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Taxonomic notes on some little-known species of the genus *Themus* Motschulsky (Coleoptera: Cantharidae) from Southeast Asia described by Maurice Pic

Ryo **Nakamura**

Abstract. Several Southeast Asian *Themus* species described by Maurice Pic are revised. The following new synonymies are proposed: *Themus chapaensis* (Pic, 1917) = *T. scutulatus* Wittmer, 1983, new synonym = *T. hmong* Kazantsev, 2007, new synonym; *T. inframetallicus* (Pic, 1927) = *T. micheli* Švihla, 2011, new synonym; *T. mostrosipennis* (Pic, 1917) = *T. kubani* Švihla, 2011, new synonym; *T. rufipectus* (Pic, 1923) = *T. chaoi* Wittmer, 1983, new synonym; *T. sirambeus* (Pic, 1911) = *T. curvatus* Wittmer, 1983, new synonym. Photographs of type specimens and taxonomic notes are provided for *T. inimpressipennis* (Pic, 1917), *T. pallidocincticollis* (Pic, 1917), *T. particularis* (Pic, 1929), and *T. subopacus* (Pic, 1916).

Key words. soldier beetle, Oriental Region, Indochina, Sumatra, new synonymy

INTRODUCTION

The Asian soldier beetle genus *Themus* Motschulsky, 1858 (Cantharidae, Cantharinae) is a speciose genus which includes about 250 species (Nakamura, 2025). The genus was arranged into four subgenera by Wittmer (1973, 1983, 1997), namely *Gallerucocantharis* Pic, 1913, *Haplothemus* Wittmer, 1973, *Themus* Motschulsky, 1858, and *Telephorops* Fairmaire, 1886. Švihla (2008) revised the subgeneric grouping of the genus and redefined three subgenera *Haplothemus*, *Themus* sensu stricto, and *Telephorops*. Although *Gallerucocantharis* is sometimes regarded as an independent genus (Yang & Yang, 2010), the division of three or four subgenera with Švihla's subgeneric definition is presently accepted by all authors and is also adopted in the present paper.

As in other members of the subfamily Cantharinae, species identification in this genus relies heavily on the morphology of the aedeagus. In addition, the female abdominal sternite VIII (ventrite VII) often exhibits species-specific shapes and serves as a useful taxonomic character. Furthermore, especially in the subgenera *Themus* and *Telephorops*, many species are large and conspicuously coloured, and thus general appearance, including body shape, surface structures, and colouration, is also of considerable taxonomic value. On the other hand, sexual dimorphism is also usually observed in this group. In general, females tend to be larger and more robust, with smaller eyes and shorter antennae than males, and in some cases, certain characters such as pronotum shape and abdominal colouration differ markedly between the sexes. Intraspecific variation in colouration, sometimes with a geographical relation, has also been reported in some species (e.g., Nakane, 1988; Okushima, 1997).

The first systematic and comprehensive taxonomic revision of the genus was conducted by Walter Wittmer (1973, 1983), who re-examined and re-arranged species previously described under several genera, and additionally described a large number of new species himself. Prior to Wittmer, the most prolific contributor to the taxonomy of the genus was Maurice Pic, who named as many as 60 taxa (including synonyms) currently placed in *Themus* (Delkeskamp, 1977). However, as is often the case with his species, Pic's descriptions are based solely on external morphology, and are often extremely brief, rendering species identification difficult. A significant obstacle is that many of his species were described from female specimens only. Some of these so-called "Pic species" have been resolved through revision based on type specimens by subsequent researchers such as Wittmer (1983), Kopetz (2004), and Yang et al. (2013, 2018, 2019b). However, a number of species still remain taxonomically unclear, especially those known only from a single female, for which Wittmer (1983) only provided illustrations of abdominal sternite VIII but which have not been studied further since.

In the present study, several species of *Themus* described by Pic, many of which remain poorly understood to date, were re-examined. By integrating recent taxonomic findings, their identities were attempted to be clarified. As a result, five of these species were determined to represent females of

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subsequently described taxa and are thus regarded as senior synonyms. While the identity of certain other species could not be ascertained, their type specimens are illustrated, and relevant remarks are provided to facilitate future research. For one species with an insufficiently described aedeagus, new illustrations and description are provided. Supplementary descriptions are given for other species when necessary.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The specimens examined in this study are deposited in Ehime University Museum, Matsuyama, Japan (EUMJ), Kurashiki Museum of Natural History, Kurashiki, Japan (KURA), Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France (MNHN), and Naturhistorisches Museum Basel, Switzerland (NHMB).

Label data are generally provided following the journal's guidelines. However, for the type and some historical material, labels are cited verbatim. They are cited within double quotation marks (" ") for each label and the line breaks within a label are indicated by a slash (/). If necessary, additional comments are enclosed in square brackets ([ ]).

All type specimens of Pic species examined in this study were already dissected and remounted by Walter Wittmer and the removed abdomen and dissected parts were glued onto a cardboard and pinned under the card bearing the mounted body. They were observed and photographed as is without further treatment. Some of the undissected, non-type specimens were softened in water and dissected. The dissected parts were observed as is or after treatment in 10% KOH solution for about 5 minutes at 90˚ and photographed in viscous body lotion. After observation they were rinsed in water, put in a microtube filled with 50% glycerine and pinned under the respective specimen.

Most of the images were taken with a Canon EOS 7D Mark II with a Tamron SP AF 90mm F2.8 Di Macro lens and Canon Speedlite 580EX II strobes. Some images were captured using an iPhone 13 mini (Apple) through binocular microscopes.

TAXONOMY

Genus *Themus* Motschulsky, 1858

Subgenus *Haplothemus* Wittmer, 1973

Themus (*Haplothemus*) *particularis* Pic, 1929
(Figs. 1A–H)

Themus particularis Pic, 1929a: 75 (original description; type locality: Tonkin, Chapa); Delkeskamp, 1939: 28 (catalogue); Wittmer, 1973: 187 (note).

Themus (*Themus*) *particularis*: Delkeskamp, 1977: 38 (catalogue); Wittmer, 1983: 191 (key), 201 (notes, additional records), fig. 6 (aedeagus), fig. 67 (female abdominal sternite VIII); Kazantsev & Brancucci, 2007: 272 (catalogue).

Themus (*Haplothemus*) *particularis*: Su et al., 2016: 26 (redescription, additional records), figs. 1A–B (habitus), fig. 2E (female abdominal sternite VIII), fig. 3 (female internal genitalia).

Type material examined. Holotype, female (MNHN; Figs. 1A–C): "CHAPO. prov. de / Laokay. Ht-Tonkin", "type", "Themus / particularis / n. sp.", "HOLOTYPUS". Subsequently, an additional label, "Themus (Haploth.) / particularis / Pic / det. R. Nakamura, 2025", was attached by the author.

Additional material examined. 1 male (KURA; Figs. 1D–H), VIETNAM: Lao Cai Prov., Sapa, ca 1,500 m, Y. Arita coll., 18 July 2001.

Supplementary description. Male. Abdominal ventrites without any modification. Sternite IX (Fig. 1E) leaf-shaped, 3.70 times as long as wide, as long as tergite IX, gradually narrowing from the middle towards the apex; apex acutely rounded.

Aedeagus (Figs. 1F–H). Entirely flattened. Ventral process of each paramere thick, curved mesad, with apex hooked in ventral view; straight, tapering apically in profile. Conjoint dorsal plate of parameres flat, distinctly shorter than ventral process; divided into two lateral parts, each with a rounded apex. Laterophyse of median lobe short, only the apex visible from outside in profile; divided from the middle into two lateral rounded lobes, each with a sharp and long projection at the outer lateral portion in dorsal view. Endophallus (observed in non-everted condition) membranous with dense spine-like structure.

Differential diagnosis. Within the genus *Themus*, this species is easily recognised by its peculiarly shaped pronotum and characteristic colouration of the elytra (Figs. 1A, 1B, 1D).

Remarks. Wittmer (1983) illustrated the aedeagus of *T. particularis* but without detailed description. Furthermore, his illustration was from an oblique angle and is not useful for identification. In this study, an additional male specimen from the type locality could be examined, and its aedeagus is illustrated and described herein. Its aedeagus is similar in basic structure to that of *T. fissus* Yang & Kopetz in Su et al., 2016 (Yunnan, Myanmar), which is presumed to be the most closely related species. However, the latter differs clearly in that the conjoint dorsal plate of the parameres is narrower and acutely pointed at the apices, and the lateral projections of the laterophyses of the median lobe are thicker and shorter (see Figs. 2A–C in Su et al., 2016).

T. particularis was originally described from "Chapa" (=Sa Pa, Vietnam). Su et al. (2016) redescribed it based on the holotype and an additional female specimen from the type locality. They noted that this species had never been treated by any studies and the occurrence in China (Yunnan) indicated by Kazantsev & Brancucci (2007) was erroneous. However, they overlooked Wittmer (1983), who recorded a male from Sa Pa and a female from Yunnan. Nevertheless, the

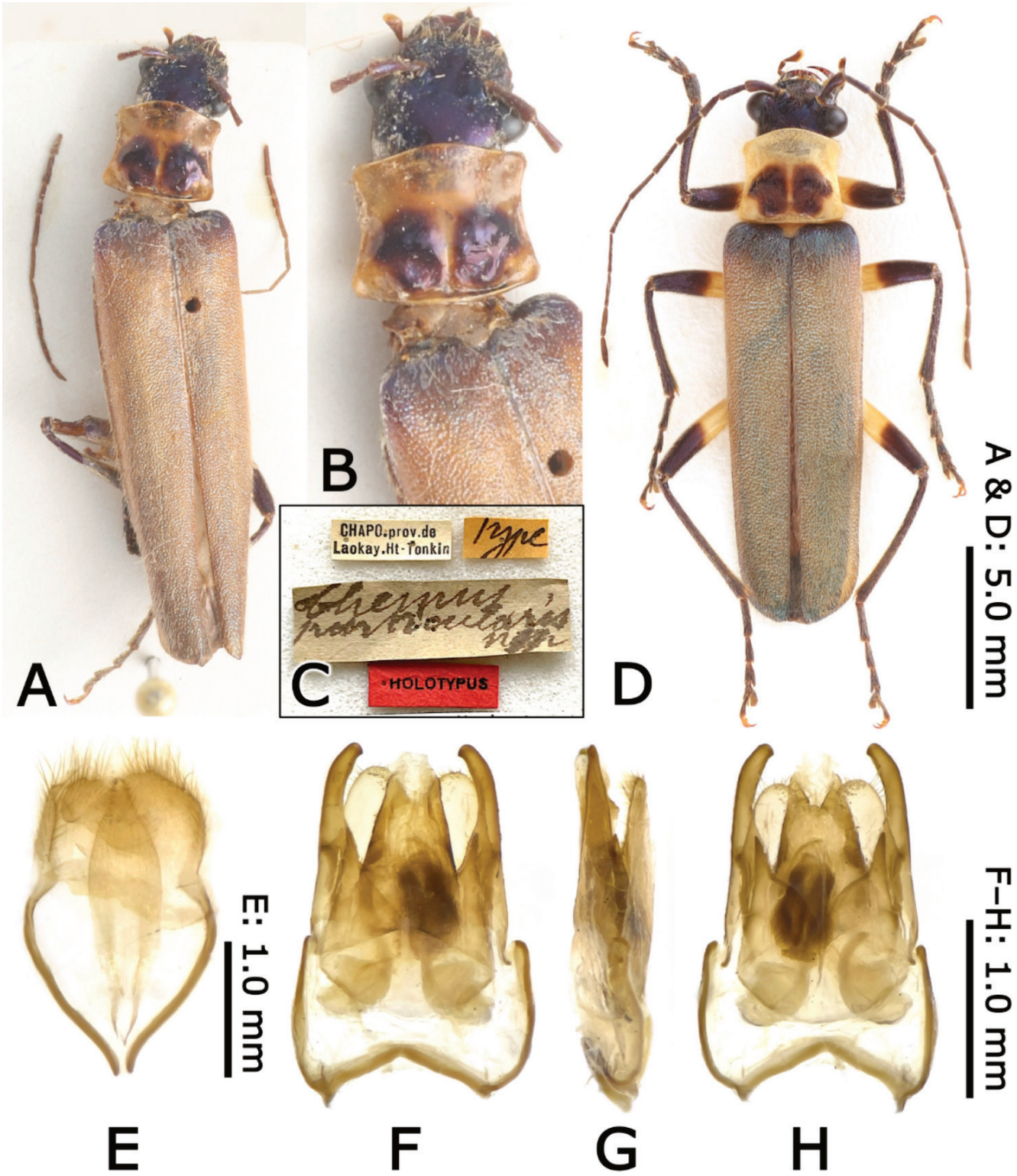

Fig. 1. *Themus* (*Haplothemus*) *particularis* Pic, 1929. A–C, holotype, female (A, habitus; B, head and pronotum; C, labels); D, non-type, male from Vietnam, habitus; E, ditto, tergite IX and sternite IX; F–H, ditto, aedeagus (F, ventral view; G, lateral view; H, dorsal view).

record of *T. particularis* from Yunnan remains questionable. According to Wittmer's (1983) description, the Yunnan specimen exhibits a peculiar colouration, with the central part of the elytra longitudinally metallic bluish to violet and the margins yellowish, and this does not match the colouration of the specimens of *T. particularis* from the type locality. The identity of the Yunnan specimen is expected to be clarified upon examination of the voucher specimen reportedly deposited in the Institute of Zoology, Beijing. The author has also examined three females (one from Vietnam and two from Laos) that seem to belong to this species but lack the bluish colouration on the humeral and apical parts of the elytra. As all are females, a definitive identification remains uncertain.

Distribution. Northern Vietnam.

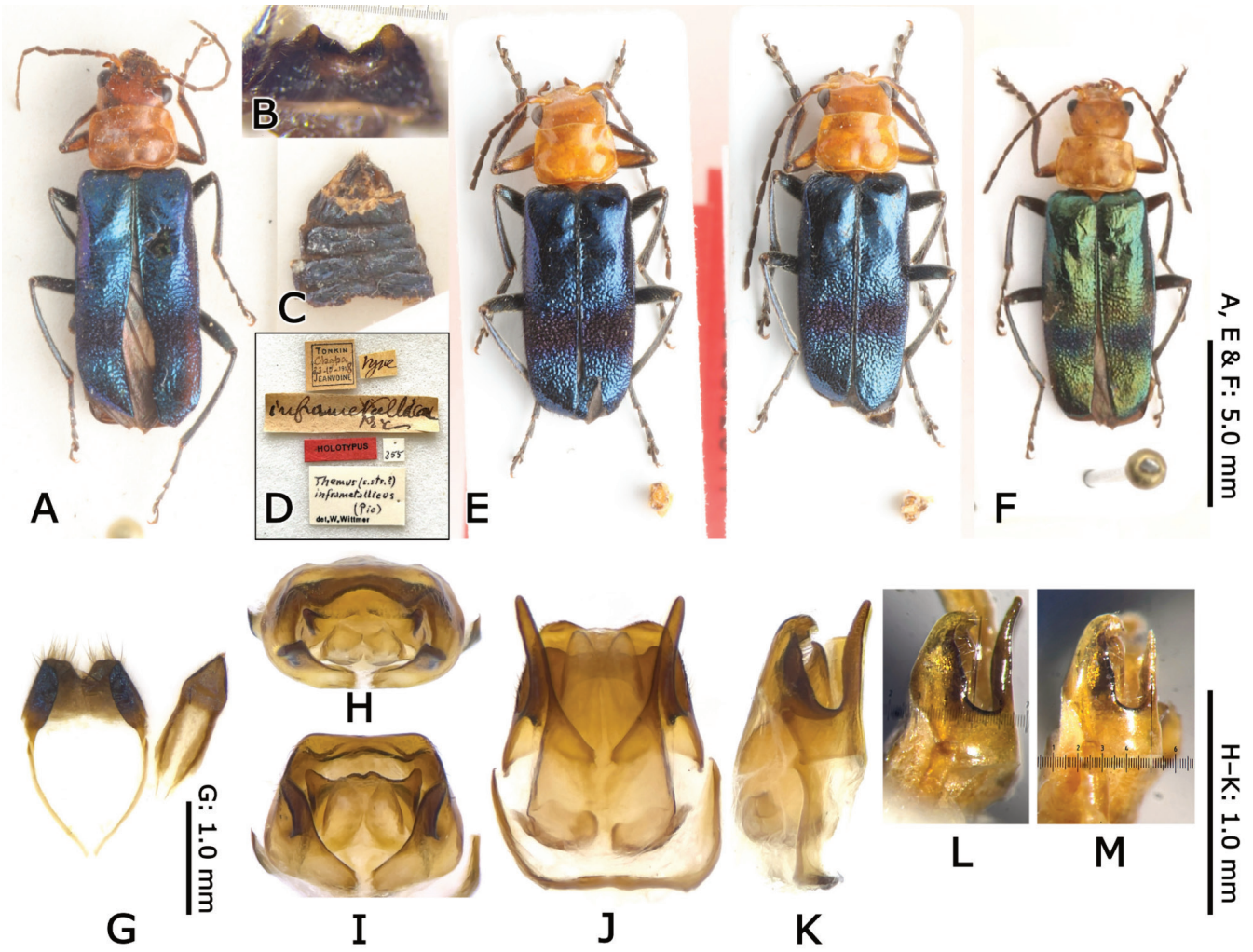

Fig. 2. *Themus* (*Telephorops*) *inframetallicus* (Pic, 1927). A–D, holotype of *Cantharis inframetallica* Pic, 1927, female (A, habitus; B, sternite VIII; C, abdomen; D, labels); E, paratypes of *T. micheli* Švihla, 2011, males, habitus; F, non-type, female from India, habitus; G, non-type, male from Laos, tergite IX and sternite IX; H–K, ditto, aedeagus (H, apical view; I, ventro-apical view; J, ventral view; K, lateral view); L–M, paratypes of *T. micheli* Švihla, 2011, males, aedeagi, lateral views.

Subgenus *Telephorops* Fairmaire, 1886

***Themus* (*Telephorops*) *inframetallicus* (Pic, 1927)**
(Figs. 2A–M)

Cantharis inframetallica Pic, 1927a: 2 (original description; type locality: Chapa); Delkeskamp, 1939: 64 (catalogue).
Themus inframetallicus: Pic, 1945: 12 (new combination); Wittmer, 1961: 363 (note).
Themus (*Themus*) *inframetallicus*: Delkeskamp, 1977: 36 (catalogue).
Themus (*Themus*?) *inframetallicus*: Wittmer, 1983: 194 (key), 217 (notes), fig. 91 (female abdominal sternite VIII).
Themus (*Telephorops*) *micheli* Švihla, 2011: 3 (original description; type locality: Northeastern Laos, Houa Phan province, Mt. Phou Pane near Ban Saluei, 20°12–13.5′N 103°59.5′–104°E, 1,340–1,870 m a.s.l.), fig. 2 (habitus), figs. 30–31 (aedeagus); Yang et al., 2019a: 409 (note). New junior subjective synonym.

Type material examined. Holotype of *Cantharis inframetallica*, female (MNHN; Figs. 2A–D): "TONKIN / Chapa / 23-IV-1918 / JEANVOINE", "type", "inframetallica / Pic", "HOLOTYPUS", "355", "Themus (s.str.?) / inframetallicus / (Pic) / det.W.Wittmer".

Paratypes of *Themus* (*Telephorops*) *micheli*, 2 males (NHMB; Figs. 2E, 2L, 2M): "LAOS-NE, Houa Phan prov., / 20°12–13.5′N 103°59.5′–104°01′E, / Ban Saluei→Phou Pane Mt., / 1340–1870 m, 15.iv.–15.v. / 2008, Lao collectors leg.", "PARATYPUS / Themus / (Telephorops) / micheli sp. nov. / V. Švihla det.2011". The holotype is illustrated by Švihla (2011).

Additional material examined. 1 male (KURA; Figs. 2G–K), LAOS: Houapan Prov., Phu Pan, Base-camp 1,730 m, N20°11′, E104°01′, M. Hasegawa coll., 11 April 2004; 1 female (KURA), LAOS: Houaphan Prov., Ban Seleui, Phu Pan (Mts.), 1,300–1,800 m, 16 April ~ 15 May 2004; 1 female (KURA), LAOS: Houaphan Prov., Phu Pan (Mt.) alt. 1,500–1,800 m, N20°11′/E104°01′, Tatsuya Niisato coll., 30 March 2005; 1 female (EUMJ), LAOS, M. Satô coll., 2004 (no further data); 1 female (EUMJ), VIETNAM: Lai Chau Prov., Hoan Lieh Son Mts., Mt. Phang Si Pang, N.

rdg., 1,950–1,970 m, A. Saito coll., 13 May 1995; 1 female (EUMJ), same locality, M. Satô coll., 17 May 1995.; 1 female (NHMB; Fig. 2F), INDIA: Assam, Manipur, Sirohi Kashong [= Mt. Siruhi Kashong], 7,000′, F. Schmid coll., 11 July 1960.

Supplementary description. Male. Abdominal ventrites without any modification. Sternite IX (Fig. 2G) ensiform, 3.20 times as long as wide, 0.81 times as long as tergite IX, nearly parallel-sided but gradually narrowed at apical quarter; apex acutely pointed.

Aedeagus (Figs. 2H–K). Ventral process of each paramere simple, rod-like, slightly narrowed towards apex, apically rounded, weakly curved ventrally. Conjoint dorsal plate of parameres distinctly shorter than ventral process; gradually narrowing apically, apical margin slightly emarginate in dorsal view; apical part bent ventrally and forming tooth-like projection in profile. Laterophyse of median lobe fused medially, shorter than conjoint dorsal plate; moderately thick, ventral margin appearing keel-shaped in profile; trilobed, with lateral emarginations conspicuously deeper and wider than median one in ventral view. Endophallus (observed in non-everted condition) fully membranous, without any sclerotised parts.

Differential diagnosis. Within the subgenus *Telephorops*, this species is easily recognised by a combination of the following characters: smaller body size (less than 15 mm), nearly parallel sided elytra with a wrinkled-punctate and dark-coloured band in the posterior one-third, and generally dark legs except for an orange macula on fore femora.

Remarks. *T. inframetallicus* was originally described from "Chapa" (=Sa Pa, Vietnam). The examined specimens from Vietnam and Laos were compared with the holotype and all external characteristics and the shape of female abdominal sternite VIII were perfectly matched. *T. micheli* Švihla, 2011 described from Laos is consistent with this species in every external and aedeagal characters and thus the above new synonymy is proposed. A female specimen from Assam has greenish elytra instead of bluish but otherwise agrees well with the diagnostic characters of this species.

In the two paratype specimens of *T. micheli*, one specimen (Fig. 2L) possessed an aedeagus similar to that of the holotype (figs. 30–31 in Švihla, 2011) and a male from Laos (Fig. 2K), whereas another specimen (Fig. 2M) exhibited an extremely short ventral process of the paramere. This is considered to represent individual variation or a deformity.

The subgenus *Telephorops* was divided into two species groups by Švihla (2008), and they were later named and redefined as the *davidis* group and *nepalensis* group by Yang et al. (2019a, b). However, the present author considers that their classification warrants re-examination, particularly as the *nepalensis* group includes two distinct types of aedeagus, raising doubts about its monophyly. A more detailed assessment of the internal grouping within the subgenus is needed but a scope of future studies. For now, the present species is placed in *Telephorops* without species group assignment.

Distribution. Northern Vietnam, Northern Laos (new record), India (Assam; new record).

Themus (*Telephorops*) *monstrosipennis* (Pic, 1917)

(Figs. 3A–O)

Cantharis monstrosipennis Pic, 1917a: 6 (original description; type locality: Tonkin, Chapa); Pic, 1923: 36 (key), 39 (catalogue); Delkeskamp, 1939: 77 (catalogue).
Tryblius monstrosipennis: Pic, 1929b: 195 (new combination, key), 196 (key).
Themus monstrosipennis: Wittmer, 1961: 362 (new combination).
Themus (*Trybilus*) *monstrosipennis*: Wittmer, 1975: 253 (note); Delkeskamp, 1977: 41 (catalogue).
Themus (*Telephorops*) *monstrosipennis*: Wittmer, 1983: 190 (key), 199 (note), fig. 61 (female abdominal sternite VIII); Yang et al., 2019a: 409 (note).
Themus (*Telephorops*) *kubani* Švihla, 2011: 3 (original description; type locality: Northeastern Laos, Houa Phan province, Mt. Phou Pane, 20°13′09–19″N 103°59′54″–104°00′03″E, 1,350–1,500 m a.s.l.), fig. 1 (habitus), figs. 28–29 (aedeagus); Yang et al., 2019a: 409 (note). New junior subjective synonym.

Type material examined. Holotype of *Cantharis monstrosipennis*, female (MNHN; Figs. 3A–C): "Chapa", "type", "monstrosipennis / Pic in ?? [last two letters illegible]", "HOLOTYPUS", "349", "Themus / (Telephorops) / monstrosipennis / Pic / det.W.Wittmer".

Paratype of *Themus* (*Telephorops*) *kubani*, 1 male (NHMB; Fig. 3G): "LAOS-NE, Houa Phan prov., / ~20°13′N 104°00′E, / PHOU PANE Mt., / 1.–16.vi.2009, 1350–1500 m, / M. Brancucci leg.", "NHMB Basel, NMPC Prague / Laos 2009 Expedition: / M. Brancucci, M. Geiser, / Z. Kraus, D. Hauck, V. Kubáň", "PARATYPUS / Themus / (Telephorops) / kubani sp. nov. / V. Švihla det.2011". The holotype is illustrated by Švihla (2011).

Additional material examined. 1 male, 2 females (KURA; referred as specimens 3, 6 and 7 below, respectively; Figs. 3D, 3E, 3H), LAOS: Houaphan Prov., Ban Seleui, Phu Pan (Mts.), 1,300–1,800 m, 16 April ~ 15 May 2004; 1 male (KURA; specimen 4; Fig. 3I), LAOS: Xamneua Prov., Ban Saleui, Phu Pan, 1,600–1,700 m, 10 May 2002; 1 female (KURA; specimen 8; Fig. 3F), LAOS: Houaphan Prov., Phu Pan (Mt.) alt. 1,500–1,800 m, N20°11′/E104°01′, 1–7 May 2007; 1 female (EUMJ; specimen 9), LAOS: Houa Phan Prov., Ban Saleui, M. Satô coll., 2004 (no precise date).

Supplementary description. Dorsal colouration very variable among individuals as follows.

Specimen 1, male (holotype of *T. kubani*): Head, basal five antennomeres and basal half of antennomere 6, claws, pronotum, and scutellum orange; remaining parts weakly lustrous black.

Specimen 2, male (paratype of *T. kubani*; Fig. 3G): Similar to the specimen 1, but orange parts replaced by reddish brown;

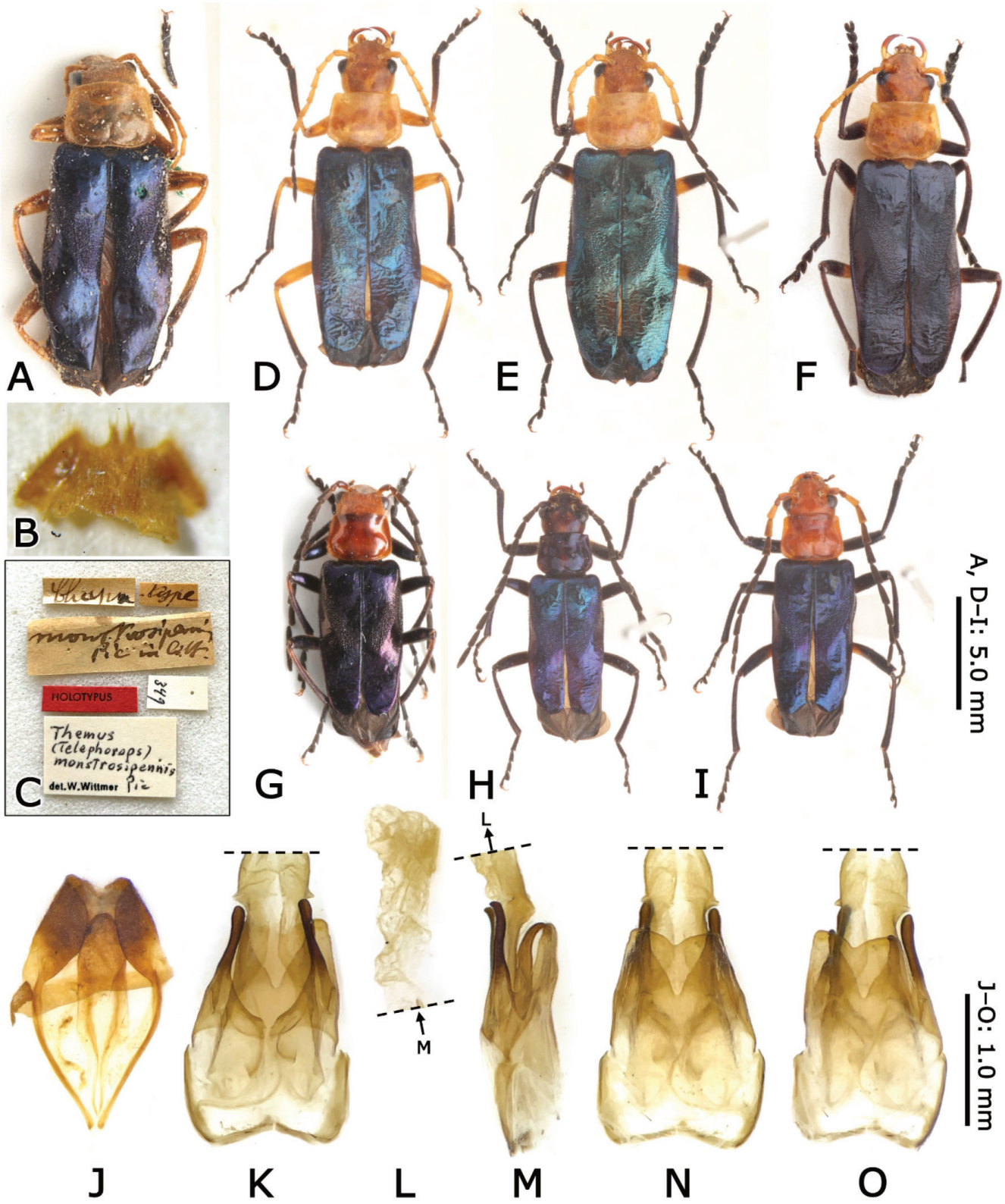

Fig. 3. *Themus* (*Telephorops*) *monstrosipennis* (Pic, 1917). A–C, holotype of *Cantharis monstrosipennis* Pic, 1917, female (A, habitus; B, sternite VIII; C, labels); D–F, non-type, females from Laos, habitus (D, specimen 6; E, specimen 7; F, specimen 8); G, paratype of *T. kubani* Švihla, 2011, male, habitus; H–I, non-type, males from Laos, habitus (H, specimen 3; I, specimen 4); J, ditto, tergite IX and sternite IX; K–O, ditto, aedeagus (K, ventral view; L, endophallus, lateral view; M, lateral view; N, dorsal view; O, dorso-lateral view).

antennae mostly black with ventral sides of basal three antennomeres reddish brown; scutellum, elytra, and most part of legs lustrous dark purple; bases of tibiae reddish tinged.

Specimen 3, male (Fig. 3H): Mandibles orange; antennae, palpomeres, legs and scutellum black; head and pronotum glossy black with faint reddish mottling; elytra glossy bluish black.

Specimen 4, male (Fig. 3I): Similar to specimen 1, but antennomeres 5 and 6 black, elytra with bluish lustre, bases of femora reddish brown.

Specimen 5, female (holotype of *Cantharis monstrosipennis*; Fig. 3A): Entirely orange except elytra glossy bluish black, terminal antennomere, apical halves of tibiae, and tarsi infuscate.

Specimen 6 (Fig. 3D), female: Similar to specimen 5, but apical four antennomeres black, and black area of tibiae extending further basally.

Specimen 7 (Fig. 3E), female: Similar to specimen 5, but apical six antennomeres, tibiae, and apical halves of femora black; elytra with greenish lustre.

Specimen 8 (Fig. 3F), female: Similar to specimen 5, but basal seven antennomeres orange; elytra glossy black.

Specimen 9, female: Similar to specimen 8, but head with infuscate mottling; elytra glossy bluish black.

Ventral surface excluding legs generally entirely orange to reddish brown, but entirely glossy bluish black in specimen 3.

Male. Abdominal ventrites without any modification. Sternite IX (Fig. 3J) ensiform, 4.33 times as long as wide, 0.79 times as long as tergite IX, nearly parallel-sided but gradually narrowed at apical one-fifth; apex acutely rounded.

Aedeagus (Figs. 3K–O). Ventral process of each paramere elongate and rod-like, rounded at apex in ventral view; weakly sinuate and slightly hooked apically in profile. Conjoint dorsal plate of parameres shorter than ventral processes, gradually narrowing apically, apical margin slightly emarginate in dorsal view; straight and relatively thin in profile. Laterophyse of median lobe long, curved dorsad, with apex reaching that of the conjoint dorsal plate in profile; divided from the middle into two lateral lobes, each tapering abruptly towards the apex in dorsal view. Endophallus fully membranous, without any sclerotised parts.

Differential diagnosis. Within the subgenus *Telephorops*, this species is easily recognised by a combination of the following characters: smaller body size (at most 15 mm), slightly abbreviated elytra, with the apices of hind wings slightly protruding, and well-developed and sharply pointed laterophyses of the aedeagus.

Remarks. *T. monstrosipennis* and *T. kubani* were originally described from Vietnam and Laos, respectively. The former species is known only from the female and the latter only from the males, and their respective holotypes somewhat differ in colouration. However, the structure of the elytral surface, which is considered to be a species-specific character in the subgenus *Telephorops*, is consistent between the two, and both share slightly abbreviated elytra. Based on the examination of a series of specimens collected from the same area, it was revealed that this species exhibits an extremely high degree of intraspecific variation in colouration. Although neglected in the original description (Švihla, 2011), colour variation was already present within the type series of *T. kubani*. Accordingly, the two taxa are regarded as conspecific, and the above synonymy is herein proposed.

For the same reason as the preceding species, this species is placed in the subgenus *Telephorops* without species group assignment.

Distribution. Northern Vietnam, Northern Laos (new record).

Subgenus *Themus* Motschulsky, 1858

Themus (*Themus*) *chapaensis* (Pic, 1917)

(Figs. 4A–F)

Cantharis chapaensis Pic, 1917a: 7 (original description; type locality: Tonkin, Chapa); Pic, 1923: 39 (key), 41 (catalogue); Delkeskamp, 1939: 48 (catalogue).

Themus chapaensis: Wittmer, 1961: 362 (new combination).

Themus (*Themus*) *chapaensis*: Delkeskamp, 1977: 34 (catalogue).

Themus (*Themus*?) *chapaensis*: Wittmer, 1983: 193 (key), 208 (notes), fig. 78 (female abdominal sternite VIII).

Themus rufoscutus Pic, 1926: 35 (original description; type locality: Tonkin); Delkeskamp, 1939: 28 (catalogue). Secondary homonym, preoccupied by *T. rufoscutus* (Pic, 1922), originally described in *Cantharis* and transferred to *Themus* by Wittmer (1983: 206).

Themus (*Themus*) *rufosctus*: Delkeskamp, 1977: 38 (catalogue, nec Pic, 1922).

Themus (*Themus*) *scutulatus* Wittmer, 1983: 193 (key); 208 (new replacement name for *T. rufoscutus* Pic, 1926, nec Pic 1922), fig. 14 (aedeagus), fig. 79 (female abdominal sternite VIII); Yang et al., 2013: 3 (nomenclatural notes). New junior subjective synonym.

Themus (*Themus*) *hmong* Kazantsev, 2007: 54 (unnecessary new replacement name for *T. rufoscutus* Pic, 1926, nec Pic, 1922); Kazantsev & Brancucci, 2007: 271 (catalogue). Synonymised with *T. scutulatus* Wittmer by Yang et al. (2013: 3). New junior objective synonym.

Type material examined. Holotype of *Cantharis chapaensis*, female (MNHN; Figs. 4A–D): “Chapa / Tonkin”, “type”, “Themus / chapaensis / Pic”, “HOLOTYPUS”, “329”, “Themus (s.str.?) / chapaensis / (Pic) / det.W.Wittmer”.

Lectotype of *Themus rufoscutus* (designated by Wittmer, 1983), male (MNHN; Figs. 4E–F): “Hoa Binh / Tonkin”, “type”, “Themus / rufosctus / n sp”, “LECTOTYPUS”, “325”, “Themus (s.str.) / scutulatus / Wittm. / det.W.Wittmer”.

Fig. 4. *Themus* (*Themus*) *chapaensis* (Pic, 1917). A–D, holotype of *Cantharis chapaensis* Pic, 1917, female (A, habitus, dorsal view; B, ditto, lateral view; C, sternite VIII; D, labels); E–F, lectotype of *T. rufoscutus* Pic, 1926 (nec Pic, 1922), male (E, habitus; F, labels).

Additional material examined. About 280 specimens from northern Vietnam (mainly from Tam Dao) in NHMB and KURA were examined.

Differential diagnosis. Within the genus *Themus*, this species is readily distinguished by its body length exceeding 15 mm (although the body length of *T. rufoscutus* was given as 10 mm in the original description, direct measurement of the lectotype revealed it to be 16.8 mm) and the following combination of body colouration: head yellowish brown in apical one-third and metallic dark blue in basal two-thirds, antennae entirely yellowish brown, pronotum yellowish brown with a central metallic dark blue macula, elytra metallic bluish, legs metallic dark blue with the basal halves of femora reddish brown. *T. thai* Wittmer, 1983 (Thailand) exhibits similar colouration but is generally smaller in body size and always bearing an infuscate macula on the clypeus.

Remarks. The similarity between *T. chapaensis* and *T. scutulatus* (= *T. rufoscutus*) has been noted by both Pic (1926) and Wittmer (1983). Both species were described from relatively nearby areas in northern Vietnam. According to the original description of *T. rufoscutus* by Pic (1926), the differences between the two species are the colour and length of the elytra, as well as the colour of the scutellum. However, the variation in elytral colouration falls within the range of intraspecific variation commonly observed in this genus. The ratio of elytral length to humeral width is 2.57 in the holotype of *T. chapaensis* and 2.60 in the lectotype of *T. scutulatus*, indicating no substantial difference. Wittmer (1983) also pointed out that the colour of the scutellum in *T. scutulatus* is variable, ranging from yellow to almost uniformly black. The shape of the female abdominal sternite VIII is also very similar in both species (Wittmer, 1983). Based on these observations, the above synonymy is hereby proposed.

Kazantsev & Brancucci (2007) included China (Yunnan) in the distribution of this species, but this is erroneous as pointed out by Yang et al. (2013). Although the species is often represented by numerous specimens in museum collections and appears to be common in its habitat, it has not been found outside northern Vietnam and thus seems to have a rather restricted distribution.

Distribution. Northern Vietnam.

Themus (*Themus*) *coomani* (Pic, 1923)

(Figs. 5F–I)

Cantharis Coomani Pic, 1923: 60 (original description; type locality: Tonkin, Lac-Thô); Delkeskamp, 1939: 49 (catalogue).
Themus coomani: Wittmer, 1961: 362 (new combination).
Themus (*Themus*) *coomani*: Delkeskamp, 1977: 35 (catalogue); Wittmer, 1983: 196 (key), 223 (notes, additional records), fig. 42 (aedeagus), fig. 105 (female abdominal sternite VIII); Kazantsev & Brancucci, 2007: 271 (catalogue).
Cantharis brevemaculiceps Pic, 1927b: 132 (original description; type locality: Tonkin); Delkeskamp, 1939: 47 (catalogue); Delkeskamp, 1977: 135 (catalogue). Synonymised by Wittmer (1983: 223)

Type material examined. Holotype of *Cantharis coomani*, male (MNHN; Figs. 5F–G): "Lac Thô / Tonkin / (? de Cooman) [first letter illegible]", "Coomani / n sp.", "TYPE", "Themus s. str. / coomani / (Pic) / det.W.Wittmer".

Holotype of *Cantharis brevemaculiceps*, female (MNHN; Figs. 5H–I): "Tonkin / Thau Moi / 5. VI. 1918 / JEANVOINE",

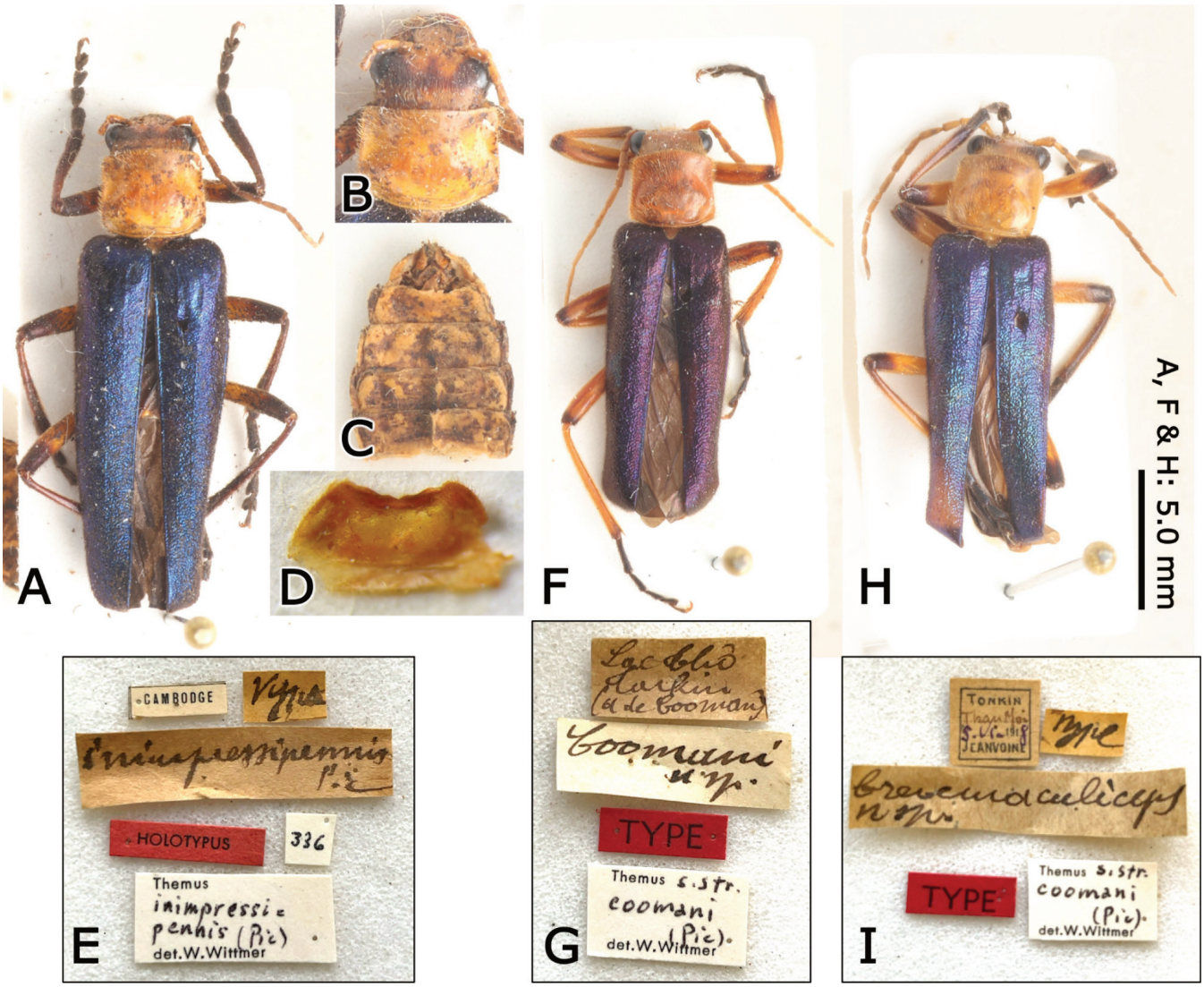

Fig. 5. *Themus* (*Themus*) *inimpressipennis* (Pic, 1917) and *T.* (*T.*) *coomani* (Pic, 1923). A–D, holotype of *Cantharis inimpressipennis* Pic, 1917, female (A, habitus; B, head and pronotum; C, abdomen; D, sternite VIII; E, labels); F–G, holotype of *C. coomani* Pic, 1923, male (F, habitus; G, labels); H–I, holotype of *C. brevemaculiceps* Pic, 1927, male (H, habitus; I, labels).

"type", "brevemaculiceps / n. sp.", "TYPE", "Themus s. str. / coomani / (Pic) / det.W.Wittmer".

Differential diagnosis. Within the subgenus *Themus*, this species is easily recognised by the following combination of colouration: head and pronotum mostly orange, elytra entirely bluish, femora and tibiae orange except for infuscate apical part.

Remarks. The present species was examined to make comparison with the next species. The holotypes of *Cantharis coomani* and *C. brevemaculiceps* show no significant differences except for a small dark marking beside each eye in the latter. Accordingly, the synonymy established by Wittmer (1983) is here confirmed again.

Although distinguishable by the colour of the legs, *T. pacholatkoi* Wittmer, 1997 (southern Vietnam) is presumed to be the closest relative of the present species based on similarities in general appearance and the aedeagus.

Distribution. China (Yunnan), Northern Vietnam.

Themus (*Themus*) *inimpressipennis* (Pic, 1917)

(Figs. 5A–E)

Cantharis inimpressipennis Pic, 1917b: 4 (original description; type locality: Cambodge); Pic, 1923: 38 (key), 40 (catalogue); Delkeskamp, 1939: 64 (catalogue).
Themus inimpressipennis: Wittmer, 1961: 362 (new combination).
Themus (*Themus*) *inimpressipennis*: Delkeskamp, 1977: 36 (catalogue).
Themus (*Themus*?) *inimpressipennis*: Wittmer, 1983: 196 (key), 223 (notes), fig. 106 (female abdominal sternite VIII).

Type material examined. Holotype of *Cantharis inimpressipennis*, female (MNHN; Figs. 5A–E): "CAMBODGE", "type", "inimpressipennis / Pic", "HOLOTYPUS", "336", "Themus / inimpressi- / pennis (Pic) / det.W.Wittmer".

Differential diagnosis. This species closely resembles the preceding species, *T. coomani*, but has a stouter body,

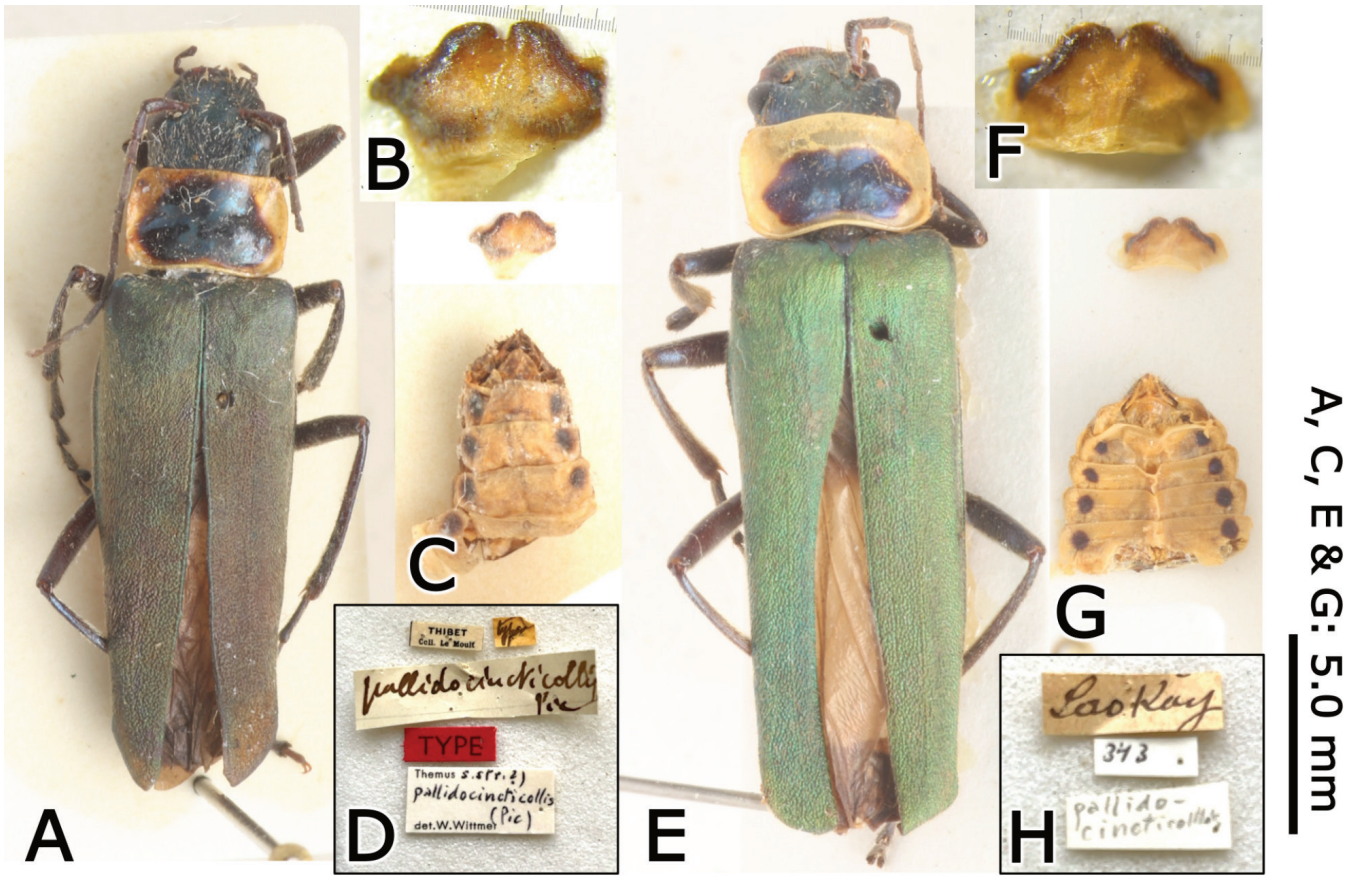

Fig. 6. *Themus* (*Themus*) *pallidocincticollis* (Pic, 1917) and *T.* (*T.*) cf. *kambaiticus* Wittmer, 1983. A–D, holotype of *Cantharis pallidocincticollis* Pic, 1917, female (A, habitus; B, sternite VIII; C, abdomen; D, labels); E–H, non-type, *T.* cf. *kambaiticus* Wittmer, 1983, female (E, habitus; F, sternite VIII; G, abdomen; H, labels).

darker legs and dark brown area behind eyes. The shape of the female abdominal sternite VIII is very similar in both species, but the apical margin is slightly wavy in this species (Wittmer, 1983).

Remarks. As already noted by Wittmer (1983), *T. inimpressipennis* closely resembles *T. coomani*, and may be a synonym of the latter. However, considering their somewhat disjunct distributions and the presence of closely related species in both northern and southern Vietnam (see the Remarks of the preceding species), it remains possible that they represent similar but different species. To resolve this issue, additional male specimens from Cambodia, the type locality of *T. inimpressipennis*, are needed.

Distribution. Cambodia.

Themus (*Themus*) *pallidocincticollis* (Pic, 1917)
(Figs. 6A–D)

Cantharis pallidocincticollis Pic, 1917a: 7 (original description; type locality: Thibet); Delkeskamp, 1939: 85 (catalogue).
Themus pallidocincticollis: Wittmer, 1961: 363 (new combination).
Themus (*Themus*) *pallidocincticollis*: Delkeskamp, 1977: 38 (catalogue).
Themus (*Themus*?) *pallidocincticollis*: Wittmer, 1983: 194 (key), 214 (notes), fig. 86 (female abdominal sternite VIII).

Type material examined. Holotype of *Cantharis pallidocincticollis*, female (MNHN; Figs. 6A–D): "THIBET / coll. Le Moult", "type", "pallidocincticollis / Pic", "TYPE", "Themus s. str.?) / pallidocincticollis / (Pic) / det.W.Wittmer".

Related material of other species examined. *Themus* cf. *kambaiticus* Wittmer, 1983: 1 female (MNHN; Figs. E–H), "Lao Kay", "343", "pallido- / cincticollis". Subsequently, an additional label, "Themus cf. / kambaiticus / Wittmer / det. R. Nakamura, 2025", was attached by the author.

Differential diagnosis. This species is very similar to *T. kambaiticus* Wittmer, 1983 known from China (Yunnan), northern Vietnam, and northeastern Myanmar. However, it differs in having duller green elytra, pronotum marking extending to the anterior margin, and slightly different abdominal patterning. For the relation to *T. rongtoensis* Nakamura, 2025, see the Remarks below.

Remarks. This species originally described from Tibet (now Xizang, China) is known only from a single female, and its taxonomic position remains uncertain. Wittmer (1983) subsequently recorded the species from northern Vietnam based on another female specimen. However, the present observation suggests that the specimen from Vietnam is more likely to be *T. kambaiticus*, which was already recorded from northern Vietnam by Okushima (2002).

Consequently, Vietnam is excluded from the distribution of *T. pallidocincticollis*.

The holotype of *T. pallidocincticollis* also resembles *T. kambaiticus* in both general appearance and the shape of abdominal sternite VIII, suggesting a possible relationship with the *T. lineatofemoralis* species-group to which *T. kambaiticus* belongs (Nakamura, 2025). Within this group, *T. rongtoensis* Nakamura, 2025 is also distributed in Tibet (Xizang). The shape of pronotum marking and the elytral colouration of *T. rongtoensis* is notably similar to those of *T. pallidocincticollis*, although their abdominal colouration differs substantially. However, as pointed out by Nakamura (2025), within this species group, abdominal colouration can vary between sexes, and sometimes even within the same sex of the same species. While these facts suggest *T. pallidocincticollis* and *T. rongtoensis* may represent the female and male of the same species respectively, this hypothesis cannot be confirmed without additional material from the Tibetan region.

Although Wittmer (1983) stated that the illustration of abdominal sternite VIII (fig. 86 in Wittmer, 1983) was based on the holotype, the label read "343", which is presumed to be attached to the specimen he used for the illustration, was actually attached to the specimen from Vietnam. Therefore, this figure should be interpreted with caution. Nevertheless, the outline of sternite VIII in these two specimens is nearly identical.

Distribution. China (Xizang).

Themus (*Themus*) *rufipectus* (Pic, 1923)

(Figs. 7A–K)

Cantharis rufopecta Pic, 1923: 60 (original description; type locality: Tonkin, Chapa); Delkeskamp, 1939: 98 (catalogue).

Themus rufopictus (ex errore): Wittmer, 1961: 363 (new combination; written as "*Cantharis rufopicta* Pic in *Themus* Motsch.").

Themus (*Themus*) *rufipectus* (nomen emendatum): Delkeskamp, 1977: 39 (catalogue).

Themus (*Themus*?) *rufipectus*: Wittmer, 1983: 193 (key), 207 (note), fig. 76 (female abdominal sternite VIII).

Themus (*Themus*) *chaoi* Wittmer, 1983: 195 (key); 219 (original description; type locality: China, Yunnan, Kingtung, 1170 m), figs. 35–36 (aedeagus), fig. 99 (female abdominal sternite VIII); Okushima, 1996: 102 (new record from Vietnam), figs. 1–2 (habitus). New junior subjective synonym.

Type material examined. Holotype of *Cantharis rufopecta*, female (MNHN; Figs. 7A–D): "Chapa / Juin 1916", "type", "rufopectus [sic!] / n sp", "TYPE", "342", "HOLOTYPUS", "Themus / (s. str.?) / rufipectus / (Pic) / det.W.Wittmer".

Paratype of *Themus chaoi*, 1 male (NHMB; Fig. 7E): "云南景东1170米 / 1956.VI.2 / 克雷讓諾夫斯基 灯誘", "Юньнань. Цзиндун, / 1170 м. На свет 2.VI. / 1956. Крыжановский", "21", "334", "T. (s. str.) / chaoi / Wittm. / det.W.Wittmer", "PARATYPUS", "Naturhistorisches / Museum Basel / Coll. W. Wittmer", "CANTHARIDAE [QR code] / CANTH00002058". The translation of this collecting data is "Yunnan, Jingdong, 1170 m, Kryzhanovsky coll., 2 June 1956, by light trap".

Additional material examined. 1 male (NHMB; Fig. 7F), VIETNAM, Hoang Lien Son Distr., Sa pa, 1,600 m, Jan Horák coll., 11–16 May 1990; 1 male (KURA), VIETNAM: Lao Cai Prov., Sa Pa, Y. Okushima coll., 27 May 1997; 2 females (KURA), same locality, Y. Okushima coll., 28 May 1997; 1 male (KURA), same locality, Y. Okushima coll., 29 May 1997; 1 male (KURA), same locality, R. Matsumoto coll., 28 May 1997; 1 female (KURA), same locality, Y. Arita coll., 27 May 1997; 1 female (NHMB; Fig. 7G), LAOS: Xieng Khoung Prov., Phonsavan (30 km NE), Phou Sane Mt., 1,400–1,500 m, 19°37–8′N103°20′E, Z. Kraus coll., 10–30 May 2009; 3 males, 2 females (KURA; Figs. 7H–K), LAOS: Xieng Khouang Prov., SE of Muang Khun 40km, alt. 1,300m, N. 19°14′ / E. 103°39′, T. Mizusawa, Y. Yokoi & J. Yamasako coll., 18 May 2008; 1 male (NHMB), THAILAND: Doi Inthanon, G. Minet coll., 20 May 1988; 7 females (NHMB), THAILAND: Chiang Mai, 300 m, 19 May 1988; 5 males, 9 females (KURA), THAILAND: Chiang Mai Pref., Doi Suthep, H. Hirasawa coll., 1–5 June 1986.

Supplementary description. Male. Abdominal sternite VIII (Fig. 7H) deeply emarginate medially in a U-shape, with lateral angles slightly produced. Sternite IX (Fig. 7I) ensiform, 4.38 times as long as wide, 0.72 times as long as tergite IX, nearly parallel-sided but gradually narrowed at apical one-fifth; apex rounded.

Aedeagus (Figs. 7J–K). Endophallus elongate and almost entirely membranous, with a ring of spines encircling the base of the apical opening; basal part partially sclerotised, with a pair of sclerotise, semicircular lamellae at the very base.

Differential diagnosis. As already noted by Wittmer (1983), Okushima (1999), and Kopetz (2010), this species, *T. geiseri* Kopetz, 2010 (India), *T. sikkimensis* (Pic, 1911) (China (Xizang), India, Bhutan, Nepal), and *T. venningi* Champion, 1926 (Myanmar) form a unique group characterised by robust first antennomeres and strongly curved fore tibiae in the males. *T. shillongensis* Wittmer, 1983 (India), which is known only from the female, is also considered closely related to *T. sikkimensis* and *T. venningi* (see Wittmer, 1983) and it is placed in the same group. Herein, these species sharing a distinctive set of characters are referred to as the *T. sikkimensis* species-group. Within this group, *T. rufipectus* can be distinguished from *T. geiseri*, *T. sikkimensis*, and *T. venningi* by differences in the structure of the aedeagus (see Wittmer, 1983; Kopetz, 2010). It can also be separated from *T. shillongensis* by the more slender projection of abdominal sternite VIII in the female.

Remarks. *T. rufipectus* was originally described from "Chapa" (= Sa Pa, Vietnam), based solely on a female specimen, and no remarks regarding its affinities within *Themus* have been made. *T. chaoi* was described from China (Yunnan), and the specimens from type locality have an entirely orange pronotum and femora that are black only

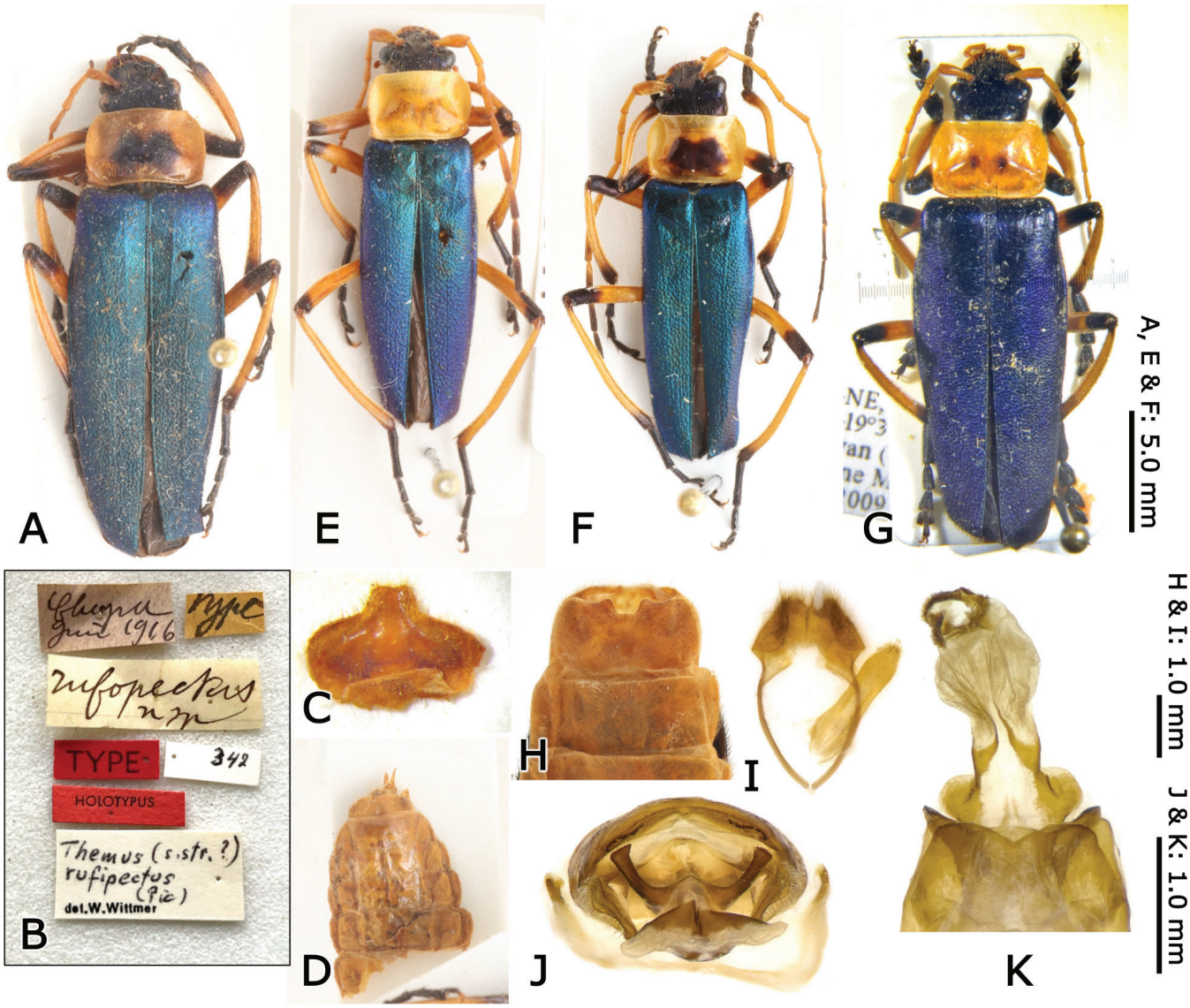

Fig. 7. *Themus* (*Themus*) *rufipectus* (Pic, 1923). A–D, holotype of *Cantharis rufopecta* Pic, 1923, female (A, habitus; B, labels; C, sternite VIII; D, abdomen); E, paratype of *T. chaoi* Wittmer, 1983, male, habitus; F–G, non-types, habitus (F, male from Vietnam; G, female from Laos); H–K, non-type, male from Laos (H, sternites VII–VIII, ventral view; I, tergite IX and sternite IX; J, aedeagus, apical view; K, ditto, with everted endophallus, dorsal view).

at the apices. Subsequently, the species was recorded from Vietnam (Sa Pa) by Okushima (1996), whose specimens had a black marking in the centre of the pronotum and the apical two-fifths of femora black, suggesting the possibility of geographical variation. In the present study, examination of additional material from multiple localities revealed that specimens with a central pronotum marking were restricted to northern Vietnam, except for a single female from Laos, which had a pair of small black spots near the centre of the pronotum. Notably, the characteristics of northern Vietnam population of *T. chaoi* perfectly matches those of the holotype of *T. rufipectus*. Furthermore, the female abdominal sternite VIII is identical in both species (Wittmer, 1983). Accordingly, these two species are here regarded as conspecific.

Distribution. China (Yunnan; new record), Northern Vietnam, Northern Laos (new record), Northern Thailand (new record).

Themus (*Themus*) *sirambeus* (Pic, 1911)

(Figs. 8A–F)

Cantharis (*Themus*) *sirambea* Pic, 1911a: 101 (original description; type locality: Sumatra, Si Rambé).
Cantharis sirambea: Delkeskamp, 1939: 101 (catalogue).
Themus sirambeus: Wittmer, 1961: 363 (new combination; written as "*Cantharis sirambea* Pic in *Themus* Motsch.").
Themus (*Themus*) *sirambeus*: Delkeskamp, 1977: 39 (catalogue).
Themus (*Themus*) *curvatus* Wittmer, 1983: 234 (original description; type locality: N. Sumatra, Dolok Meranyir), figs. 52–53 (aedeagus). New junior subjective synonym.

Type material examined. Holotype of *Cantharis sirambea*, female (MNHN; Figs. 8A–D): "SUMATRA / SI RAMBÉ / XII.90–III.91 / E. MODIGLIANI", "type", "Themus / shirambeus / Pic", "HOLOTYPUS", "Themus (s.str.) / sirambensis [sic!] / (Pic) / det.W.Wittmer".

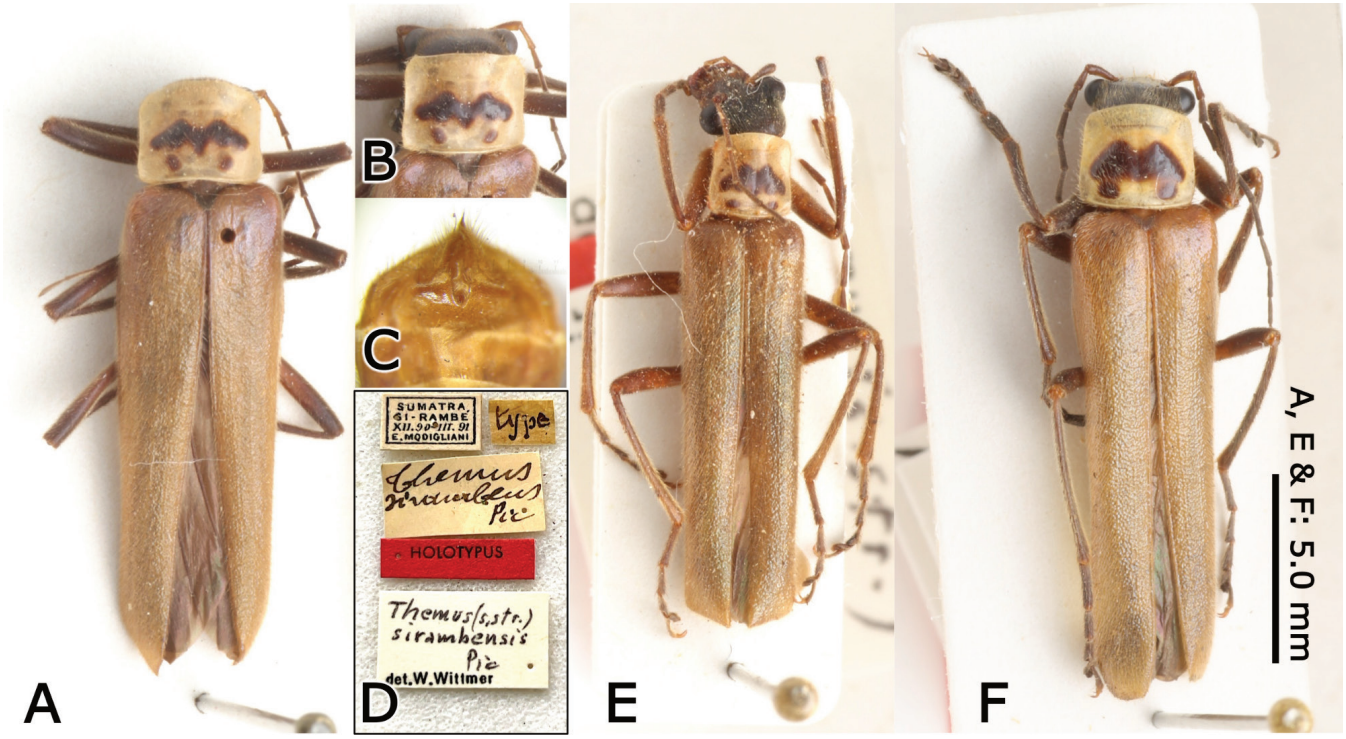

Fig. 8. *Themus* (*Themus*) *sirambeus* (Pic, 1911). A–D, holotype of *Cantharis sirambea* Pic, 1911, female (A, habitus; B, head and pronotum; C, terminal abdominal segments; D, labels); E–F, *T. curvatus* Wittmer, 1983, habitus (E, holotype, male; F, paratype, female).

Holotype of *Themus curvatus*, male (NHMB; Fig. 8E): "Dr. Diehl / 20. 5. 1971", "Dolok Meranyir / N.Sumatra", "HOLOTYPUS", "Themus s. str. / curvatus / Wittm. / det.W.Wittmer", [a final label bearing the NHMB registration number which I failed to note during my examination].

Paratype of *Themus curvatus*, female (NHMB; Fig. 8F): "Prapat / 1400m 21.VIII.", "Sumatra 1981 / J. Wiesner", "PARATYPUS", [a final label bearing the NHMB registration number which I failed to note during my examination].

Supplementary description. Female. Abdominal sternite VIII (Fig. 8C) with a narrow, deep U-shaped median emargination with lateral ends slightly produced.

Differential diagnosis. Within the genus *Themus*, this species can be readily recognised by the presence of dark brown markings on the pronotum, consisting of a thick, inverted W-shaped one and a pair of small round spots beneath it. It is most similar and likely related to *T. notaticollis* Pic, 1927, also from Sumatra, but can be distinguished by the differences in the pronotum markings and the aedeagus (Wittmer, 1983).

Remarks. Both *T. sirambeus* and *T. curvatus* were described from northern Sumatra. When describing the latter, Wittmer (1983) did not compare it with the former. However, the two species share all external characters, including distinctive pronotum markings, and are evidently conspecific. The female abdominal sternite VIII of the holotype of *T. sirambeus* is illustrated here for the first time, and its structure is identical to that of the paratype female of *T. curvatus*.

Distribution. Indonesia (Sumatra, Java).

Themus (*Themus*) *subopacus* (Pic, 1921)

(Figs. 9A–F)

Cantharis subopacipennis Pic, 1916a: 12 (original description; type locality: Annam, Xieng Khouang). Secondary homonym, preoccupied by *C. subopacipennis* Pic, 1910

Cantharis subopaca Pic, 1921: 28 (new replacement name for *C. subopacipennis* Pic, 1916a, nec Pic, 1910); Pic, 1923: 39 (key), 41 (catalogue); Delkeskamp, 1939: 102 (catalogue).

Themus subopacus: Wittmer, 1961: 363 (new combination; written as "*Cantharis subopaca* Pic in *Themus* Motsch.").

Themus (*Themus*) *subopacus*: Delkeskamp, 1977: 39 (catalogue).

Themus (*Themus*?) *subopacus*: Wittmer, 1983: 194 (key), 215 (note), fig. 89 (female abdominal sternite VIII).

Type material examined. Holotype of *Cantharis subopacipennis*, female (MNHN; Figs. 9A–C): "LAOS / Xiengkhouang / le. 28/3 1915 / R.Vitalis de Salvaza", "type", "subopacipennis / Pic", "HOLOTYPUS", "375", "Themus (s.str.?) / subopacus / (Pic) / det.W.Wittmer".

Additional material examined. 1 female (head and pronotum missing; MNHN; Fig. 9D), no collecting data, only with a label read "opacipennis / ????? [letters in the second line illegible]"; 1 female (KURA; Figs. 9E–F), LAOS, Xieng Khouang Prov., Phou Samsoum, alt. 2,000 m, 22 April 2008; 1 female (NHMB), LAOS, Houa Phan Prov., Ban Saluei→Phou Pane Mt., 1,340–1,870 m, 20°12′–13.5′N 103°59.5′–104°01′E, C. Holzschuh & local collector coll., 7 April–25 May 2010. An additional specimen (MNHN) probably belonging to this species was examined, but it was severely damaged and consisted only of deformed elytra.

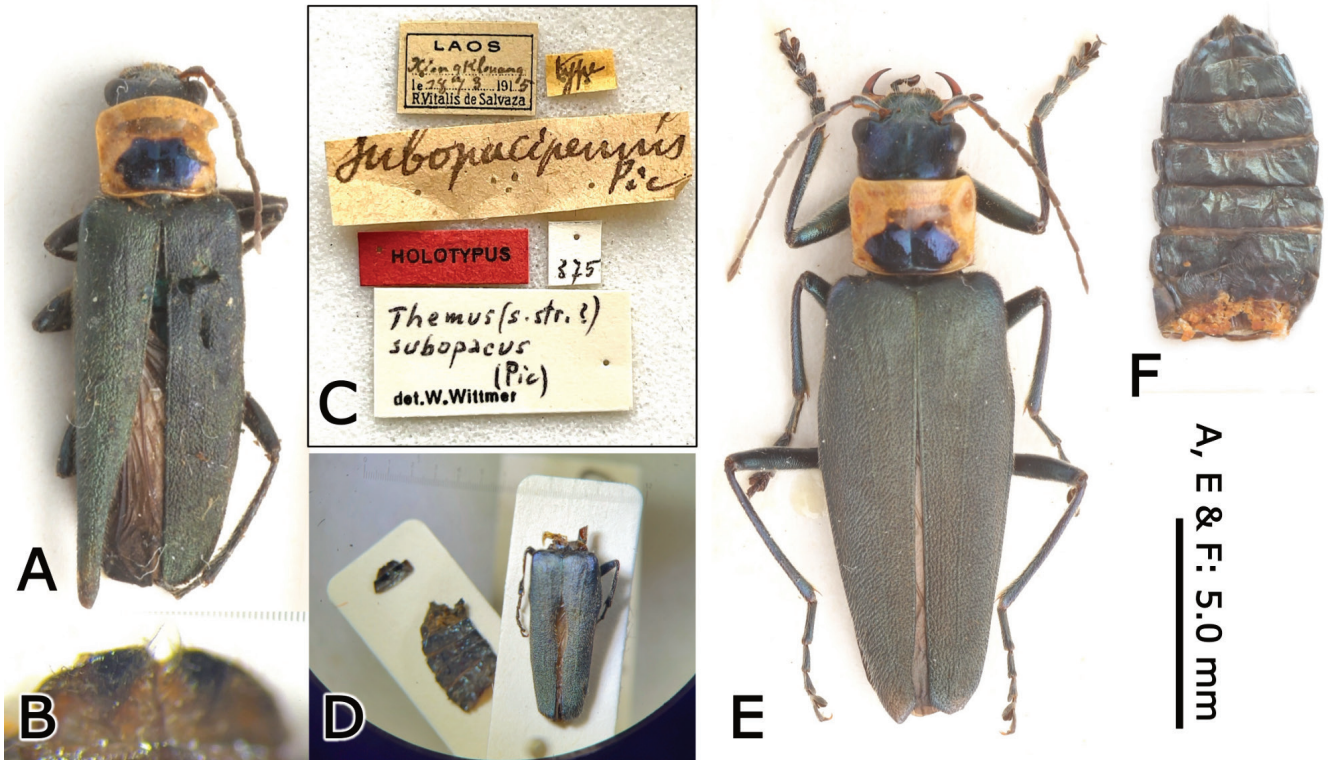

Fig. 9. *Themus* (*Themus*) *subopacus* (Pic, 1921). A–C, holotype of *Cantharis subopacipennis* Pic, 1916 (nec Pic, 1910), female (A, habitus; B, sternite VIII; C, labels); D, another specimen in Pic collection, female; E–F, non-type, female from Laos (E, habitus; F, abdomen).

The labels read "Xieng Khouang / Annam" and "Vitalis / 10/7", suggesting that it likely shares the same origin as the holotype and is the specimen referred to *T. subopacus* by Wittmer (1983).

Differential diagnosis. Within the genus *Themus*, this species is recognised by the combination of following characteristics: smaller body size (at most 15 mm), pronotum marking confined to the basal half and not extending beyond the middle, lateral margins of the pronotum are slightly curved and weakly narrowing posteriorly, elytra dull green, abdomen deep bluish with a metallic lustre.

Remarks. Wittmer (1983) found two additional specimens of this species in Pic's collection apart from the holotype. As is stated by him, one of them lacked a data label and the other was severely damaged. The former is morphologically consistent with the holotype and is considered to represent the same species, whereas the identity of the latter remains uncertain due to its poor condition.

This species was originally described based on a female, and the male remains unknown. In the present study, two additional specimens from Laos were examined, but unfortunately both are also females. Based on its rather small body size and the metallic abdomen, it may be related to *T. bieti* Gorham, 1889 (Yunnan, Sichuan), *T. testaceicollis* Wittmer, 1983 (Hubei, Sichuan, Shaanxi, Gansu), and *T. tumlonganus* Pic, 1916 (Bhutan, Nepal, India). However, without knowledge of the male genital structures, it is difficult to determine the taxonomic position of this species. For a better understanding of this species, the discovery and description of the male is highly desirable.

Distribution. Northern Laos.

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