



A taxonomic study of the Indian species of *Euops* Schoenherr (Coleoptera: Curculionoidea: Attelabidae)

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Abstract

The *Euops* species of India excluding the Himalaya region are revised. Seven species are recorded from the area, placed in three subgenera (*Parasynaptopsis* Legalov, 2003 **stat. n.**, *Flavoriedeliops* Legalov, 2003 **stat. n.** and *Riedeliops* Alonso-Zarazaga & Lyal, 2002) as follows: *E. (Parasynaptopsis) andrewesi* Voss, 1935, *E. (Flavoriedeliops) tamilnadunsis* Legalov (2003), *E. (Riedeliops) bowringii* Jekel, 1860, *E. (Riedeliops) indicus* (Legalov, 2004), *E. (Riedeliops) keiseri* Voss, 1957, *E. (Riedeliops) pseudoindicus* **sp. n.** and *E. (Riedeliops) trichinopoliensis* (Legalov, 2007). Diagnoses are provided for the subgenera *E. (Parasynaptopsis)* and *E. (Flavoriedeliops)* and a description for *E. (Riedeliops)*. The genera *Asynaptops* Legalov, 2007, *Nigroeuops* Legalov, 2003, *Orienteuops* Legalov, 2003 and *Sawadaeuops* Legalov, 2003 are downgraded to subgenera and synonymised with *E. (Riedeliops)* (**syn. n.**), as are the subgenera *Asynaptopsis* Legalov, 2007 and *Orienteuopsidius* Legalov, 2008 (**syn. n.**), while the genera *Indoeuops* Legalov, 2007, *Morphoeuops* Legalov, 2003 are synonymised with *E. (Parasynaptopsis)* (**syn. n.**). *Euops bowringii* Jekel, 1860, *E. indicus* (Legalov, 2004) **comb. n.**, *E. keiseri* Voss, 1957, *E. rasuwanus* (Legalov, 2003) **comb. n.** and *E. trichinopoliensis* (Legalov 2007) **comb. n.** are transferred to *E. (Riedeliops)* and *E. andrewesi* Voss, 1935 to *E. (Parasynaptopsis)* (**new placements**). The following new synonymies are proposed: *Euops andrewesi* Voss, 1935 (= *E. ammattiensis* (Legalov, 2007) **syn. n.**); *Euops bowringii* Jekel, 1860 (= *E. armipes* Voss, 1933 **syn. n.**, *E. submetallicus* Voss, 1935, **syn. n.**, *Asynaptops (Asynaptopsis) colombensis* Legalov, 2007, **syn. n.**); *Euops (Riedeliops) rasuwanus* (Legalov), 2003 (= *Parasynaptops bengalensis* Legalov, 2007, **syn. n.**). Lectotypes are designated for the names *E. andrewesi*, *E. bowringii*, *E. armipes* and *E. submetallicus*. One new species, *E. pseudoindicus* **sp. n.**, and one new subspecies, *E. keiseri nilgiriensis* **ssp. n.**, are proposed. All species are described or redescribed in detail, primary types and relevant characters are illustrated, a key to the species is provided and the distributions of the species are mapped.

Key words: *Euops*, Attelabidae, India, taxonomy

Introduction

Euops Schoenherr is an Old-World monophyletic genus of leaf-rolling weevils (Attelabidae). Its distribution extends from South Australia through Asia to Africa and Madagascar, with the majority of the species confined to wet tropical regions. New Guinea is a hotspot of evolution for this genus (Riedel 2002a). It can be diagnosed among the Attelabinae by the large, medially contiguous eyes, a patch of transverse rows of modified setae on the abdominal ventrites in the female and by several other characters as outlined by Riedel (2002a). With a body length of 1.5–3.0 mm (excluding the head) they are the smallest members of Indian Attelabinae. Relatively few species are recorded from India, Riedel (1998) listing only seven, four of which being confined to the Himalaya, namely *E. championi* Voss, *E. gardneri* Marshall, *E. kharsu* Voss and *E. viridicollis* Voss. Additional species from Nepal are recorded by Legalov (2003, 2007). The Himalayan fauna of *Euops* appears to share many groups with China and South-East Asia, whereas the number of species and species-groups on the Indian subcontinent, south of the Himalaya, is smaller, and even though some more species may be discovered there with additional field work, the increase is unlikely to be significant. However, the taxonomy of these species is quite confused, and it is revised in this paper, whereas the species from the Himalaya largely fall outside the scope of the study.

The taxonomy of *Euops* was greatly complicated by the works of two authors, Eduard Voss and Andrei Legalov. As common for his time, Voss delineated his numerous species of *Euops* by only a short description of external characters, never studying the genitalia, and most of his descriptions are therefore inadequate for safe diagnosis of the species. At times he even created synonyms of species he himself had described a few years earlier. Careful examination of Voss' type specimens is essential to resolve and stabilise the taxonomy of his species. Legalov evidently rarely did this in his more recent studies of Attelabidae, including of *Euops*, basing his interpretation of Voss' and other authors' species on their descriptions only. His own descriptions are usually equally short and misleading and, as a result, his work has created numerous additional taxonomic and nomenclatural problems, as exemplified by his treatment of *E. andrewesi* and *E. keiseri* as detailed below.