



# Article

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## Two new species of the genus *Allochotes* (Coleoptera: Cleridae: Neorthopleurinae) from Taiwan

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### Abstract

Two new species of the genus *Allochotes* which have remarkable marking on elytra, *A. choui* sp. nov. and *A. yichei* sp. nov., are described from Taiwan. The aedeagus in an inflated condition is considered a worthy characteristic for the taxonomic study of the genus and a method for the observation of an inflated aedeagus is introduced.

**Key words:** *Allochotes*, new species, taxonomy, Taiwan, inflated condition of aedeagus

### Introduction

The genus *Allochotes* Westwood, 1875 (Coleoptera: Cleridae: Neorthopleurinae) is one of the most characteristic genera of the family Cleridae Latreille, 1802, and can be easily distinguished from other clerid beetles by having an oval body and serrate antennomeres (Opitz 2009). The genus comprises 24 species and is distributed in East Asia (Japan, Taiwan, China), South Asia (India), Southeast Asia (Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Myanmar and Singapore), New Guinea and the Seychelles (Corporaal 1950, Yajima & Nakane 1969). Of those species, three are known from Taiwan: *A. dichrous* Lewis, 1891, *A. sauteri* Schenkling, 1912 and *A. violaceipennis* Schenkling, 1912.

Recently, we found two remarkable species belonging to the genus from Taiwan in the collections of Ehime University Museum and in the collections of our colleagues. After close examination, we concluded that they are new to science and they are described below.

### Materials and methods

The specimens used in this paper are preserved in the following institutions and individual collections:

CKSJ: Collection of Kaoru Sakai, Tokyo, Japan; CSIJ: Collection of Shôichi Imasaka, Fukuoka, Japan; CWCT: Collection of Wen-I Chou, Taitung, Taiwan; EUMJ: Ehime University Museum, Matsuyama, Japan; TARI: Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute, Taichung, Taiwan.

The dry specimens were prepared by soaking the whole body in hot water for about 5 minutes; this process was omitted for the fresh specimens. The abdomen was removed with forceps under a stereomicroscope. The genital organ was extracted from the abdomen after a few minutes of soaking in 10% KOH. Then, the muscles and visceral tissues were removed.

For observation of the inflated condition of the aedeagus, we applied the method of Yamasako & Ohbayashi (2011) and used 10 specimens of each species. Petrolatum gel was injected from the tegminal foramen to the non-separated phallus by using a fine plastic nozzle (MN-01; Asse Products, Japan) which was attached to the tip of a pipet (HydroLogix Pipet Tip, 200 µl) with a syringe (Eppendorf combitips plus 2.5 ml). After the membranous part was fully inflated, the fine nozzle was removed, and then the tegmen with phallus was observed under a stereomicroscope.