Taxonomy of 'Euconnus complex'. Part II. Revision of Archiconnus Franz, Parapseudoconnus Franz and Mexiconnus gen. nov. (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae)

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Abstract

Neotropical Scydmaeninae Archiconnus Franz and Parapseudoconnus Franz (with two subgenera) are re-defined and details of their morphology are illustrated. Archiconnus mexicanus Franz is placed in a separate genus Mexiconnus gen. nov. (resulting in a new combination Mexiconnus mexicanus (Franz)). The current division of Parapseudoconnus into the nominotypical subgenus and a subgenus Neuraphomimus Franz is weakly supported by only minor morphological differences, but the subgenera are retained, pending further study. Archiconnus huallaganus Franz, Mexiconnus mexicanus, Parapseudoconnus (s. str.) aberrans Franz and P. (Neuraphomimus) simulator Franz are redescribed, while detailed redescriptions of P. (N.) fraudulentus Franz and P. (N.) monticola Franz were not possible due to partly or entirely damaged type specimens.

Key words: Insecta, Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae, Cyrtoscydmini, Euconnus, Archiconnus, Parapseudoconnus, Mexiconnus, Neuraphomimus, Neotropical, taxonomy

Introduction

In the first part of this study (Jałoszyński 2012) the morphology of the nominotypical subgenus of Euconnus Thomson, 1859 was described and illustrated in detail, to facilitate further comparisons and taxonomic studies on this largest and most challenging scydmaenine genus that currently includes nearly 2500 described species. Moreover, two Neotropical genera belonging to the 'Euconnus complex', Euconnomorphus Franz, 1980 and Venezolanoconnus Franz, 1980 were revised and their morphology was compared to that of Euconnus s. str. In the second part two highly similar to Euconnus and problematic Neotropical genera Archiconnus Franz, 1980 and Parapseudoconnus Franz, 1980 (with two subgenera) are treated. To date it was even hardly possible to identify these genera, because their author gave only fragmentary descriptions and did not mention important characters of the body venter (Franz 1980).

Archiconnus was described to accommodate a single species from Peru, A. huallaganus Franz, 1980, as a taxon highly similar to Euconnus, especially to the subgenus Napochus Thomson, 1859 (Franz 1980). The label data of the holotype suggest that Franz initially intended to place Archiconnus as a subgenus of Euconnus. Diagnostic characters used to define the new genus, e.g. the shape of pronotum and its bristle-like vestiture or a broadened maxillary palpomere III seem to have rather little taxonomic importance. Later Franz (1994) described another species from Mexico and placed it in Archiconnus, probably on the basis of the aedeagi of both species, which indeed, illustrated in an approximately latero-ventral view, may seem similar (Franz 1980, Fig. 173 and Franz 1994, Fig. 72). However, Franz (1994) mentioned that this new species, A. mexicanus Franz, 1994, was placed in Archiconnus only provisionally and it was not possible to properly examine all important characters to support this placement. Differences in the general appearance between A. huallaganus and A. mexicanus are indeed striking, and a comparison carried out during the present study revealed further characters that differ beyond limits of an intra-generic variability.

In 1980 Franz described a new genus Pseudoconnus with three species placed in the nominotypical subgenus