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Two new species of *Paraneseuthia* Franz (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae) from West Malaysia

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Abstract

Two new species of *Paraneseuthia* are described from peninsular Malaysia: *P. joeparkeri* sp. n. from Bukit Larut (Maxwell Hill) and *P. titiwangsana* sp. n. from the Genting Highlands. The new species are morphologically allied to species known so far only from Sumatra; they all share emarginate apex of the aedeagus bordered at each side by a subtriangular projection and a pair of setae. This is the first record of this eutheine genus from the Malay Peninsula and extends the known diversity of *Paraneseuthia* species within the historical Sundaland area.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae, Eutheini, *Paraneseuthia*, new species, Oriental, West Malaysia

Introduction

The remarkable genus *Paraneseuthia* Franz, 1986 is unique not only among Eutheini, but also among all Scydmaeninae, in having three-segmented maxillary palpi. It is also the most diverse genus of Eutheini, comprising species strongly elongate and flattened to suboval and strongly convex, light and dark brown or even bicolorous, and with short and recumbent to long and strongly erect setae. A recent phylogenetic study of all genera currently placed in the Cephenniitae (Jałoszyński 2014) supported the placement of *Paraneseuthia* within Eutheini, as a sister taxon of *Euthiconus* Reitter, 1882, as suggested previously in a smaller analysis (Jałoszyński 2011).

The distribution of *Paraneseuthia* is intriguing, as it includes regions of temperate or even cool but also tropical climate and areas located at both sides of the Wallace line. Eighteen described species are known from the Russian Far East and Japan (5 spp.), Sumatra, New Guinea and Australia (11 spp.) and Fiji (2 spp.). Several undescribed species were also seen by the author from Borneo, the Moluccas and the Christmas Island. The most remarkable finding of recent years was a discovery of initially two, and later another three species in Australia (Jałoszyński 2011, 2013) and diverse Sundaland and New Guinean representatives, including several yet undescribed species known from females only (Jałoszyński 2008, 2009, 2010). These newly accumulated data from females only (Jałoszyński 2008, 2009, 2010). These newly accumulated data inspired a phylogenetic and biogeographic study that allowed to hypothesize a Sundaland origin of *Paraneseuthia*, with three major dispersal routes from a center located in present-day Sumatra: (i) north-eastern colonization of the Palearctic Far East, via a continental or island-arc route; (ii) south-eastern dispersal to East Australia; and (iii) eastern dispersal to Melanesia, possibly via the Quaternary Outer-Melanesian Arc (Jałoszyński 2011).

Interestingly, despite the presence of *Paraneseuthia* in Borneo and Sumatra, so far this genus has not been found in the Malay Peninsula. In the present paper this distributional gap is filled with two interesting species discovered in the Maxwell's Hill and Genting Highlands of the West Malaysia.

Material and methods

Ethanol-preserved specimens were dissected; aedeagi were mounted in Canada balsam and beetles were dry-mounted. Morphological terms are used after Jałoszyński (2010). The measurements and abbreviations are as follows:

gradually narrowing in apical region, with emarginate apex and two lateral apical subtriangular projections each bearing small seta mesally, sclerotized internal armature located in large subapical area and containing curved ribbon-like structure distinctly narrowing distally; ventral diaphragm circular and located sub-basally; parameres slender, not reaching apex of median lobe, each with one apical seta.

Female. Unknown.

Distribution. Peninsular Malaysia, border area between Pahang and Selangor.

Etymology. Locotypical, after the Titiwangsa Mountains, where the Genting Highlands are located.

Remarks. In the general body shape and pigmentation this species resembles *P. bicolor* from Sumatra. However, the subapical ribbon-like structure of the endophallus seen in *P. titiwangsana* is not present in *P. bicolor*, which has a pair of lateral elongate and curved sclerites instead. See also remarks for *P. joeparkeri* **sp. n.**.

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