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On the taxonomic placement of *Geodromicus pusillus* Coiffait, 1983 (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Omaliinae)

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Luze (1903:116) described the subgenus *Trichodromeus* Luze, 1903 for two species of *Geodromicus* L. Redtenbacher, 1857. Bordoni (1984:57) identified this taxon as a separate genus. Zerche (1992:126) redescribed *Trichodromeus*, synonymized *Neogeodromicus* Bordoni, 1985 with it and proposed phylogenetic relationships of this taxon. However, many Central Asian species previously described by various authors within *Geodromicus* also belong to the genus *Trichodromeus*.

During study of the material from Kashmir, provided to me for identification by my colleague Dr. M. Tronquet, and after study of the type material of *Geodromicus pusillus* Coiffait, 1983, it was apparent to me that this species has the characteristic morphological features (Zerche, 1992) of the genus *Trichodromeus*: body elongate and moderately convex, 3.7–8.6 mm in length; variable coloration from light-colored to dark brown, with body appendages and hind margins of pronotum lighter; punctation of forebody dense and moderately strong, interstices between punctures with well-defined microsculpture; eyes approximately as long as temples; temples expanded in varying degrees; ocelli well developed or reduced; mandibles with four teeth: tooth II and III of the left mandible elongate, and tooth IV of the left mandible of different shape, approximately rectangular; segment III of labial palpi expanded at apex, conspicuously dense and finely pubescent; segments II and IV glossy; pronotum slightly or significantly wider than head, distinctly transverse; metatarsi shorter than half of length of metatibia; median lobe of the aedeagus moderately to very slender; internal sac with long parallel structures, each with specifically modified subapical plates; flagellum long, coiled in basal part; and parameres very slender.

The aim of this study was to establish new combination of diagnostic features for the genus *Trichodromeus*, redescribe the species and provide new, detailed illustration of the aedeagus, because those provided by Coiffait (1983: Figs. H, I) are oversimplified. *Trichodromeus pusillus* is now the smallest member of the genus and possesses distinctive, thick antennomeres.

Examined material is deposited in the following institutions: MNHNP—Muséum National d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France (A. Taghavian); CT—private collection of M. Tronquet, Moltg les Bains, France; CS—private collection of A.V. Shavrin, Daugavpils, Latvia.

Methods. Morphological studies were carried out using Zeiss Discovery V8 and V12 stereomicroscopes. A digital camera (Sony Alpha DSLR-A300) was used for taking photographs and all the figures were enhanced using Adobe Photoshop software. All measurements are given in millimeters.

Trichodromeus pusillus Coiffait, 1983 comb. n.

(Figs. 1–3)

Geodromicus pusillus Coiffait, 1983:279

Type material. Holotype of *Geodromicus pusillus*, male: [North India] 'Cachemire [Kashmir] 8-80 Rohtang Pass 4000 m G.M[eurgues].—G. L[edoux].', 'TYPE' <printed red label>, '*Geodromicus pusillus* H. Coiffait 1981' (MNHNP); Paratypes of *Geodromicus pusillus*, 2 males, 1 female: same labels as the previous except label 'Paratype' <printed red label> (MNHNP); Paratypes of *Geodromicus pusillus*, 1 male, 1 female: 'Cachemire, VIII.79 Pahalgam 3800 Sheshnag G.M[eurgues].—G.L[edoux].', 'Paratype' <printed red label>, '*Geodromicus pusillus* H. Coiffait 1981' (MNHNP).

Additional material. 3 males, 3 females: Cachemire, Godasar, 21.7.81, G. Ledoux (CT, CS); 1 male: Cachemire, Lac de Gangabal, 25.7.81, G. Ledoux leg. (CT); 1 female: Cachemire, Gangabal, 27.7.81, G. Ledoux (CT); 2 females: Cachemire, Glacier Harmukh, 25.7.81, G. Ledoux (CT).