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Review of the *Megauchenia* Macleay of India (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae: Prometopinae)

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Abstract

Three species of *Megauchenia* Macleay [*M. angustata* (Erichson, 1843), *M. quadricollis* (Reitter, 1883) and *M. indica* (Grouvelle, 1908)] were studied based on a collection from India. The genus and the species are re-described. A key to the species of *Megauchenia* from India is appended.

Key words: Sap beetle, Systematics, Classification, Key, Oriental region

Introduction

A sizeable collection of *Megauchenia* Macleay, 1825, from across India, with the highest proportion from the northeastern states formed the basis of this study. Three species of *Megauchenia*, hitherto recorded from India, are not yet adequately described and illustrated and this deficiency has been addressed in the present account.

Megauchenia is a comparatively small genus represented mainly in the Indo-Malayan zone of the Oriental region. Macleay (1825) erected the genus *Megauchenia* under the family 'Engidae' for the lone species, *Megauchenia setipennis* Macleay from Java Island. Erichson (1843) erected the genus *Ischaena* and included two species, *Ischaena angustata* Erichson and *Ischaena elongata* Erichson. Lacordaire (1854) and Reitter (1873) characterized the genus *Ischaena*. Reitter (1883) described a species, *Ischaena quadricollis* from Java, Indonesia. Grouvelle (1908) placed the genus *Ischaena* in the tribe Nitidulini, recorded two species from the Indian subcontinent, *Ischaena angustata* Erichson and *Ischaena quadricollis* Reitter and described one more species, *Ischaena indica* Grouvelle from Nilgiri Hills, South India. Grouvelle (1913a) in the "*Coleopterorum Catalogus*" synonymized *Ischaena* Erichson with *Megauchenia* Macleay. Heller (1923) added three species to the genus *Megauchenia* from Borneo and Philippines and provided a key to the species of *Megauchenia*. Kirejtshuk (1990) described three more species to the genus from Indo-Malayan zone and synonymized *M. sandacana* Heller, 1923 with *M. foveicollis* (Reitter, 1880). Audisio & Jelínek (1993) dealt with the interrelationships of *Megauchenia* and other related genera of Nitidulinae. Kirejtshuk (2005), while dealing with the nitidulid fauna of Taiwan, reported on the distributional range of *M. angustata* (Erichson, 1843) and *M. quadricollis rotundata* Kirejtshuk, 1990. Jelínek & Audisio (2007) in the "*Catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera*" provided some additional distribution data on *Megauchenia* species from India. Kirejtshuk (2008) erected a group, '*Megauchenia*-complex,' comprised of *Megauchenia* and five other genera of Nitidulinae (*Axyra* Erichson, *Tetrisus* Murray, *Megaucheniodes* Audisio & Jelínek, *Taraphia* Audisio & Jelínek and *Pseudoplatychora* Grouvelle). He (op. cit.) synonymized *Orvoenia* Dajoz (described under Coleoptera: Colydiidae) with this genus. Cline *et al.* (2014) erected the subfamily Prometopinae (consisting of the genera *Axyra* Erichson, *Pseudoplatychora* Grouvelle, *Platychora* Erichson, *Parametopia* Reitter, *Palaetometopia* Kirejtshuk, *Taraphia* Audisio & Jelínek, *Megaucheniodes* Audisio & Jelínek, *Prometopia* Erichson and *Megauchenia* Macleay) under Nitidulidae primarily on the basis of a molecular phylogeny as well as the following morphological features: paired postocular lateral sulci on head, distinctly diverging femoral lines on abdominal ventrite I, meso- and metacoxae widely separated, tarsi simple, etc.

Altogether, 13 species of *Megauchenia* are hitherto recorded from across the world: *M. alternans* Heller, 1923,