

Revision of the *Microserica lineata* Moser, 1915-group (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Sericini)

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Abstract

The species of the *Microserica lineata* Moser, 1915-group are revised. The species belonging to this group are characterized by the almost completely reduced left paramere, by the metafemur possessing a robust and continuously serrated line adjacent to the anterior margin, and by a phallobase with a extremely deep dorsomedian sinuation reaching almost the basal end of the phallobase. Two species, *M. lineata* Moser, 1915 and *M. squamulata* (Moser, 1915) comb. n., have been recognized to share these characters. Two additional new species, are described herein *M. geberbauer* sp. n., from Thailand, and *M. crenatostriata* sp. n., Meghalaya (India). A diagnostic key is given for the identification of the species. A lectotype is designated for *M. squamulata*.

Key words: Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Sericini, *Microserica*, India, Thailand, new species

Introduction

The Oriental genus *Microserica* Brenske, 1894 is one of the largest genera in the Sericini with over 160 currently described species. The adults of *Microserica* are active during daytime. *Microserica* species are significantly distinguished from the night-active forms of other Sericini by their conspicuous colour pattern of dorsal body surface being composed in general by dark or light spots or striae which are in contrast to the base elytral colour. The species of *Microserica* from the Asiatic mainland and Sumatra have recently been the subject of a series of revisional studies (Ahrens 1995, 1998, 1999, 2001a,b, 2002, 2004). Since these contributions, additional material has been examined resulting in the present study. Herein I revise the relevant type material of an additional well delimited species group, the *Microserica lineata* Moser, 1915-group. Two new species from Meghalaya and northern Thailand have been discovered in the course of the study and are described here.