

**A new species of *Litargus* Erichson, 1846 from Reunion Island
(Coleoptera: Mycetophagidae)***

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Abstract: *Litargus* (*Litargus*) *reunionensis* **sp. nov.** from Reunion Island is described, illustrated and compared with similar species.

Introduction

The genus *Litargus* Erichson, 1846 is divided into 3 subgenera: *Alitargus* Casey, 1900 including 3 species; *Litargosomus* Motschulsky, 1858 including 20 species and *Litargus* Erichson, 1846 including 14 species and 21 species as incertae sedis (Háva 2021), from Afrotropical Region are known 23 species. A new species described here from Reunion Island.

Material and Methods

The material is deposited in the following collections:

MHNR - Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de La Réunion, Saint-Denis,
La Réunion;

JHAC - Private Entomological Laboratory & Collection, Jiří Háva,
Únětice u Prahy, Prague-West, Czech Republic;

JPPC - Jacques Poussereau private collection, Dax, France.

The size of the beetles or of their body parts can be useful in

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species recognition and thus, the following measurements were made:

total length (TL) - linear distance from anterior margin of head to apex of elytra.

elytral width (EW) - maximum linear transverse distance.

Specimens of the presently described species are provided with red, printed labels with the text as follows: „HOLOTYPE [or PARATYPE] *Litargus (Litargus) reunionensis* **sp. nov.** Jiří Háva det. 2022”.

Results

Litargus (Litargus) reunionensis **sp. nov.**

Figs. 1-4

Description. Male. Body measurements TL 2.0 mm, EW 0.9 mm; oblong-oval, subparallel-sided; weakly convex dorsally, weakly glossy; pronotum brown, elytra light brown with black patterns (Figs. 1-2), covered with yellow, short, recumbent setation.

Head dark brown, with dense and coarse punctures; covered by intermixed yellow, recumbent setation; labrum brown; eyes prominent laterally in dorsal view, coarsely faceted and not emarginate near antennal insertions; antennae with 11 antennomeres, antennomeres I-VIII light brown, antennal club dark brown consisting of three antennomeres (Fig. 3); palpi light brown, apical maxillary palpomere large, cylindrical.

Pronotum brown covered by yellow, recumbent setae, convex dorsally, rugose, with large and dense punctures, widest posteriorly, gradually narrowed anteriorly and posteriorly; anterior margin slightly arcuate; lateral sides roundly arcuate; basal margin sinuate, without short and circular grooves subbasally.

Scutellum dark brown, triangular, with short recumbent yellow setation.

Elytra light brown with black patterns, covered with yellow, short, recumbent setation (Figs. 1-2). Epipleuron light brown, covered with yellow recumbent setation.

Meta-meso ventrite brown, with yellow recumbent setation, finely punctate.

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Legs entirely light brown with light brown spines, covered with brown recumbent setation. Tibiae with very long brown spines apically.

Abdominal visible ventrites brown, finely punctate, covered with yellow, short, recumbent setation. Pygidium dark brown, covered with yellow, recumbent setation. Male genitalia as in Fig. 4.

Female. Externally similar to male.

Variability. Black elytral maculae slightly varied in largest. Body measurements TL 2.0-2.1 mm, EW 0.9-1.0 mm.

Type material. Holotype, ♂: „La Réunion 974, Coll: J. Poussereau“ / „, Chemin de Ceinture, Maison Boyer J.P., Piège lumineux, 22.02.2017“ - MHNR. Paratypes: 4 spec.: same data but, 04.01.2017 - 2 JPPC, 2 JHAC; 1 spec.: same data but 29.01.2017 - JHAC; 1 spec.: same data but 09.02.2017 - JPPC; 1 spec.: same data but Graines de palmier, 03.01.2017 - JPPC.

Differential diagnosis. The new species is similar to two Madagascan species *Litargus insolitus* Grouvelle, 1906 and *Litargus madagascariensis* Grouvelle, 1906 but differs from them by the colour of the elytral spots; from another similar species *Litargus balteatus* LeConte, 1856 (Maurice I., cosmopolitan) the new species differs by the elytral spots.

Etymology. Toponymic, named for the type locality, Reunion Island.

Key for *Litargus* species:

- 1(4) elytra black
- 2(3) each elytron with 4 light orange patterns.....
.....*Litargus insolitus* Grouvelle, 1906
- 3(2) each elytron with 4 dark reddish patterns.....
.....*Litargus madagascariensis* Grouvelle, 1906
- 4(1) elytra light-brown with black patterns.....
.....*Litargus reunionensis* **sp. nov.**

Typhaea stercorea (Linnaeus, 1758)

Material examined: „Réunion 974, Coll: J. Poussereau“ / „, Chemin de Ceinture, Maison Boyer J.P., Piège lumineux, 22.02.2017“, 1 spec., J. Háva det. - JPPC.

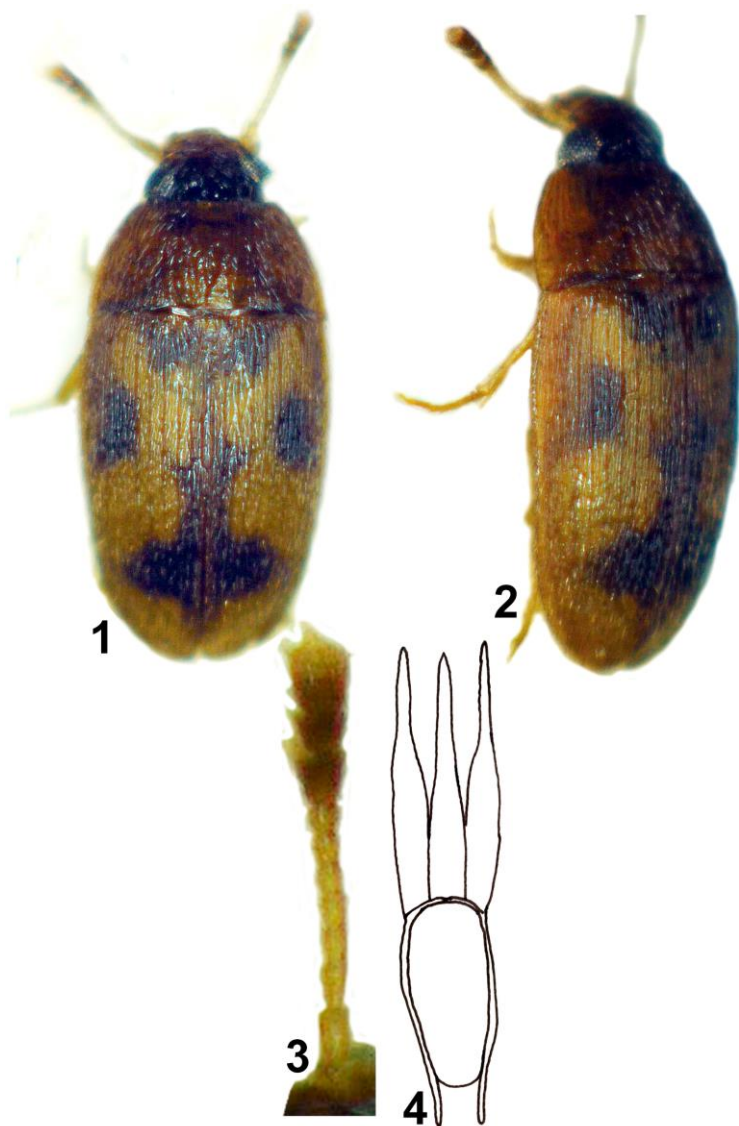
Remarks. This species was recorded from Reunion by Gomy et al. (2016).

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Figs 1-4. *Litargus reunionensis* sp. nov.: 1 - habitus, dorsal; 2 - habitus, dorso-lateral; 3 - antenna; 4 - male genitalia.

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