



## Correspondence

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### On the taxonomic placement of *Geodromicus pusillus* Coiffait, 1983 (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Omaliinae)

ALEXEY V. SHAVRIN

Institute of Systematic Biology, Daugavpils University, Vienibas 13, Daugavpils, LV-5401, Latvia. E-mail: ashavrin@hotmail.com

Luze (1903:116) described the subgenus *Trichodromeus* Luze, 1903 for two species of *Geodromicus* L. Redtenbacher, 1857. Bordoni (1984:57) identified this taxon as a separate genus. Zerche (1992:126) redescribed *Trichodromeus*, synonymized *Neogeodromicus* Bordoni, 1985 with it and proposed phylogenetic relationships of this taxon. However, many Central Asian species previously described by various authors within *Geodromicus* also belong to the genus *Trichodromeus*.

During study of the material from Kashmir, provided to me for identification by my colleague Dr. M. Tronquet, and after study of the type material of *Geodromicus pusillus* Coiffait, 1983, it was apparent to me that this species has the characteristic morphological features (Zerche, 1992) of the genus *Trichodromeus*: body elongate and moderately convex, 3.7–8.6 mm in length; variable coloration from light-colored to dark brown, with body appendages and hind margins of pronotum lighter; punctation of forebody dense and moderately strong, interstices between punctures with well-defined microsculpture; eyes approximately as long as temples; temples expanded in varying degrees; ocelli well developed or reduced; mandibles with four teeth: tooth II and III of the left mandible elongate, and tooth IV of the left mandible of different shape, approximately rectangular; segment III of labial palpi expanded at apex, conspicuously dense and finely pubescent; segments II and IV glossy; pronotum slightly or significantly wider than head, distinctly transverse; metatarsi shorter than half of length of metatibia; median lobe of the aedeagus moderately to very slender; internal sac with long parallel structures, each with specifically modified subapical plates; flagellum long, coiled in basal part; and parameres very slender.

The aim of this study was to establish new combination of diagnostic features for the genus *Trichodromeus*, redescribe the species and provide new, detailed illustration of the aedeagus, because those provided by Coiffait (1983: Figs. H, I) are oversimplified. *Trichodromeus pusillus* is now the smallest member of the genus and possesses distinctive, thick antennomeres.

Examined material is deposited in the following institutions: MNHNP—Muséum National d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France (A. Taghavian); CT—private collection of M. Tronquet, Moltg les Bains, France; CS—private collection of A.V. Shavrin, Daugavpils, Latvia.

**Methods.** Morphological studies were carried out using Zeiss Discovery V8 and V12 stereomicroscopes. A digital camera (Sony Alpha DSLR-A300) was used for taking photographs and all the figures were enhanced using Adobe Photoshop software. All measurements are given in millimeters.

#### *Trichodromeus pusillus* Coiffait, 1983 comb. n.

(Figs. 1–3)

*Geodromicus pusillus* Coiffait, 1983:279

**Type material.** Holotype of *Geodromicus pusillus*, male: [North India] 'Cachemire [Kashmir] 8-80 Rohtang Pass 4000 m G.M[eurgues].—G. L[edoux].', 'TYPE' <printed red label>, '*Geodromicus pusillus* H. Coiffait 1981' (MNHNP); Paratypes of *Geodromicus pusillus*, 2 males, 1 female: same labels as the previous except label 'Paratype' <printed red label> (MNHNP); Paratypes of *Geodromicus pusillus*, 1 male, 1 female: 'Cachemire, VIII.79 Pahalgam 3800 Sheshnag G.M[eurgues].—G.L[edoux].', 'Paratype' <printed red label>, '*Geodromicus pusillus* H. Coiffait 1981' (MNHNP).

**Additional material.** 3 males, 3 females: Cachemire, Godasar, 21.7.81, G. Ledoux (CT, CS); 1 male: Cachemire, Lac de Gangabal, 25.7.81, G. Ledoux leg. (CT); 1 female: Cachemire, Gangabal, 27.7.81, G. Ledoux (CT); 2 females: Cachemire, Glacier Harmukh, 25.7.81, G. Ledoux (CT).