



Two new species of *Onthophagus* (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae) from Indochina, with a discussion of some problems with the classification of *Serrophorus* and similar subgenera

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Abstract

Two new species of *Onthophagus* Latreille, 1802 are described from Indochina: *O. (Sunenaga) streltsovi* **sp. n.** and *O. (Sinonthophagus) nampatensis* **sp. n.** Some problems with the current systematics of *Onthophagus*, especially with respect to the subgenera *Serrophorus*, *Sunenaga* and *Macronthophagus* are discussed.

Key words: *Onthophagus*, Indochina, new species, *Sunenaga*, *Sinonthophagus*, systematics

Introduction

The globally distributed genus *Onthophagus* Latreille, 1802, which includes about 2000 species, is a mega-diverse group of scarab beetles. The diversity of this genus in the Oriental biogeographic region is very rich, second only to the diversity of the Afrotropical region. Despite the increasing number of described species during recent years, the Oriental *Onthophagus* are still poorly studied. In this paper, two new species of *Onthophagus* are described. One of the new species, *O. streltsovi*, has a combination of morphological characters that indicates its position in either the subgenus *Serrophorus* Balthasar, 1963 or *Sunenaga* Ochi, 2003 but cannot be unequivocally placed in either based on the currently accepted taxonomic definitions of these subgenera. Tentatively, this species is placed in the subgenus *Sunenaga*, but the problems associated with this decision are discussed at length. These problems stem from the fact that the current subgeneric classification of the genus seems to be poorly developed and sometimes artificial, not monophyly based. The majority of specimens used for the descriptions of the new species were collected by one of us (S.T.) in Laos in 2007–2008.

Materials and methods

Specimens and collections

The material examined in the present study is kept in the following institutions:

BMNH	British Museum (Natural History), London, UK (M. Barclay)
FMNH	Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, USA (A. Newton, M. Thayer, J. Boone)
ZISP	Zoological Institute, St.-Petersburg, Russia (A. Frolov)
ZMUC	Zoological Museum (Natural History Museum of Denmark), University of Copenhagen, Denmark (A. Solodovnikov, O. Martin)