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## ***Mylabris aschnae* sp. nov., a new blister beetle from Mahallat, Markazi Province, Iran (Coleoptera: Meloidae)**

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**Abstract:** A new *Mylabris* species of Meloidae (Coleoptera) is described from Mahallat, Markazi Province, Iran.

**Key words:** *Mylabris*, Meloidae, Coleoptera, Iran.

### **Introduction**

Nikbakhtzadeh & Tirgari (2002 2007) provided only the habitus of the four species of *Mylabris* Fabricius, 1775 (Coleoptera: Meloidae) and the figures of the aedeagus of each are absent. The species are *Mylabris guerini* Chevrolat, 1840, *Mylabris impressa* (Chevrolat, 1837), *Mylabris schreibersi* Reiche 1865 and *Mylabris variabilis* (Pallas 1781). This material was not available to us and further study of these is necessary. It should be noted that the claws of the genus *Mylabris* Fabricius 1775 possess teeth in some species while in others the claws lack teeth.

*Mylabris aschnae* Makhan & Ezzatpanah, sp. nov. appears to be allied to *Mylabris (Eumylabris) impressa* (Chevrolat, 1837) in the papers by Nikbakhtzade & Tirgari (2002, 2007), but *Mylabris (Eumylabris) impressa* (Chevrolat, 1837) is absent from Iran. *Mylabris (Eumylabris) impressa* (Chevrolat, 1837) from Spain has 6 rounded spots on each elytron.

The specimens were collected from flowers of *Citrullus vulgaris* L. (Cucurbitaceae).

The holotype will be deposited in the collection of the School of Biology, College of Science, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran. Paratypes are deposited in the first author's collection.

### **Taxonomic description**

*Mylabris aschnae* Makhan & Ezzatpanah, sp. nov. (Figs. 1-9)

Holotype: Male. Iran, Markazi Province, Mahallat, 1.7.2011, D. Makhan & S. Ezzatpanah. Paratypes: 55 specimens.

Holotype description: Male. Length 24.5 mm, width 6.0 mm. Head black, length 6.0 mm, width 4.0 mm. Eyes large, maxilla palpus black, with fine punctures, with black setae. Antennae black, 11-segmented, antennomeres 1-2, 4-11 longer than wide, antennomere 3 wider than long, with black setae. Pronotum black, length 4.0 mm, width 3.5 mm, widest at base, with coarse punctures, with a large shallow depression at middle and with a large shallow depression at base, with black setae. Elytra length 17.0 mm, width 6.0 mm. Elytron

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orange, with two black transverse fasciae and two rounded black spots at anterior side, with fine punctures and with black setae. Legs: Figs 7-8, black, with black setae, tarsus with bristles and the claws with teeth. Male aedeagus: Fig. 6, with two teeth and with a hook at apex.

**Etymology:** This species is named after Dewanand's daughter, Aschna Makhan.

**Remarks:** *Mylabris aschnae* Makhan & Ezzatpanah, sp. nov. appears to be most closely allied to *Mylabris calida* (Pallas, 1782) an Turano-Mediterranean species, but there is a difference in the shape of the male aedeagus. The aedeagus of *Mylabris (Eumylabris) calida* (Pallas, 1782) is wide at the apical third and the male aedeagus of *Mylabris aschnae* Makhan & Ezzatpanah, sp. nov. is narrow.

#### References

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Fig. 1. *Mylabris aschnae* Makhan & Ezzatpanah, sp. nov., habitus, holotype, lateral view (scale line = 4.0 mm).



Fig. 2. *Mylabris aschnae* Makhan & Ezzatpanah, sp. nov., habitus, paratype, dorsal view (scale line = 5.0 mm).

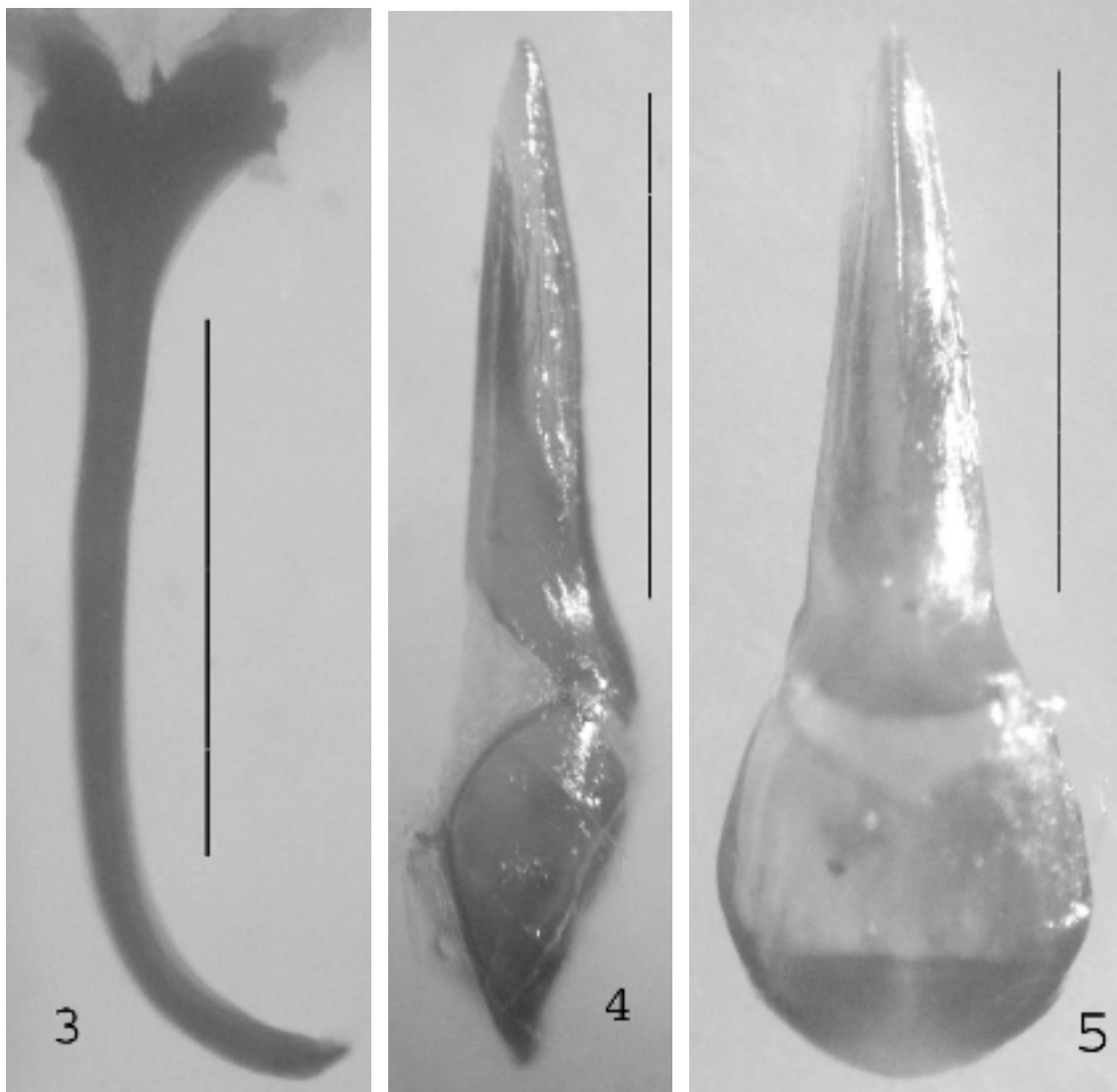


Fig. 3. *Mylabris aschnae* Makhan & Ezzatpanah, sp. nov., holotype male speculum gastrale, dorsal view (scale line = 1.2 mm).

Fig. 4. *Mylabris aschnae* Makhan & Ezzatpanah, sp. nov., holotype, gonoforceps, lateral view (scale line = 1.0 mm).

Fig. 5. *Mylabris aschnae* Makhan & Ezzatpanah, sp. nov., holotype male, gonoforceps, dorsal view (scale line = 1.0 mm).

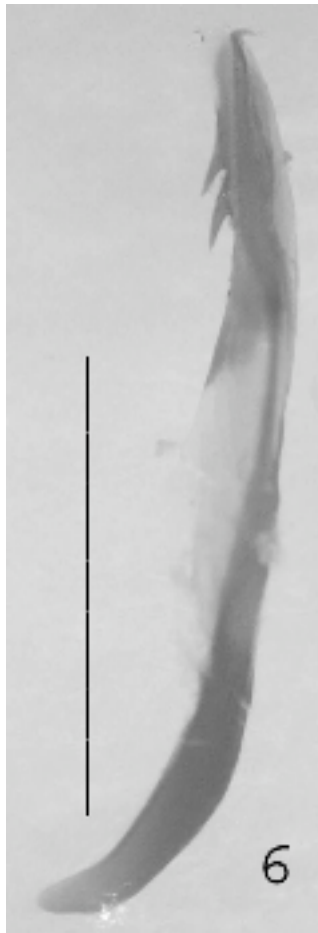


Fig. 6. *Mylabris aschnae* Makhan & Ezzatpanah, sp. nov., holotype male aedeagus, lateral view (scale line = 1.5 mm).

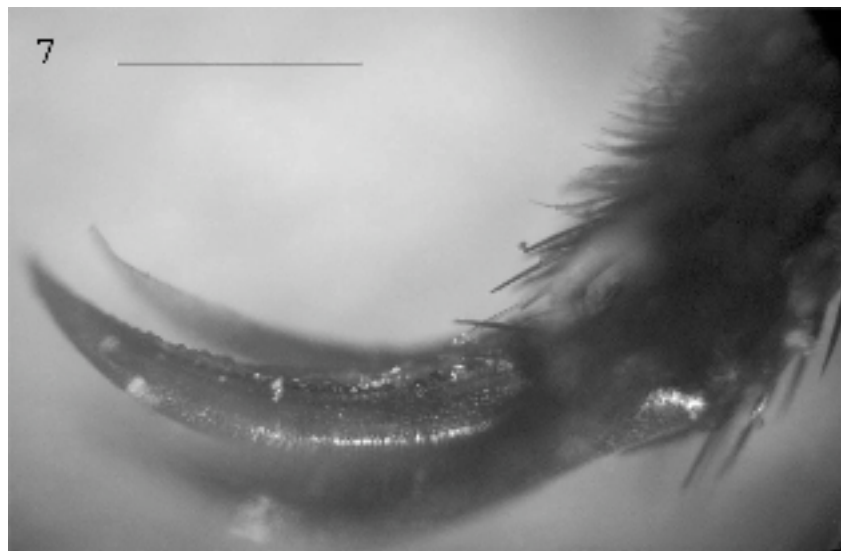


Fig. 7. *Mylabris aschnae* Makhan & Ezzatpanah, sp. nov., holotype, claws, dorsal view (scale line = 0.4 mm).

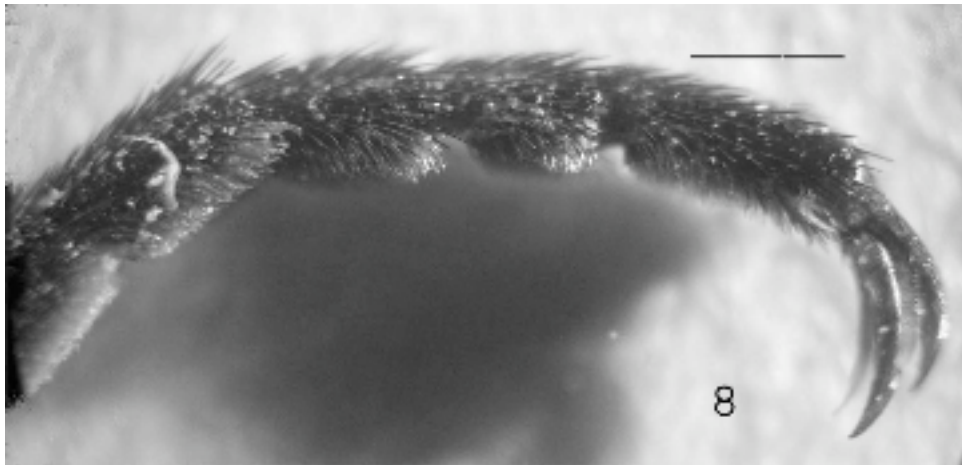


Fig. 8. *Mylabris aschnae* Makhan & Ezzatpanah, sp. nov., paratype male, right fore leg, ventral view (scale line = 0.5 mm).

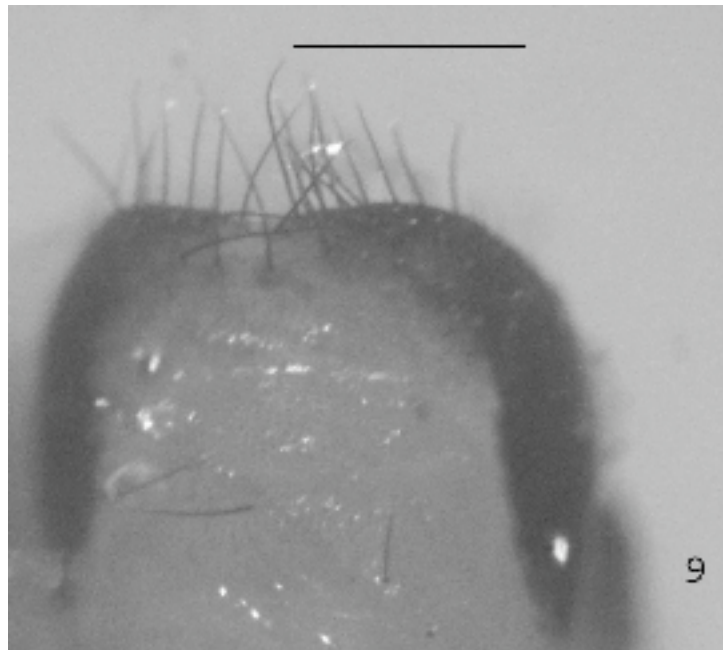


Fig. 9. *Mylabris aschnae* Makhan & Ezzatpanah, sp. nov., habitus, holotype, 9th tergite (scale line = 0.5 mm).

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