



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3683.1.4>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:AC8FFCCA-001C-4B3E-876B-07F5A3B2405D>

**A taxonomic revision of the myrmecophilous genus *Lomechusoides* Tottenham, 1939 (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Aleocharinae)
Part I. Redescription of the genus, definition of species groups and the revision of the *amurensis* Wasmann 1897 species group**

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Abstract

The genus *Lomechusoides* Tottenham, 1939 is redescribed, the definition of species groups and the key to these groups is provided. The revision of the species group *L. amurensis* as well as the key to the identification of this group is given. The *amurensis* species group contains following species: *L. amurensis* (Wasmann 1897), *L. kozlovi* sp. nov., *L. schneideri* Maruyama & Hlaváč, 2005 and *L. suensoni* (Bernhauer 1936). The synonymy of *L. ganglbaueri uralensis* (Bernhauer 1936) to *L. amurensis* is confirmed. *L. suensoni* (Bernhauer, 1936) is revalidated as a good species from a synonymy of *L. amurensis*.

Key words: Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae, Lomechusini, Lomechusina, *Lomechusoides*, revision, eastern Palearctic region

Introduction

The genus *Lomechusoides* Tottenham, 1939, together with *Lomechusa* Gravenhorst, 1806 and *Xenodusa* Wasmann, 1894, are well defined genera of homogeneous subtribe Lomechusina of the large tribe Lomechusini. Fifteen species of the genus *Lomechusoides* have been described so far (Hlaváč *et al.* 2011).

Lomechusoides is a strictly myrmecophilous genus with symphyllic association to ants of the genus *Formica* Linnaeus, 1758 and more rarely *Myrmica* Latreille, 1804. For the species associations between *Lomechusoides* and *Formica*, see Hlaváč *et al.* (2011: 13).

Most species of *Lomechusoides* were incorrectly described under the name *Lomechusa* due to the misinterpretation of names *Lomechusa*, *Lomechusoides* and *Atelemes* (Hlaváč *et al.* 2011: 10). Tottenham (1939) recognized the problem and established the genus *Lomechusoides* for the species that were formerly described under the name “*Lomechusa*”. However, he did not transfer already known species of “*Lomechusa*” to his new genus *Lomechusoides*. Later authors ignored Tottenham’s genus and incorrectly continued the usage of the name *Lomechusa* (Lohse 1974, Palm 1949, Schilow 1977 and 1981, Sawada 1994). Therefore, most species of *Lomechusoides* were incorrectly placed in “*Lomechusa*” till new, correct combination were published for both genera, for *Lomechusoides* (Maruyama & Hlaváč 2004) and for *Lomechusa* (Smetana 2004).

This is the first paper of the taxonomic revision of the genus *Lomechusoides* and the aim of this paper is the redescription of the genus, the definition of groups of the genus and the revision of the group *L. amurensis* with the description of one new species.