



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3847.2.9>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:DB67AE6C-3803-4D64-9A1E-965B215DA469>

A new minute pirate bug of the genus *Scoloposcelis* (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Anthocoridae) from West Malaysia

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Abstract

Scoloposcelis seidaii sp. nov. is described from the Malay Peninsula based on a single specimen collected under the bark of a decaying tree. This discovery represents the first distribution record of the genus *Scoloposcelis* from Malaysia. Habitus photographs and diagnosis of *S. parallela* (Motschulsky, 1863) are provided for comparison with *S. seidaii*.

Key words: Scolopini, Scolopina, new species, new record, the Malay Peninsula

Introduction

Scoloposcelis Fieber, 1864 belongs to the subtribe Scolopina Carayon, 1972 of the tribe Scolopini Carayon, 1954. Most genera of the tribe are endemic to the Neotropical Region, however, *Scoloposcelis* is known to be widespread in the Old and New Worlds. Recently Carpintero & Dellapé (2012) established the new genus *Ameroscolopa* to accommodate two North and Central American species, *S. flavicornis* Reuter, 1871 and *S. basilicus* Drake & Harris, 1926. As a consequence, *Scoloposcelis* is currently represented by 10 species restricted to the Old World. In Southeast Asia, only a single species, *Scoloposcelis parallela* (Motschulsky, 1863), has been recorded until now (e.g. Péricart 1996; Bu & Zheng 2001). Although this species is known from the Indo-Australian Region and also extends to eastern Asia, distribution records are fragmented and there is no reliable record of the species - or the genus *Scoloposcelis* from Malaysia.

Among the numerous specimens of Anthocoridae collected on field trips by my colleagues and myself in Southeast Asia was an unrecognized species of the genus *Scoloposcelis* from the Malayan peninsula. I now describe it as the new species *Scoloposcelis seidaii*. This discovery thus represents the first distribution record of the genus *Scoloposcelis* from Malaysia. Habitus photographs and diagnosis of *S. parallela* are also provided for comparison with this new species.

Material and methods

Specimens examined in this study are deposited in National Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, Japan (NIAES), National Museum of Nature and Sciences, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, Japan (NSMT), and Tokushima Prefectural Museum, Tokushima, Japan (TKPM).

Photographs were taken using a Hirox digital microscope KH-7700 (Figs. 1–3, 5–7) and a Canon EOS Kiss X2, plus a NY-1S mount adapter, with Nikon Stereoscopic Zoom Microscope SMZ1500 (Figs. 4, 8). Illustrations (Figs. 9–12) were made using a Nikon SMZ1500 with the aid of an eyepiece grid.

All measurements are given in millimeters. In the main, the terminology follows that of Carayon (1972).

South Cotabato, Mindanao Is., 10. viii. 1985, Y. Nishikawa leg. (NSMT). TAIWAN: 2♂ (one in Figs. 5–7), Koshun, Kuraru, 25. vii. 1941, A. Kira leg. (NIAES); 1♂ (Fig. 8) 2♀, Antsun, 14. viii. 1941, H. Hasegawa leg. (NIAES); 1♂, Fenshueiling, 26. iii. 2004, T. Tsuru leg. (TKPM). The specimens in NIAES are attached with Isamu Hiura's identification label.

Diagnosis. Recognized by the following combination of characters: antennae (Fig. 5) generally fuscous, segment II as long as head width across eyes; posterior pronotal width (Figs. 5, 7) about 1.5 times as wide as anterior width; hemelytra (Fig. 5) generally dark brown, but basal half of endocorium and enbolium paler brown; pro- and metafemur spinose ventrally, but mesofemur without ventral spines; profemur with only four large ventral spines; uradenia (Fig. 8) with a row of 45 macrotrichia anterior to the orifice.

Distribution. India (Muraleedharan & Ananthkrishnan, 1978), Sri Lanka (Distant, 1906), Indonesia (Poppius, 1909), Philippines (Poppius, 1909), China (Bu & Zheng, 2001), Taiwan (Poppius, 1914), Japan (Yasunaga, 2001), Papua New Guinea (Cassis & Gross, 1995), Australia (Cassis & Gross, 1995), Micronesia (Caroline Is., Mariana Is. for Herring, 1967; Guam for Usinger, 1946),

Acknowledgments

I am grateful to Mr. S. Nagashima (Itami City Museum of Insects, Hyogo) for kindly providing the materials and to Dr. M. Tomokuni (NSMT) and Dr. Y. Nakatani (NIAES) for the loan of materials. I also thank Prof. T. Hirowatari (Kyushu University, Fukuoka) and Dr. T. Yasunaga (American Museum of Natural History, New York) for their continuous advice and encouragement to my study. Thanks are extended to the editor, Dr. D. A. Rider and the anonymous referees for reviewing of the manuscript with useful comments and kind suggestions. This study was partly supported by Grant-in-Aid for Young Scientists (B) from JSPS (No. 25840150).

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