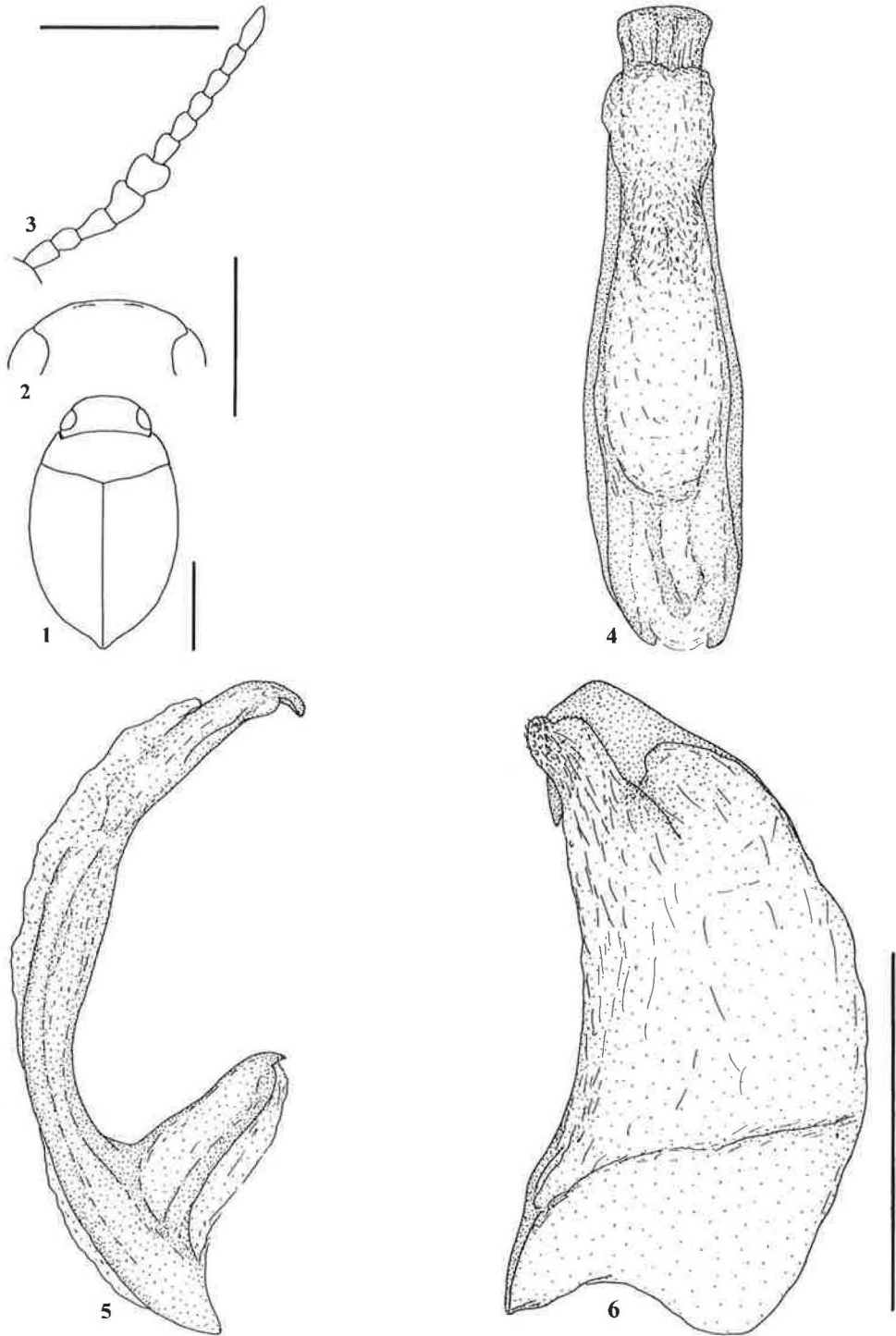
tinguished from the other recognized species by the male exhibiting a peculiar modification of the generally ridged stridulatory apparatus: instead of file-ridges there is a glabrous area at the same location of the body. *H. wewalkai* n.sp. is easily distinguished from these two species by examination of the male antenna: segments 4-5 are distinctly enlarged, segments 6-11 slender (Fig. 3). In *H. enigmaticus* and *H. opacus* antennal segments 4-11 narrow gradually towards the apex or the male antenna is almost unmodified and thus lacks distinctly enlarged segments (vide Fig. 1276 and 1283 in Biström 1997a).

*Description.* (only relevant diagnostic differences from redescription of *H. opacus* in Biström 1997a are recognized)

Body length 2.80-2.92 mm, breadth 1.72-1.76 mm. Habitus (Fig. 1).

*Head.* Frontal margin (close to frontal edge) rudimentary (Fig. 2). Male antenna with segments 4-5 distinctly enlarged, other segments slender to quite slender (Fig. 3).

*Ventral aspect.* Pale ferruginous. Punctuation fine, somewhat sparse. Abdomen, except basally,



Figs. 1-6. *Hydrovatus wewalkai* n. sp (holotype): 1. habitus; 2. head, frontal aspect; 3. male antenna; 4. penis, dorsal aspect; 5. penis, lateral aspect; 6. paramere. Horizontal scale 1 mm, antenna. Vertical scales: Left, bottom scale 1 mm, habitus; left, top scale 0.5 mm, head frontal aspect; right scale 0.4 mm, genitalia.

indistinctly punctate. Submat, distinctly microsculptured. At location of stridulatory apparatus with a rather narrow glabrous area (no ridges discernible). Pronotal process laterally distinctly margined; medial surface of process almost flat, with dense reticulation.

*Male genitalia.* As in Figs. 4-6.

*Female.* Antenna slender, non-modified.

*Distribution.* Thailand, only known from the type locality.

*Etymology.* The species is named after Dr. Wewalka who was the first to recognize this new species of *Hydrovatus*.

*Remark.* The collecting site of the new species was a small pool and the shore of a small stream, immediately north of the Khao Yai National Park headquarters.

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## References

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