



A contribution to *Sticholotis* Crotch from Myanmar (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae: Sticholotidini)

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Abstract

Known species of *Sticholotis* Crotch from Myanmar are redescribed, diagnosed and illustrated, and a key for their identification is presented. Notes on the genus and nomenclatural history for each species are provided. Lectotypes are designated for *Orcus bipunctatus* Gorham, *Orcus quadriguttatus* Gorham and *Orcus discoideus* Gorham. A neotype is designated for *Sticholotis dohrni* Weise.

Key words: taxonomy, Coleoptera, Cucujoidea, Chilocorini, Sticholotidini, *Orcus*, *Sticholotis*, Myanmar

Introduction

Sticholotis was established by Crotch (1874) for two new species from Japan, *Sticholotis substriatus* and *S. punctatus*, and *Lotis confucii* Mulsant, 1850, from Sarawak, Borneo. Crotch placed *Sticholotis* in the subfamily Chilocorides, which then included beetles with hemisphaerical, usually glabrous and simply punctate body, with very short antennae, with clypeus produced, marginating the eyes and epipleura more or less foveolate.

In more modern classifications, *Sticholotis* has been placed within the tribe Sticholotidini Weise, 1901, in the subfamily Sticholotidinae (Sasaji 1968), often regarded as the “most primitive” lineage of Coccinellidae (Sasaji 1971; Kovář 1996). This genus has been generally used to accommodate small or very small coccinellids possessing a terminal maxillary palpomere that is conical or strongly elongate-oval. Ślipiński (2007), while revising the Australian Coccinellidae, proposed only two coccinellid subfamilies, Microweiseinae and Coccinellinae, placing the tribe Sticholotidini in the latter.

Some species described in 19th century were placed originally in the chilocorine genera *Chilocorus* Leach and *Orcus* Mulsant but were later transferred to *Sticholotis* (e.g., *Orcus ferrugineus* Gorham, 1894, from India; *O. discoideus* Gorham, 1895, *O. carinicus* Gorham, 1895, *O. bipunctatus* Gorham, 1895, and *O. quadrimaculatus* Gorham, 1895, from Myanmar). Gorham originally placed them in *Orcus* based on the shape of the thorax, being “of the usual Chilocorid form” (Gorham 1894, 1895). However, he expressed his doubts in this placement, emphasizing in the original descriptions that these species “are placed provisionally in the genus *Orcus*”. Weise (1895) noticed that *O. ferrugineus* from India apparently did not belong to *Orcus* or even to Chilocorini and moved it to the genus *Sticholotis*. Similarly, Weise (1902) changed the generic placement of *O. discoideus* from Myanmar.

The remaining three Gorham species from Myanmar (*O. carinicus*, *O. bipunctatus* and *O. quadriguttatus*) remained classified under the genus *Orcus* until relatively recently (Korschevsky 1932; Poorani 2002). Interestingly, these were the only 3 species of *Orcus* recorded from mainland Asia.

While completing a revision of *Orcus* (Łączyński & Tomaszewska 2009), we had an opportunity to study the type specimens of these species, leading us to transfer them from *Orcus* to *Sticholotis*, based on the diagnosis and redefinition of the genus by Ślipiński (2004). After this transfer *Orcus sensu stricto* is absent in the Asian mainland.