Zootaxa 3866 (2): 289–296
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

Article

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
ZOOTAXA
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3866.2.7
http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:2CFB1E69-5606-4137-8EB7-29F4C16AA75A

Scydmepitoxis gen. n., a new genus of Cyrtoscydmini (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Scydmaeninae) from Australia

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

Abstract

A new Australian genus of Cyrtoscydmini, *Scydmepitoxis* **gen. n.** with a single species *S. paradoxa* **sp. n.** is described from New South Wales. A remarkable character of the new genus is a deep sub-basal constriction of the pronotum. The morphology of *Scydmepitoxis* is described and illustrated in detail, and its diagnostic characters are discussed. Possible affinities with *Sciacharis* and *Sciacharoides* are suggested.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae, Cyrtoscydmini, *Scydmepitoxis*, new genus, Australia

Introduction

The early works of King (1864) and Lea (e.g., 1910, 1914) were the first descriptions of Australian Scydmaeninae. These papers have a great historical value, but unclear generic concepts and species diagnoses based only on external characters make them unsuitable for the identification of Australian scydmaenines. Franz (1975) made an effort to redescribe all previously known taxa and published a large monograph, which included also numerous new species. Unfortunately, Franz overlooked several species described by previous authors, and created many taxonomic problems. Some of them have already been clarified (Jałoszyński 2012a, 2013, 2014a, b) and it is now possible to identify all described genera of Cyrtoscydmini that occur in Australia, except for *Psepharobius* King, 1864, a genus whose type material was not located yet (Jałoszyński 2014b). Although the largest genera, *Euconnus* Thomson, 1859 and *Sciacharis* Broun, 1893 are most likely heterogeneous and still require a comprehensive revision (especially focused on their unclear subgeneric system), their type species were recently redescribed in detail, giving firm bases for future revisions (Jałoszyński 2012b, 2014a).

Another serious problem created by Franz (1975) is related to his unclear species diagnoses in which often key characters were overlooked, illustrations of aedeagi were too simplified (often figured in apparently random positions, e.g. dorsolateral, without details of internal armature or showing distorted genitalia, with the endophallus extruded to various extent), and some species were based on females only (discussed in Jałoszyński 2014b). Useful species diagnoses and illustrations of aedeagi were provided only recently, and only for small genera of Cyrtoscydmini: *Horaeomorphus* Schaufuss, 1889 (in Australia two species, one previously misplaced in *Euconnus*; Jałoszyński 2014b), *Leascydmus* Jałoszyński, 2014b (two species, one previously misplaced in *Horaeomorphus*; Jałoszyński 2014b), *Microscydmus* Saulcy & Croissandeau, 1893 (seven species, placed in a new subgenus *Scydmomicrus* Jałoszyński, 2014b), *Palaeoscydmaenus* Franz, 1975 (one species, previously misplaced in Scydmaenini; Jałoszyński 2012a), *Penicillidmus* Jałoszyński, 2014b (two species), *Sciacharoides* Jałoszyński, 2014b (four species, all previously misplaced in *Horaeomorphus*; Jałoszyński 2014b), *Scydmaenilla* King, 1864 (seven species; genus reduced to subgenus of *Stenichnus* by Franz 1975, restituted by Jałoszyński 2013), *Scydmaenozila* Jałoszyński, 2014b (four species; two previously misplaced in *Horaeomorphus*; Jałoszyński 2014b), *Spinosciacharis* Jałoszyński, 2014b (four species; one previously misplaced in *Horaeomorphus*; Jałoszyński 2014b), and *Syndicus* Motschulsky, 1851 (two species; Jałoszyński 2004). Nearly all species of *Euconnus* and *Sciacharis* described from Australia are still possible to identify only by a direct comparison with the type material (usually after remounting both the beetle and its aedeagus).

Accepted by J. Klimaszewski: 13 Aug. 2014; published: 23 Sept. 2014

and pronotum, small and shallow, separated by spaces 1–1.5x their diameter; setae shorter, sparser and more recumbent than those on pronotum. Hind wings well developed.

Legs (Fig. 1) moderately long and slender, without modifications.

Aedeagus (Figs. 8–9) elongate; AeL 0.35 mm; median lobe in ventral view narrowing from middle to subtriangular apical region; internal armature with elongate fibrous structure in distal half; parameres slender and without apical setae.

Female. Differs from males in distinctly smaller eyes and shorter antennae in relation to body length; BL 1.48 mm; HL 0.25 mm, HW 0.30 mm, AnL 0.73 mm; PL 0.38 mm, PW 0.33 mm; EL 0.85 mm, EW 0.58 mm, EI 1.48.

Distribution. North-eastern New South Wales (Fig. 2a).

Etymology. The Latin adjective *paradoxus* (fem. *paradoxa*) meaning "marvelous, strange, paradoxical" was chosen to reflect the unusual and strange shape of the prothorax.

Acknowledgments

My thanks go to Adam Ślipiński and Cate Lemann (both ANIC) for sending me interesting Australian Scydmaeninae for study. Peter Hudson (South Australian Museum, Adelaide) is acknowledged for issuing several loans of the type material of Scydmaeninae species crucial for verifying separate status of the new genus described in the present paper.

References

Broun, T. (1893) *Manual of the New Zealand Coleoptera. Parts V, VI, VII*. New Zealand Institute, Wellington, 530 pp. [pp. 975–1504]

Hadley, A. (2010) Combine ZP software, new version, [WWW document]. Available from: http://www.hadleyweb.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/CZP/News.htm (accessed 3 September 2014)

Jałoszyński, P. (2004a) *Revision of scydmaenid beetles of the genus Syndicus Motschulsky (Coleoptera, Scydmaenidae)*. National Science Museum Monographs Np. 25, National Science Museum, Tokyo, 108 pp.

Jałoszyński, P. (2012a) Systematic position of Australian genus *Palaeoscydmaenus* Franz (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae). *Zootaxa*, 3501, 63–73.

Jałoszyński, P. (2012b) Taxonomy of '*Euconnus* complex'. Part I. Morphology of *Euconnus* s. str. and revision of *Euconnomorphus* Franz and *Venezolanoconnus* Franz (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae). *Zootaxa*, 3555, 55–82.

Jałoszyński, P. (2013) Revision of subgenera of *Stenichnus* Thomson, with review of Australo-Pacific species (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae). *Zootaxa*, 3630 (1), 39–79.
http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3630.1.2

Jałoszyński, P. (2014a) Comparative morphology and taxonomy of *Sciacharis* s. str., *Chathamaenus* Franz and *Maorinus* Franz (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Scydmaeninae). *Zootaxa*, 3794 (2), 222–236.
http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3794.2.2

Jałoszyński, P. (2014b) 'The curse of Horaeomorphus': taxonomy of misplaced Australian Cyrtoscydmini (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Scydmaeninae). *Zootaxa*, 3828 (1), 1–76.
http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3828.1.1

King, R.L. (1864) On the Scydmaenides of New South Wales. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of New South Wales*, 1, 91–99.
http://dx.doi.org/10.5962/bhl.title.9427

Lea, A.M. (1910) Australian and Tasmanian Coleoptera inhabiting or resorting to the nests of ants, bees, and termites. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria, Melbourne*, New Series, 23, 116–230.

Lea, A.M. (1914) Notes on Australian and Tasmanian Scydmaenidae, with descriptions of new species. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria, Melbourne*, New Series, 27, 198–231.

Motschulsky, V. (1851) Énumération des nouvelles espèces de Coléoptères. *Bulletin de la Société Impériale des Naturalistes de Moscou*, 24, 479–511.

Saulcy, F. & Croissandeau, J. (1893) Tableau des genres des Scydmaenidae. *Annales de la Société Entomologique de France*, 62, 225–238.

Schaufuss, L.W. (1889) Neue Scydmaeniden im Museum Ludwig Salvator. *Berliner Entomologische Zeitschrift*, 33 (1), 1–42.
http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/mmnd.18890330103

Thomson, C.G. (1859) *Skandinaviens Coleoptera, synoptiskt bearbetade. Vol. 1.* Berlingska Boktrykeriet, Lund, 290 pp.