

## ***Thorictus arabicus* sp. nov., a New Species from Saudi Arabia (Coleoptera: Dermestidae: Thorictinae: Thoricnini)**

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**Abstract:** *Thorictus arabicus* sp. nov. from Saudi Arabia belonging to the *Thorictus castaneus* species group is described, illustrated and compared with the related species *Thorictus castaneus castaneus* GERMAR, 1834 and with *T. peyerimhoffi* CHOBAUT, 1904 both known from Arabian Peninsula.

**Key words:** Coleoptera, Dermestidae, Thorictini, *Thorictus*, taxonomy, new species, Saudi Arabia.

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### **Introduction**

The subfamily Thorictinae is divided into two tribes: Thorictini and Thaumaphrastini. The tribe Thorictini contains three genera *Afrothorictus* ANDREAE, 1967, *Macrothorictus* ANDREAE, 1967 and *Thorictus* GERMAR, 1834. The genus *Thorictus* GERMAR, 1834 contains 161 species and subspecies distributed in Palaearctic and Afrotropical regions (Háva 2003, 2010). The first catalogue of the Thorictinae(dae) published by Hetschko, Wasmann (1925) and the catalogue by Hetschko (1926, 1930) report on a single species from Arabian Peninsula. A new species recently collected from Saudi Arabia is described below.

### **Material and Methods**

The following measurements have been taken:

BL - body length (measured from the head's anterior margin to the elytral apex).

BW- body width (measured between the two anterolateral humeral calli).

PL - pronotum length (measured from the top of the anterior margin to scutellum).

PW - pronotum width (measured between the two posterior angles of pronotum).

All measurements are given in millimeters.

Male genitalia not studied. Differential diagnoses of aedeagi is often problematical and

interspecific variation is currently very poorly defined (John, 1963). The two species groups stated by John (1963).

The following abbreviations refer to the collection where the examined material is deposited:

MMUM - The Manchester Museum, University of Manchester, United Kingdom.

### **Description of New Species**

Genus *Thorictus* GERMAR, 1834  
*Thorictus castaneus* species group  
*Thorictus arabicus* sp. nov. (Figures 1-2)

Type material: Holotype ♀ MMUM: Saudi Arabia, Eastern Prov., D. A. Pitcher / Udhailiyah Camp [37 km SW of Al Hufuf], 2.03.1983 No. 228 / *Thorictus* sp. V. Kalík det. 1985. Paratype 1 specimen, sex unknown, MMUM: the same data as in holotype. Type specimens provided with additional printed, red labels: HOLOTYPE (or PARATYPE, respectively) *Thorictus arabicus* sp. n. Jiří Háva det. 2010.

Description: Body small, brown, dorsally covered with long, yellow setae and ventrally with short, yellow setae. Measurements (mm): BL 2.52 BW 1.57 PL 0.90 PW 1.62. Head is finely punctuated, with very short, yellow setae. Labial palpi entirely brown. Antennae brown, with 11 antennomeres, antennal club compact, with 3 antennomeres. Lateral eyes on head (Fig. 1). Pronotum as finely punctate as head, covered with short yellow setae. Pronotum in its posterior part, near the scutellum, with small

depressions. Posterior pronotal angles with long yellow setation. Scutellum very small and not visible from above. Elytra very finely punctated, bump with foveate-reticulate punctures. Each elytron in its anterior part, near the scutellum, with a large bump. Epipleuron finely punctate, anterior angles without setation. Metepisternum with yellow setation on its anterior part (setae long, forming a large tuft), setation on its posterior and lateral parts short and decumbent. Prosternum finely punctate. Mesosternum with foveolate punctures. Metasternum finely punctate. Visible abdominal sternites very finely punctate, covered with very short, yellow setae. Legs brown, covered with short, yellow setae.

Variability: Paratype body measurements (mm) BL 2.72 BW 1.65 PL 0.95 PW 1.72.

Differential diagnosis: The new species *Thorictus arabicus* sp. nov. belongs to the *T. castaneus* species group defined by John (1963), and by general appearance is very similar to *Thorictus castaneus castaneus* GERMAR, 1834 (Figures 3-5) hitherto known from Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Syria, but differs from it in the form of lateral eyes on head (Figure 1) and pronotal ventral pubescence and metepisternal pubescence (Figure 2). From another species, *T. peyerimhoffi* CHOBOUT, 1904: 243 of the *T. orientalis* species group described and known from Saudi Arabia (Kasr-er-Rabbat), the new species differs in having the broad body.

Derivatio nominis: The species is named after the country of origin.

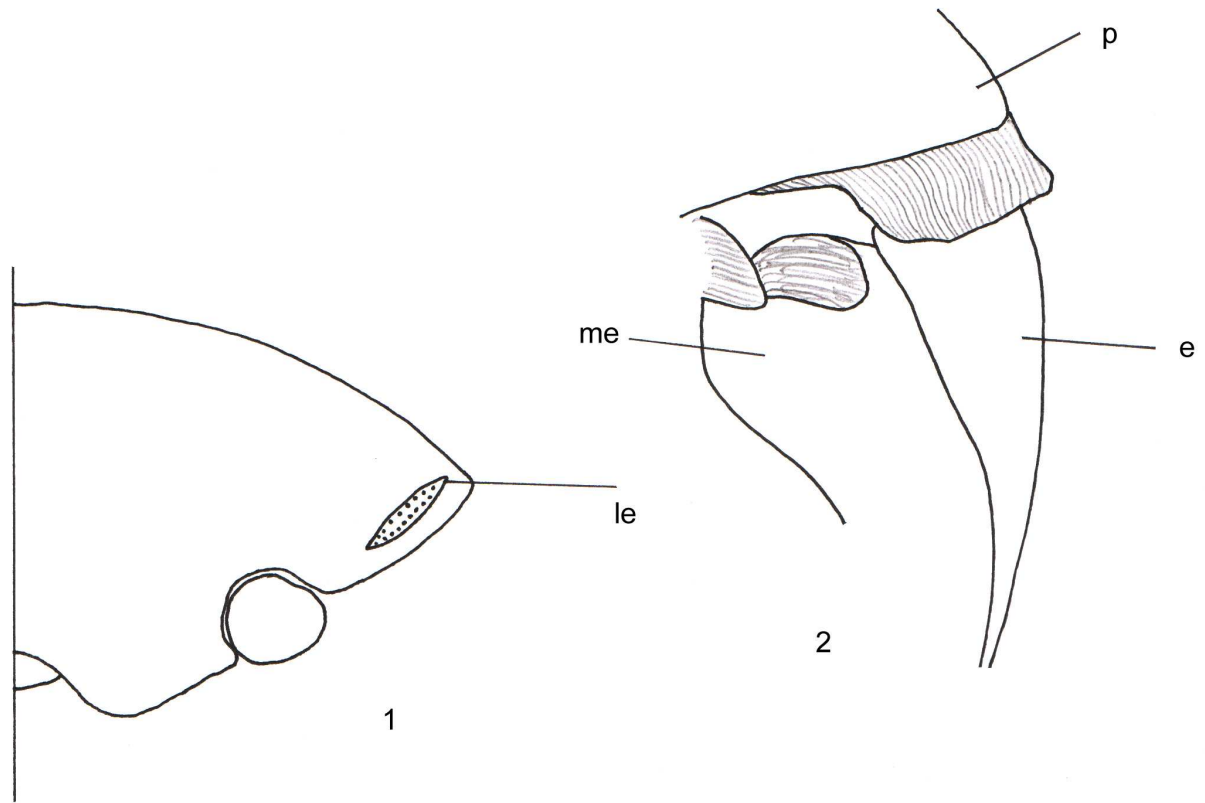
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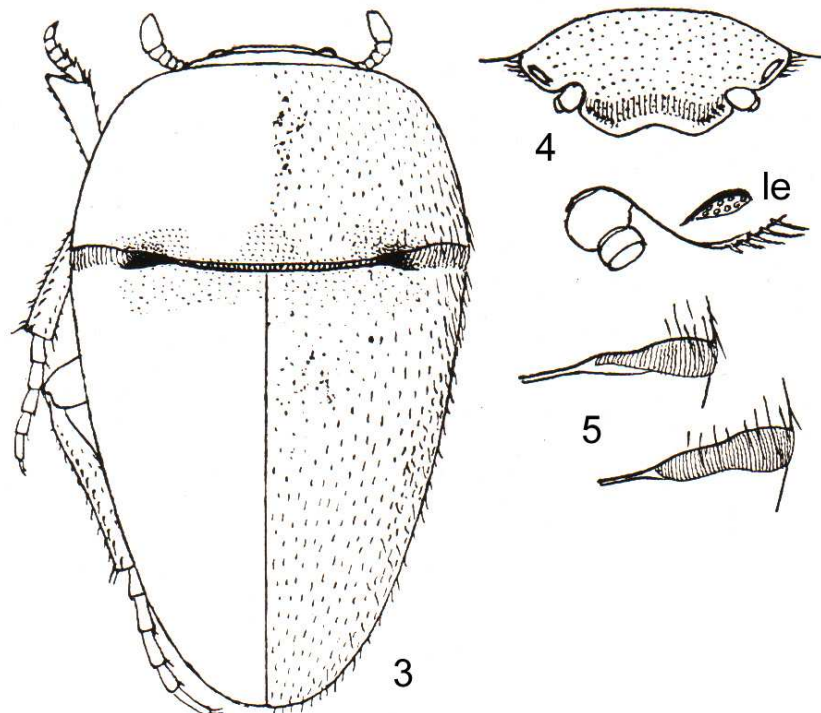
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Figures 1-2. *Thorictus arabicus* sp. nov.: 1- head, dorsal; 2- ventral aspect of pronotum, epipleuron, and metepisternum (le - lateral eyes, e - epipleuron, p - pronotum, me - metepisternum).



Figures 3-5. *Thorictus castaneus castaneus* GERMAR, 1834: 3- habitus, dorsal; 4- head, dorsal; 5- pronotal posterior setation, dorsal (according to John 1963).