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Systematic position of Australian genus *Palaeoscydmaenus* Franz (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Scydmaeninae)

PAWEŁ JAŁOSZYŃSKI

Museum of Natural History, Wrocław University, Sienkiewicza 21, 50-335 Wrocław, Poland. E-mail: scydmaenus@yahoo.com

Abstract

The Australian monospecific genus *Palaeoscydmaenus* Franz is revised based on the type material of *P. australiensis* Franz. The original placement of *Palaeoscydmaenus* in the tribe Scydmaenini is regarded as erroneous and evidence is provided to support a formal transfer of this genus to Cyrtoscydmini. Diagnostic characters of Scydmaenini and Cyrtoscydmini are discussed, *Palaeoscydmaenus* is redefined, and *P. australiensis* is redescribed.

Key words: Scydmaenini, Cyrtoscydmini, Australia

Introduction

In 1975 Herbert Franz described a new genus, *Palaeoscydmaenus*, with a new species, *P. australiensis* Franz, based on a single male specimen collected in South Australia (Franz 1975). Franz placed the new genus in the tribe Scydmaenini, but briefly discussed its systematic position as intermediary between Stenichnini (currently treated as a junior synonym of Cyrtoscydmini) and Scydmaenini. This placement was maintained in the world catalogue of genera by Newton & Franz (1998). However, the characters listed in the genus and species diagnoses and descriptions as well as those showed in illustrations seemed to be rather typical for Cyrtoscydmini and not for Scydmaenini, except the deeply emarginate apex of the antennal scape. In the course of revising Australian genera of Scydmaeninae, I had an opportunity to examine the holotype of *P. australiensis* and to verify its systematic position. The results, described below, clearly suggest that *Palaeoscydmaenus* was misplaced and it should be removed from Scydmaenini.

Materials and methods

Depositories of studied material

cPJ—collection of P. Jałoszyński, Wrocław, Poland

SAM—South Australian Museum, Adelaide, Australia (P. Hudson)

Specimen handling, imaging and measurements. The dry-mounted type specimen of *Palaeoscydmaenus* was relaxed in warm water and studied as a whole body temporary transparent mount in glycerol (after study washed and dry-mounted). The aedeagus, originally mounted in lateroventral position in euparal was remounted in Canada balsam. For comparative purposes representatives of the type genus of Scydmaenini (*Scydmaenus* Latreille, 1802) and Cyrtoscydmini (*Stenichnus* Thomson, 1859) were examined: *Scydmaenus* (s. str.) *tarsatus* Müller & Kunze, 1822; *Scydmaenus* (*Parallomicrus*) *rufus* Müller & Kunze, 1822 and *Stenichnus* (s. str.) *collaris* (Müller & Kunze, 1822) (cPJ). Specimens were studied using a Leica M205C stereomicroscope; images were taken by a Nikon Coolpix 4500 camera mounted on a Nikon SMZ 1500 stereoscopic microscope (Nikon, Tokyo, Japan). Image