



The genus *Xenaclopus* Arrow (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae): redescription and removal from the Aclopininae, with systematic notes

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Abstract

The monotypic genus *Xenaclopus* Arrow is redescribed and illustrated, based in its lectotype and paralectotypes. Characters examined indicate that this genus should be removed from the Aclopininae and placed into the subfamily Melolonthinae as *insertae sedis* at the tribal level.

Key words: Melolonthinae; new subfamily placement; Oriental Region

Introduction

Currently the subfamily Aclopininae includes four genera: *Aclopus* Erichson (six species), *Phaenognatha* Hope (eight species), *Neophaenognatha* Allsopp (four species), and *Xenaclopus* Arrow (monotypic). The genus *Xenaclopus* was described by Arrow (1915), who placed it within the Aclopininae based on “the peculiar development of the mandibles and labrum, the reduction of the maxillae and labium, and the number of joints in the antenna”.

However in the following statement Arrow also pointed out how different it is from other members of the Aclopininae: “in other characters common to all the hitherto known species, the clearly greatly reduced abdomen, long metasternum, and consequent far-back position of the hind legs, and the extreme slenderness of the tarsi, it differs entirely”.

D’Hotman and Scholtz (1990), in their contribution on the compared morphology of Scarabaeidae male genitalia, mentioned differences in that structure between *Aclopus* and *Xenaclopus*. D’Hotman and Scholtz (1990) indicated that *Aclopus* and *Xenaclopus* “vary considerably” in their male genitalia, particularly in the relative length of parameres, paramere apex, parameres dorsal sclerotization, and shape of the spiculum gastrale.

While conducting research on the systematic placement and biogeography of the Aclopininae and after detailed studies on the external morphology and male genitalia of the members of this group, we found that the above differences and others described in this contribution justify the transfer of the genus *Xenaclopus* out of Aclopininae. The purpose of this paper is to discuss the systematic placement of *Xenaclopus* and provide a synopsis and redescription of the genus based on the only known species.