



A revision of *Paratelius* Kazantsev, 1992 (Coleoptera: Lycidae)

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Abstract

The neotenic net-winged beetle *Paratelius* Kazantsev, 1992 is revised. Five species are placed in *Paratelius*, three of which are described as new: *P. emasensis* n. sp., *P. snizeki* n. sp., and *P. nigricornis* n. sp. All known species are treated with diagnoses, redescriptions, and data on variability and distribution. A key to the males of *Paratelius* species and the genera of Ateliini is provided.

Key words: Coleoptera, Lycidae, *Paratelius*, taxonomy, new species, key, Oriental Region

Introduction

The diversity of most groups of Oriental net-winged beetles remains insufficiently known, even though they are easily recognizable and interesting due to their biology. One such taxon is the neotenic net-winged beetle genus *Paratelius*. The genus was described by Kazantsev (1992) for a single ateliine species formerly placed by Pic (1912) in *Scarelus* Waterhouse, 1879. *Paratelius* is similar in general appearance to Indochinese species of *Atelius* Waterhouse, 1879 (Kazantsev, 1992, Bocak, 1997) and several species of *Scarelus*. The genus is defined by the presence of long setae on the elytra, which is shared with *Scarelus*, and by four longitudinal costae in the basal part of the elytra, which is similar to *Atelius* (Kazantsev, 1992). Although well defined by the combination of these characters, none of these characters appear to be synapomorphies for the genus, suggesting the genus may not be monophyletic. On the other hand, all *Paratelius* species share similar male genitalia with a very long, slightly curved phallus, which may help to distinguish them from both *Scarelus* and *Atelius*. *Paratelius* along with *Scarelus* and *Atelius* comprise the tribe Ateliini in the subfamily Ateliinae (Bocak & Bocakova, 1990, 2008)

Paratelius has a very similar biology to *Scarelus*. Adults are short lived as is a rule in the net-winged beetles and are slow moving on leaves of the lowest forest stratum and seldom fly. No specimens have been collected in degraded secondary forests or in open, sunny areas. The subfamily Ateliinae is known only from males, and we hypothesize that females are neotenic, as was found in the Lyropaeinae (Wong, 1996, Bocak et al., 2008, Levkanicova & Bocak, 2009). Larvae are unknown and, if similar to other net-winged beetles, develop in rotten wood and soil with a high content of organic matter (Bocak & Matsuda, 2003). All known species of *Paratelius* have been collected only in the Mount Kinabalu and Crocker Range in northeastern Borneo. The range of the genus is very small compared to the widespread *Scarelus* (the Great Sundas, Philippines, Myanmar and Malay Peninsula) and *Atelius* (Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and China: Hainan).

The goal of this paper is to revise the taxonomy of the genus and to describe several new species recently collected in northeastern Borneo. Although neotenic lycids are known, current knowledge is insufficient to determine the degree to which neotenic development may have affected the macroevolution, distribution and speciation in these lineages.