



Revision of Neotropical species of ant-like stone beetles misplaced in *Stenichnus* and *Scydmoraphes* (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae)

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Abstract

Genera *Stenichnus* and *Scydmoraphes* are distributed in the Northern Hemisphere, with a few rather peculiar species described from South America. Type series of *Stenichnus andicola* Franz, *Scydmoraphes venezolanus* Franz and *Scydmoraphes peruanus* Franz were examined and the first of these species is transferred to *Sciacharis* Broun, while two new generic names are established to accommodate the two latter species: *Meridaphes* **gen. n.** and *Perumicrus* **gen. n.** This results in three new combinations: *Sciacharis (incertae sedis) andicola* (Franz) **comb. n.**, *Meridaphes venezolanus* (Franz) **comb. n.**, and *Perumicrus peruanus* (Franz) **comb. n.** Morphological structures of all treated taxa are described and illustrated in detail.

Key words: Insecta, Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae, Cyrtoscydmini, *Stenichnus*, *Scydmoraphes*, *Meridaphes*, *Perumicrus*, Neotropical, taxonomy

Introduction

Genera *Stenichnus* Thomson, 1859 and *Scydmoraphes* Reitter, 1891 are Northern Hemisphere taxa. They have been recorded also from the Southern Hemisphere, but on the basis of rather peculiar species showing characters that suggested a possible misplacement. Several Australian-Pacific species were placed in *Stenichnus*, but currently they belong in separate genera *Austrostenichnus* Franz, 1971, *Scydmaenilla* King, 1864 and *Zeanichnus* Jałoszyński, 2013a (Jałoszyński 2013a). The taxonomic position of one South American species of *Stenichnus* and two of *Scydmoraphes* remained to be verified.

Stenichnus andicola Franz, 1980a from Bolivia was placed in strictly Northern Hemisphere subgenus, *Cyrtoscydmus* Motschulsky, 1870 (this name was later synonymized with *Stenichnus* s. str.). The original description and the illustration of the aedeagus given by Franz (1980a) suggested a possibility that this species was in fact not congeneric with the Palaearctic type species of *Stenichnus*. *Scydmoraphes* is also a Northern Hemisphere genus, similarly as *Stenichnus* especially common and species-rich in western Palaearctic, where its type species comes from. The more surprising are two species placed in this genus that occur in Peru (*Scydmoraphes peruanus* Franz, 1980a) and Venezuela (*Scydmoraphes venezolanus* Franz, 1988). Also in the case of these species, already original descriptions suggest a possibility of erroneous placement. The present study is focused on clarifying the taxonomic status of *Stenichnus* and *Scydmoraphes* species described by Herbert Franz from South America.

Material and methods

Depositories

NHMW—Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Vienna, Austria (H. Schillhammer)