

# ZOOTAXA

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**Revision of the genus *Peltonotus* Burmeister (Coleoptera:  
Scarabaeidae: Dynastinae) from Southeastern Asia**

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## Revision of the genus *Peltonotus* Burmeister (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Dynastinae) from Southeastern Asia

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## Abstract

The genus *Peltonotus* Burmeister (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Dynastinae) includes 19 species that are distributed throughout Southeastern Asia. We describe ten new species of *Peltonotus*: *P. adelphosimilis*, *P. deltomentum*, *P. fujiokai*, *P. gracilipodus*, *P. kyojinus*, *P. nethis*, *P. podocrassus*, *P. silvanus*, *P. sisyrus*, and *P. suehirogarus*. We synonymize two names: *P. morio sawaii* Miyake with *P. morio* Burmeister and *P. sakaii* Miyake & Yamaya with *P. similis* Arrow. Lectotypes are designated for the following species: *P. malayensis* Arrow, *P. nasutus* Arrow, and *P. similis* Arrow. A neotype is designated for *P. morio* Burmeister. The name *P. peninsularis* Miyake was not validly described and is an unavailable name. The genus *Subpeltonotus* Ghai *et al.* is synonymized with the genus *Parastasia* Westwood (Scarabaeidae: Rutelinae). We discuss the contentious nomenclatural history of the genus which was historically placed in the Dynastinae (tribe Cyclocephalini) and the Rutelinae (tribe Rutelini or Peltonotini). We discuss characters that support the monophyly of the genus *Peltonotus*, comment on the natural history and distribution of species in the genus, and provide a key to species.

**Key words:** Taxonomy, Dynastinae, Cyclocephalini, Rutelinae, *Subpeltonotus*, *Parastasia*

## Introduction to the Genus *Peltonotus* Burmeister

The genus *Peltonotus* includes 19 species, 10 of which are newly described here. The species are distributed in southeastern Asia, including Nepal, India, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, peninsular Malaysia, Bornean Malaysia, and Indonesia (Sumatra, Java, Borneo). Species in the genus are moderate-sized (1–2 cm in length; Figs. 1–13), black or brown beetles that are characterized by a labrum that projects anteriorly beyond the apex of the clypeus (*e.g.*, Figs. 14–18), velutinous or pruinose dorsal vestiture, maxilla with an articulated tooth (*e.g.*, Figs. 29–30), and form of the clypeus that is rectangular or trapezoidal. Many species in the genus are known from few specimens or, occasionally, only one sex.

Originally we intended this work to be a quick synopsis of a genus that included approximately nine species. We quickly discovered several challenges that increased the complexity of the research: difficulty assessing intraspecific variation due to a limited number of specimens, character variability, and lack of males and females for some species; nomenclatural instability of the genus due to questionable placement in the subfamilies Dynastinae or Rutelinae; and greatly increased species diversity in the genus.

Herein, we provide a foundation for understanding the species diversity of the genus *Peltonotus*. We provide a redescription of the genus, descriptions of 10 new species, nomenclatural history of species in the genus, and an identification key to the species. A forthcoming paper will elucidate the evolution and biogeography of the genus.

### *History of Classification*

The genus *Peltonotus* was originally described by Burmeister (1847) and placed in the