



The Indochinese members of the *Onthophagus (Parascatonomus) aurifex* species group (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae), with the description of a new species

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Abstract

The representatives of *Onthophagus (Parascatonomus) aurifex* species group from Indochina are reviewed and a new species of this group, *O. (Parascatonomus) alexeevi* sp. n., is described. Distribution data for all treated species are provided.

Key words: *Onthophagus*, *Parascatonomus*, Indochina, new species

Introduction

The representatives of the dung beetle genus *Onthophagus* Latreille, 1802 belonging to the *O. aurifex* species group (in the subgenus *Parascatonomus* Paulian, 1932) inhabiting Sundaland (the biogeographic region of Southeastern Asia that comprises the Malay Peninsula and maritime southeast Asian islands of Sumatra, Java, Borneo, with surrounding smaller islands) were recently defined and reviewed by Krikken and Huijbregts (2008). In the Sundaland region this group includes six species, most of which can be reliably distinguished using aedeagal characters. Such subtle limits between species in this group often cause misidentifications. These circumstances induced us to take a closer look at material of the *O. aurifex* species group from the adjacent Indochina region, to which up until now were identified uncritically using the names of Sundaland species. This paper deals with what is defined as the *O. aurifex* species complex of the same named species group. The examination of Indochinese material led to the recognition of one new species and new records for the *O. aurifex* species complex.

Materials and methods

Specimens and collections

The material examined in the present study is kept in the following institutions:

BMNH	The Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom (M. Kerley & M. Brendell)
RMNH	National Museum of Natural History, Leiden, The Netherlands (J. Krikken & J. Huijbregts)
ZISP	Zoological Institute, St.-Petersburg, Russia (A. Frolov)
ZMUC	Zoological Museum (Natural History Museum of Denmark), University of Copenhagen, Denmark (A. Solodovnikov & O. Martin)
ZMUM	Zoological Museum of Moscow State University, Russia (A. Gusakov)