



***Batriscenellus* Jeannel (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Pselaphinae) redefined, with notes on the Chinese species**

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Abstract

The genus *Batriscenellus* Jeannel is redefined, and its taxonomic placement discussed. The subgenera *Scaioscenellus* Jeannel, *Batriscenellinus* Nomura, and *Nipponoscenellus* Nomura are placed as synonyms of *Batriscenellus*, and the genus is divided into six species groups. Three eastern Chinese species, *B. chinensis*, *B. femoralis*, and *B. pulcher*, are described as new. The following new combinations are created: *B. auritus* (Löbl), *B. satoi* (Nomura) and *B. subpalpicolus* (Nomura), all moved from *Batrisciella* to *Batriscenellus*. New distributional records for *B. orientalis* and *B. auritus* in China are provided. Illustrations of major diagnostic characters are given for the new and the newly recorded Chinese species. An identification key to the species groups and to the Chinese species of *Batriscenellus* is given. A checklist of *Batriscenellus* is presented.

Key words: Pselaphinae, *Batriscenellus*, taxonomy, subgenus, species group, new species, new combination, key, China

Introduction

The genus *Batriscenellus* was described by Jeannel (1958) to include four Japanese species of the genus *Batriscus* Aubé. Jeannel placed these species into two subgenera. The nominal subgenus contained three species, the type species *B. fragilis* (Sharp), *B. japonicus* (Sharp), and *B. fallax* (Sharp). The other subgenus, *Scaioscenellus*, contained *B. similis* (Sharp).

Löbl (1973) described a new subspecies of *B. japonicus*, *B. japonicus vicarius* from North Korea. Kurbatov (1990) added two new species, *B. admonitor* Kurbatov and *B. insularis* Kurbatov, and recorded *B. japonicus vicarius* from the Russian Far East. Nomura (1991) revised the Japanese species of *Batriscenellus*, redefining the two existing subgenera and creating two more: *Batriscenellinus* and *Nipponoscenellus*. He added 11 new species: *B. kujumontanus*, *B. nodulifer*, *B. omogensis*, *B. punctatus*, *B. shiranui*, *B. ohishii*, *B. insulicola*, *B. pilosellus*, *B. sakaii*, *B. transformis* and *B. uenoi*, and moved *Batrisciella orientalis* Löbl to *Batriscenellus*, so that 16 species and one subspecies were then known from Japan.

Later, Nomura and Lee (1992; 1993) revised the pselaphine fauna of Chejudo Island of Korea and South Korea. They raised *B. japonicus vicarius* to the species level (1992) and erected a new subgenus (1993) *Coreoscenellus* for the new species *B. (C.) brachygaster* Nomura and Lee. Coulon and Li (1995) then recorded *B. vicarius* from Northeast China (Liaoning). Nomura (2001) transferred *Batriscenaulax puncticollis* (Sharp) to *Batriscenellus*, placing it in the nominal subgenus and placing *B. punctatus* Nomura as its junior synonym. Nomura later (2005) placed *B. brachygaster* as the junior synonym of *B. orientalis*, *Coreoscenellus* as the junior synonym of *Scaioscenellus*, and *B. insularis* as the junior synonym of *B. fallax*. He also discussed the distribution of *B. orientalis* (Löbl) and determined that the label data of the species was possibly misread by Löbl, concluding that this species is found in North and South Korea and possibly Taiwan, but does not occur in Japan.

At present *Batriscenellus* contains 18 valid species placed in four subgenera (with all subgenera being synonymized in this paper). Three new species are described and three new combinations are created in this paper.