



Two new species of the genus *Melanotus* Eschscholtz (Coleoptera: Elateridae; Melanotinae) from Pakistan

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Abstract

Two new species, *Melanotus kalamensis* and *M. usrae* are described from Kalam, Swat Valley, Pakistan and compared with closely allied species. Male genitalia of both new species are illustrated and a key to all known species of the Genus *Melanotus* from Pakistan is provided. The total number of species in the genus *Melanotus* from Pakistan is 18.

Key words: Coleoptera, Elateridae, Melanotinae, *Melanotus*, new species, Pakistan

Introduction

The family group Melanotinae was established (as the sub-tribe Mélanotites) by Candèze (1860), and followed by Schwarz (1906a,b). Jakobson (1913) raised it to subfamily level. Fleutiaux (1941) studied the Indo-China fauna and described 115 species within the Melanotinae (of which only 20 species are still valid). In 1990, Van Hayek extensively studied and arranged the classification of this group with generic diagnostic characters of seven genera: *Szombatya*, *Neofleutiauxia*, *Priopus*, *Metriaulacus*, *Psellis*, and *Melanotus*, including one monobasic genus *Anchiszombatya*. Vats and Chauhan (1991) described seven new species *Melanotus kumaunensis*, *M. angustiformis*, *M. longipilosus*, *M. bifoveatus*, *M. platypus*, *M. punctorotundus* and *M. foliatus* from India.

Hashmi and Tashfeen (1992) listed Elateridae at the generic level in their Coleoptera of Pakistan, including *Melanotus plannipennis* Candèze.

Lee (1998) conducted studied on the genus *Melanotus* Eschscholtz, from Korea and described four new species; *Melanotus suwonensis*, *M. niger*, *M. augustianus* and *M. hallasanae*.

Melanotus insularis and *M. woonhahi* from Korea were described by Lee and Woo (1999). Lee *et. al.* (1999) studied the subfamily Melanotinae systematically and revised 18 species from Korea. Of these, 11 species were from the genus *Melanotus*, including two new species, *M. chejuensis* and *M. coreanus*.

A Monograph (2001) by Platia & Schimmel divided *Melanotus* (including *Spheniscosomus*) into four groups including a new group *Melanotus albertisi* (on the basis of bidentate parameres) and described the new species: *M. besucheti*, *M. convexiusculus*, *M. loebli*, *M. ocellatus*, *M. pakistanicus*, *M. porioni*, *M. riesei*, *M. wittmeri*, and *M. zethneri* from Pakistan. They also proposed new synonymies of *Melanotus punctosus* (Walker, 1858) = *Melanotus foliatus* Vats & Chauhan 1991 and *Melanotus (Spheniscosomus) haemorrhous* Candèze, 1860 = *Melanotus punctorotundus* Vats & Chauhan 1991.

In 2002, Platia and Schimmel examined the material and described 64 new species of *Melanotus*, six of which belong to the subgenus *Spheniscosomus*.

Platia and Schimmel (2004) described 10 new species: *Melanotus hartmanni*, *M. kopetzi*, *M. schimdti*, *M. scutellatus*, *M. weiperti* from Nepal and *M. ankangensis*, *M. fouqueorum*, *M. hebeiensis*, *M. piceipennis* and *M. perturbatus* from China, in their supplement II.

Chakraborty and Chakrabarti (2006) described *M. bengalicus*, and *M. kolkatai* from West Bengal but these were synonymised by Platia (2008) as *Melanotus bengalicus* Chakraborty & Chakrabarti, 2006 = *M. holzschuhi*