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Review of species of the genus *Nicotikis* Marseul, 1883 (Coleoptera: Histeridae) from Southeast Asia

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Abstract

A study of specimens of family Histeridae from Southeast Asia yielded two species of the genus *Nicotikis*, which are here described: *Nicotikis kabakovi* sp. n. (Thailand and Vietnam) and *N. korshunovi* sp. n. (Thailand). Both species are illustrated and a key to species of *Nicotikis* from Southeast Asia is provided.

Key words: Coleoptera, *Nicotikis*, Histeridae, Thailand, Vietnam, new species

Introduction

The clown beetle genus *Nicotikis* Marseul, 1883 is a member of the tribe Platysomatini within the subfamily Histerinae. Species of *Nicotikis* are small beetles with a dorsal habitus typical of the tribe. They differ from members of the closely related genus *Eblisia* by the presence of a median mesosternal stria. The genus has an Oriental distribution and hitherto was represented by five species (Mazur, 1997, 2007, 2011): *N. lineipennis* (Lewis, 1905) from India, *N. gratus* Cooman, 1941 from Vietnam and Nepal, *N. incisipyge* (Marseul, 1883) from Indonesia (Sumatra, Borneo), *N. lackneri* Mazur, 2007 (Malaysia: Pahang) and *N. bellator* Mazur, 2007 (Malaysia: Sabah). One unidentified specimen of *Nicotikis* is also known from Thailand: Phuket (Vienna & Yélamos, 2006).

The species *Platysoma incisipyge* described by S. Marseul (1883) was assigned to the genus *Nicotikis* by Lewis (1889). Then the genus *Nicotikis* was synonymized with genus *Eblisia* (Lewis, 1903), but later was reinstated as valid by Cooman (1941). The main differences between *Nicotikis* and *Eblisia* include an elongated body, bordered by the base of the pronotum, and the presence of high mesosternal stria. Lewis (1905) described *Eblisia tenuipes*, which subsequently became the type species of the genus *Mendelius* Lewis, 1908. Later the genus *Mendelius* was also synonymized with *Nicotikis* by Cooman (1941). This placement was followed by Mazur (1997), who also supposed that *Mendelius* is a synonym of *Nicotikis* and contained 4 species. Subsequently, Mazur (2007) regarded *Mendelius* as a separate genus and reinstated it with two species (Mazur, 2011). The putative differences between the genera *Mendelius* and *Nicotikis* are the absence of a fovea on the pygidium and the presence of median mesosternal stria.

During fieldwork in Thailand in 2010, I was able to collect *Nicotikis* specimens under the bark of trees and under rotting leaves of bamboo (Fig. 1). Based on this material and additional specimens loaned to me by A. Koval and A. Korshunov, it became clear there were two new species of the genus that are here described.

Material and methods

Determination of material and production photographs made by Zeiss Stemi 2000-C and Altami PS0745-T binocular microscopes. The labels of O.N. Kabakov (ZISP) were printed-written in Russian.

Morphological terminology mainly follows M. Ôhara (1994) (Fig. 2): **PEL**: length from anterior edge of pronotum to elytral apex; **EW**: maximal width between outer margins of elytra.

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