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A review of the subgenus *Cladoconnus* Reitter of the genus *Euconnus* Thomson (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Scydmaeninae) from the Balkan Peninsula, Turkey and Caucasus

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Abstract

The subgenus *Cladoconnus* Reitter, 1909 of the megadiverse genus *Euconnus* Thomson, 1859 is redescribed and revised for the Balkan Peninsula, Turkey and Caucasus. The following species are described: *Euconnus (Cladoconnus) gagrani-cus* sp. nov., *E. (C.) ispartaensis* sp. nov., *E. (C.) meybohmi* sp. nov., *E. (C.) brachati* sp. nov. and *E. (C.) croaticus* sp. nov. Lectotypes are designated for *E. (C.) anatolicus* Franz, 1997, *E. (C.) dodecanicus* Franz, 1966, *E. (C.) robustus* Reitter, 1882 and *E. (C.) winneguthi* Apfelbeck, 1907. *Euconnus (Cladoconnus) major* (Motschulsky, 1851) is placed as a junior synonym of *E. (C.) motschulskii* (Motschulsky, 1837). Two species groups, *schlosseri* and *denticornis* are defined; identification keys to the groups and species are given.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae, *Euconnus*, *Cladoconnus*, taxonomy, revision, new species, Palaearctic region, Balkan, Turkey, Caucasus

Introduction

Scydmaeninae is a medium size subfamily of staphylinid beetles which contains 5034 species and 168 subspecies described worldwide (NEWTON personal communication). The possibly heterogeneous genus *Euconnus* Thomson, 1859 includes presently over 2500 described species and subspecies (Newton & Franz 1998 and subsequent descriptions) which represent almost half of all species of Scydmaeninae. The subgeneric concept of *Euconnus* is very chaotic, and although there are 37 valid subgenera, more than 60% of species (mainly from tropical regions) have never been assigned to any subgenus. The situation is clearer in the western Palaearctic region, where all subgenera are relatively well-defined. The following 9 subgenera are known from this region: *Cladoconnus* Reitter, 1909; *Euconnus* s. str.; *Euconnophron* Reitter, 1909; *Myrmecodytes* Croissandeau, 1898; *Napochus* Thomson, 1859; *Neonapochus* Machulka, 1929; *Psomophus* Casey, 1897; *Scydmaenites* Croissandeau, 1898 and *Tetramelus* Motschulsky, 1870.

Cladoconnus is so far known only from the Palaearctic region, ranging from Japan and the Russian Far East to Spain. To date, 29 species have been described in this subgenus, and additionally *Cladoconnus kiesenwetteri* Kiesenwetter, 1851 includes four subspecies (Davies 2004).

The aim of this paper is to revise *Cladoconnus* from the Balkan Peninsula, Turkey and Caucasus.

Material and methods

Dry-mounted specimens were relaxed in warm water. Male specimens of *Euconnus (Cladoconnus) motschulskii* (PHKS) were macerated in 10% NaOH solution at room temperature for about 24 hours, washed thoroughly and dissected, body parts were either embedded in Euparal or Canada balsam. Habitus images were taken by a Nikon Coolpix 4500 camera mounted on a Nikon Eclipse 1500 stereoscopic microscope (Nikon, Tokyo, Japan). Details of