



Taxonomic status of *Allohoraeomorphus* Franz (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae)

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Abstract

Following the examination of the type material, the generic name *Allohoraeomorphus* Franz, 1986 is placed as a junior objective synonym of *Horaeomorphus* Schaufuss, 1889. The only species included in *Allohoraeomorphus*, *Horaeomorphus calcarifer* (Franz, 1986), comb. n., is redescribed and its diagnostic characters, including the aedeagus and modified male metatrochanters are illustrated.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae, Cyrtoscydmini, *Allohoraeomorphus*, *Horaeomorphus*, new synonym, Pacific, Fiji

Introduction

The genus *Allohoraeomorphus* was described by Franz (1986a) for a single species, *A. calcarifer* Franz, 1986a from Viti Levu, the largest island of the Republic of Fiji. Franz (1986a) stated that the new genus is most similar to *Horaeomorphus* Schaufuss, 1889 and based the generic diagnosis on two characters: the mesoventral process sank deeply between mesocoxae (in *Horaeomorphus* the process distinctly separating coxae), and the pronotum lacking posterolateral corners (in *Horaeomorphus* present). All other characters mentioned in the genus and species description, including structures associated with the aedeagus, seem very similar to those characteristic of *Horaeomorphus*. The type species of the latter genus, *H. eumicroides* Schaufuss, 1889, occurs in Singapore and Borneo (Jałoszyński 2006); later numerous species of *Horaeomorphus* were described from South and Southeast Asia, the Himalayas, Australia, New Caledonia, Tasmania, Madagascar, Mauritius and the Comoro Islands (summarized by Jałoszyński, 2006). All 33 currently known Asian species of *Horaeomorphus* were revised or described in a series of recent papers (Jałoszyński 2002, 2003, 2004a, 2006, 2009; Jałoszyński & Nomura 2004, 2008; Jałoszyński et al. 2007; Vít 2004); this work resulted also in transferring two species originally placed in this genus to *Stenichnus* Thomson, 1859 and *Syndicus* Motschulsky, 1851 (Jałoszyński 2003, 2004b). A preliminary study of selected species from other than Asian localities revealed that at least part of them (and nearly certainly all from Madagascar and adjacent islands) is not conspecific with *H. eumicroides*; they rather resemble *Sciacharis* Broun, 1893 or *Euconnus* Thomson, 1859 (Jałoszyński 2006). Therefore, the distribution of *Horaeomorphus* is not clear, but Asian or Australasian distribution seems most plausible at the current stage of knowledge.

Horaeomorphus, *Syndicus* Motschulsky, 1851 and *Loeblites* Franz, 1986b seem to form a group of closely related genera within Cyrtoscydmini (Jałoszyński 2005, 2006). *Loeblites* includes only three Oriental species, while *Syndicus* is about as large as *Horaeomorphus* and distributions of these two genera largely overlap. *Syndicus* co-occurs with *Horaeomorphus* in the Himalayas and subtropical areas of South and Southeast Asia, possibly also in eastern Australia, but the status of Australian *Horaeomorphus* remains unclear. *Horaeomorphus* is also known from the western part of Melanesia (Papua New Guinea), while *Syndicus* has never been reported from this area. *Allohoraeomorphus* may be important for phylogeographic study, being possibly the only *Horaeomorphus*-like scydmaenine genus known from the eastern part of Melanesia. Therefore, verification of its status and supplementing the inadequate original description with important morphological details are prerequisites for reconstructing the phylogeny of this group.