



Description of *Podosilis geukdongensis* n. sp. (Coleoptera: Cantharidae) from South Korea

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Abstract

Podosilis geukdongensis n. sp. from South Korea is described, illustrated and compared with the closely related species *P. omissa* (Wittmer, 1954). The *P. omissa* group is established and defined.

Key words: Taxonomy, Coleoptera, Cantharidae, *Podosilis*, new group, new species, Far East Asia, Palearctic Region

Introduction

The genus *Podosilis* Wittmer, 1978 was established on the basis of *Silis fruhstorferi* Pic, 1906 (type species) and four additional species. These species were originally classified as a primitive group within the genus *Silis* Mulsant, 1862 because of the form of the pronotum and aspect of the aedeagus. Wittmer (1978) established *Podosilis* as a separate genus based on the following characters: pronotum with pores around each anterior angle; males with all inner tarsal claws cleft at the apex and all outer claws simple or with rather large lobes as a basal part; females with all tarsal claws simple. In a review of the Indo-Malayan *Podosilis*, Wittmer (1997) classified 38 species into seven groups – *obscurissima*, *longelobata*, *thailandica*, *pallidiventris*, *jeanvoinei*, *robusticornis*, and *circumcincta* – based on body size, body color, antenna shape, and abdominal structure. However, Takahashi and Okushima (1999) reported that the Japanese species, *P. omissa* (Wittmer, 1954), differs slightly from the original description of the genus *Podosilis* by having only one rather than two distinct pores on the pronotum of each sex.

Worldwide, 53 species of *Podosilis* have been described (Takahashi & Okushima, 1999; Wittmer, 1978, 1992a, 1992b, 1997; Kazantsev & Brancucci, 2007). Wittmer (1978) reported that the genus is distributed in the Middle East (Afghanistan), the Indo-Malayan region (Sikkim, Sri Lanka, Sumatra), China (Kansu), and Japan. Kazantsev (1994) suggested that *Podosilis* occurs only in the extreme southeast of the Palearctic and Indo-Malayan regions. However, recent studies have found most species to be distributed in the Oriental region and in the boundary area between the Palearctic and Oriental regions, with one species (*P. afghana* Wittmer, 1978) in the Middle East and another (*P. omissa*) in Far East Asia (Wittmer, 1997; Kazantsev & Brancucci, 2007). *Podosilis omissa* is a rare species that occurs locally only in Honshu, Japan (Okushima, 1994; Takahashi & Okushima, 1999).

We discovered a new species of *Podosilis* in riverside wetlands in the southern part of South Korea. This new species is distinct from the closely related *P. omissa* by characters of its antennae, pronotum, and aedeagus. Like *P. omissa*, it possesses only one centro-longitudinal pore on the pronotum. We describe here the new species, *P. geukdongensis* n. sp., and suggest that these two Far East Asian *Podosilis* species (*P. geukdongensis* and *P. omissa*) form a separate species group distinct from the seven previously described groups.