

Short scientific noteSubmitted: August 28th, 2019 - Accepted: October 10th, 2019 - Published: November 15th, 2019**A new genus and species of Mesostyliini Reitter, 1913
(Coleoptera: Curculionidae)**Enzo COLONNELLI^{1,*}, Alessandro PALADINI²¹ Via delle Giunchiglie 56, 00172 Roma, Italy - ecolonnelli@yahoo.it² Frazione Gracchia 1/A, 50039 Vicchio (FI), Italy - alessandro.paladini3@tin.it

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AbstractIs described the new genus *Viridistylus* n. gen. and its type species *Viridistylus robustus* n. sp. from Tajikistan belonging to the entimine tribe Mesostyliini. A key to the genera of Mesostyliini thus far known, and illustration of the new species are included.**Key words:** New genus, new species, Mesostyliini, key to genera.

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Introduction

The tribe Mesostyliini Reitter, 1913 is comprised of five Palaearctic genera of Entiminae Schoenherr, 1823, four of which are distributed in central Asia, and another in the United Arab Emirates (Magnano et al. 2009; Alonso-Zarazaga et al. 2017). They are peculiar due to their mandibular process at the apical outer sides of rostrum. This note deals with the description of a new genus and species from Tajikistan. Labels of specimens are quoted as written, a slash separates lines of a label.

Viridistylus* gen. n.*Type species:** *Viridistylus robustus* sp. n.**Diagnosis.** A genus impossible to confuse with the hitherto described ones by the combination of projecting humeri, clothing of dense green scales, thin antenna, and large size.

Description. Quite large (body length without rostrum: ca. 6.3-6.9 mm). Integument brown. Entire body, mandibular processes, epistoma and claws excepted, densely clothed with roundish green scales which became subpolygonal and nacreous on knees, tibiae and tarsi. A fringe of creamy seta-like scales on anterior and posterior margin of pronotum. Epistoma small, triangular, its posterior margin not reaching the level of antennal insertion. Rostrum quite elongate and slightly narrowing towards apex. Mandibular process almost straight and forming an angle of about 30° with the sides of rostrum. Scrobe pit-shaped with in-

ner antero-lateral margin sinuate, barely projecting from lateral margin of rostrum. Epifrons sulcate along middle and with a minute spine-like tubercle at apex above antennal insertion. Scape thin, almost straight and quite abruptly clubbed, funiculus just a little narrower than scape, club fusiform, well separate from segment 7 of funiculus. Head much wider than long, interocular distance about twice as epifrons at the level of antennal insertion, and three times as the maximum eye width. Eyes slightly oval, projecting from head convexity. Pronotum subconically narrowing towards apex, base almost straight. Elytra parallel-sided for 2/3 of their length, humeri protruding. Scutellum large, semicircular. Striae in the form of narrow black minutely punctate lines, intervals barely convex and more than 5 times wider than striae. Femora edentate. Tibiae quite flat, hardly bisinuose and dilated outwards and inwards. Claws free.

Etymology. The green colour of the scales suggested the masculine name of this genus, by combining the Latin *viridis* (green) to *Mesostylus*.

Remarks. The five genera of Mesostyliini thus far described are: *Amesostylus* Arnol'di, 1960 containing 3 species from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, *Kasakhstania* Arnol'di, 1960 with a single species from Kazakhstan, *Mesostylus* Faust, 1894 with 2 species distributed in Iran, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, *Parakasakhstania* Magnano with a single species from the United Arab Emirates, and *Parastylus* Arnol'di, 1960 including 5 species from Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. All the species comprised in all the above genera cannot

be confused with the single one of *Viridistylus* for all of them are greyish with or without spots, and have thick antennae with segment 7 quite indistinct from club or almost so (Arnol'di 1960; Bajtenov 1974).

The following key, modifying those by Arnol'di (1960), Bajtenov (1974) and Magnano (2009), can be used to separate the thus far known genera of Mesostyliini:

1. Elytra oval, humeri weakly rounded. Head oval, rostrum conically and abruptly constricted towards apex 2
- 1'. Elytra shortly oval or parallel-sided, humeri clearly protruding. Head and rostrum not conically constricted towards apex 3
2. Mandibular process pointing outwards and slightly forwards, and with inner margin only slightly curved inwards. Protibiae much thickened, their lateral margin with cutting edge from basal third to apex, apex almost angularly widening. Larger species: length 5.0-8.0 mm *Mesostylus* Faust
- 2'. Mandibular process usually pointing forwards and slightly outwards, and with inner margin more or less strongly curved inwards except *P. truchmenus* (Faust, 1894) from Turkmenia. Protibiae weakly enlarged at basal third and without cutting edge. Smaller species: length 3.0-4.8 mm ..
..... *Parastylus* Arnol'di
3. Base of pronotum and elytra straight or almost so. Larger species: length 4.8-9.0 mm 4
- 3'. Base of pronotum bisinuose. Smaller species: length 3.5-4.0 mm 5
4. Scales greyish or brownish, usually with spots of lighter scales. Antenna thick *Amesostylus* Arnol'di
- 4'. Scales green. Antenna elongate. Tajikistan
..... *Viridistylus* gen. n.
5. Pronotum bell-shaped, sides of base protruding outwards and also slightly backwards in the form of conical tubercle. Base of pronotum almost straight in front of humeral elytral tubercles, then strongly curved. Length 3.5-3.8 mm
..... *Kasakhstania* Arnol'di
- 5'. Pronotum subparallel-sided on basal half, then narrowing towards apex and subcylindrical on apical fourth where it is somewhat collar-shaped. Base of pronotum regularly bisinuose. Length 4.0 mm. United Arab Emirates
..... *Parakasakhstania* Magnano

Viridistylus robustus n. sp.

Description. Holotype (Fig. 1). Length (without rostrum) 6.5 mm. Rostrum slightly narrower at apex than at base and almost as long as wide. First funicular segment twice as long as wide, second 1.5 as long as wide, 3–7 transverse, clearly separate from each other and slightly diminishing in length, club fusiform and elongate, about as long as the 3 last funicular segments. Head very short, frons with a small fovea almost invisible due to the scale covering. Pronotum 1.36 wider than long, subconical. Elytra 1.40 longer than wide and 2.90 as long as pronotum, quite strongly convex. First tarsal segment some 2.5 times longer than wide, second about as long as one-half of the first, third a little wider and shorter than the second, deeply bilobed to accommodate onychium which is a little shorter than the preceding 3 tarsomeres. See also Fig. 1.



Fig. 1 – Holotype of *Viridistylus robustus* n. gen. n. sp., holotype. Length: mm 6.5. Photo by Daniele Baiocchi.

Paratypes. Almost identical to the holotype. Length 6.3–6.9 mm.

Type material. Tadzikhistan: “Tadzikhistan / Dzharkurgan / 08/10-V-2004”, 1 ♀ holotype (Zoology Department “La Specola”, Natural History Museum of the University of Florence, Italy; collection number 19902) and 4 ♀♀ paratypes (3 Paladini collection, Vicchio, Italy, and 1 Colonnelli collection, Rome, Italy).

Etymology. The Latin name, meaning ‘corpulent’ refers to the large size and portly shape of the new species.

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