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A new species of *Siamites* Franz (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae) from Thailand

PAWEŁ JAŁOSZYŃSKI

Museum of Natural History, Wrocław University, Sienkiewicza 21, 50-335 Wrocław, Poland. E-mail: scydmaenus@yahoo.com

Abstract

A new species of so far monospecific genus *Siamites*, *S. complicatus* sp. n., is described. The type specimens were collected in the Krabi Province of Thailand. Morphology of the new species is described and illustrated in details, including male genitalia, and the distribution of *Siamites* is summarized.

Key words: Cyrtoscydmini, *Siamites*, new species, Oriental, Thailand

Introduction

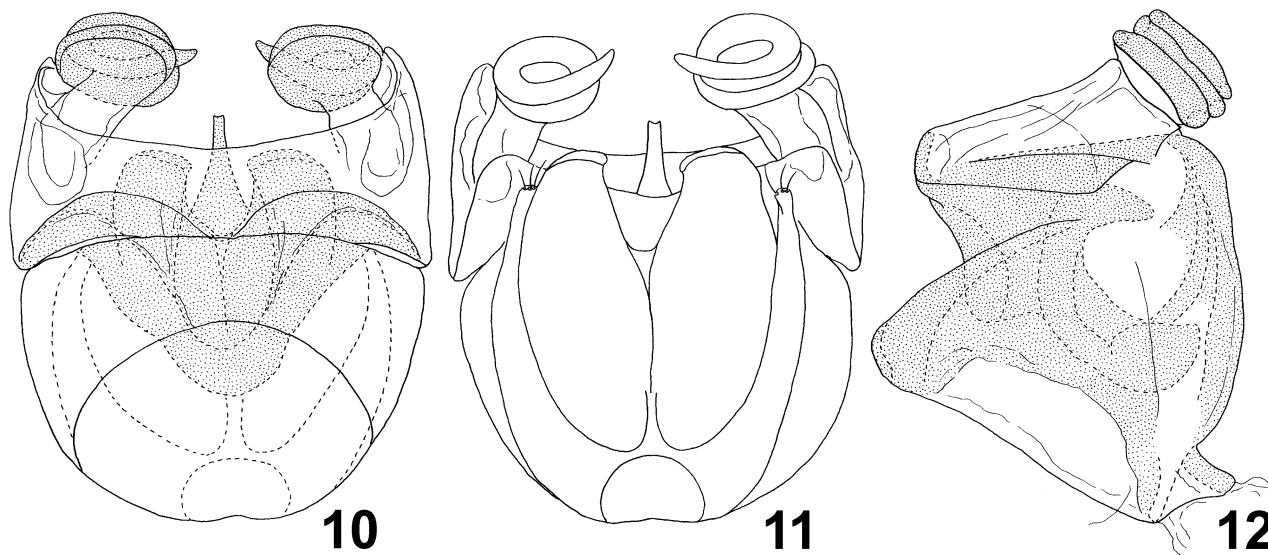
The genus *Siamites* was described by Franz (1989) for a single species, *S. loebli*, from the central part of Thailand (national parks Kaeng Krachan and Khao Yai). Franz placed this genus in a new tribe of Scydmaeninae, Siamitini, but the tribal diagnosis was unclear and mainly based on characters that Siamitini lack in relation to Chevrolatiini and Cyrtoscydmini. Moreover, the generic diagnosis of *Siamites* was also inadequate and identification of the genus based on the original description (Franz 1989) was hardly possible. *Siamites* was then revised by Jałoszyński (2005) and basing on the morphology of type specimens not only the genus was redefined, but also Siamitini was placed as a junior synonym of Cyrtoscydmini.

Siamites remained an enigmatic taxon, known from a single species and only a few specimens. This genus shows a highly unusual and remarkable body vestiture, not known in any other Cyrtoscydmini. Besides basic vestiture of thin setae distributed on most body parts, and thick bristles on the sides of head and prothorax, *Siamites* has dense bunches and rosettes of bristles arranged in regular rows and arcs across the vertex, along anterior margin of the prosternum, across the mesoventrite, along posterior margins of mesocoxal cavities and along posterior margins of abdominal sternites. Bunches of similar bristles on tempora or postgenae can also be found in Chevrolatiini (O'Keefe 1997) or, rarely, in some Cyrtoscydmini (e.g., *Euconnomorphus* Franz; see Jałoszyński (2012)), but they never form a transverse arc on the vertex composed of four rosettes or semi-rosettes, as in *Siamites*.

A discovery in a museum collection of a new, undescribed species of *Siamites*, reported in the present paper, allowed for a more detailed analysis of morphology, and a modification of the generic diagnosis to accommodate newly found characters. The new species, described below under the name *Siamites complicatus* sp. n., also occurs in Thailand and significantly extends southwards the known distribution range of this genus.

Materials and methods

Dry-mounted specimens were relaxed in warm water and dissected; details of morphology were studied in temporary transparent slides in glycerol, except for aedeagi, which were mounted in Canada balsam. Habitus images were taken by a Nikon Coolpix 4500 camera mounted on a Nikon Eclipse 1500 stereoscopic microscope (Nikon, Tokyo, Japan). Image stacks were processed using COMBINE ZP (Hadley 2010). Details of morphology were figured by a freehand drawing, with exact proportions and general shapes sketched from photographs. The



FIGURES 10–12. *Siamites complicatus* sp. n. Aedeagus in ventral (10), dorsal (11) and lateral (12) views.

Metaventrite (Fig. 9) with several rosettes of dense bristles along posterior margin of mesocoxal cavities.

Each abdominal sternite (Fig. 9; only abdominal ventrites I–III shown) with several bunches of dense setae along posterior margin.

Legs moderately long and slender; mesocoxae (Fig. 9) with two bunches of dense bristles on posterior margin.

Aedeagus (Figs. 10–12) stout and small; AeL 0.13 mm; median lobe divided by transverse fold into basal and apical parts; apical part with lateral sclerites each forming a spiral with tip of sclerite directed mesad; internal sclerotization complex, in ventral view with large subtriangular and dark structure in middle and subconical apex of copulatory piece projecting distally; parameres short but slender, each with three apical setae.

Female. Unknown.

Distribution. Southern Thailand, Krabi Prov. (Fig. 5).

Etymology. The name *complicatus* refers to the structure of the aedeagus, far more complex than that of *S. loebli*.

Remarks. *Siamites complicatus* clearly differs from *S. loebli* not only in the aedeagus with lateral apical corkscrew-like sclerites (absent in *S. loebli*) but also in distinctly stouter body, with the elytral index 1.35–1.39, while males of *S. loebli* have more slender elytra, with EI = 1.44–1.52 (and females 1.50–1.55). To date, *Siamites* was known only from two localities in Central Thailand: the Kaeng Krachan and Khao Yai National Parks (Fig. 5). The discovery of the new species in the Krabi Province extends the range of *Siamites* nearly 600 km southward.

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