



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3630.1.2>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:A338EE37-E8AC-4AC3-8D6B-D0177FB680BF>

Revision of subgenera of *Stenichnus* Thomson, with review of Australo-Pacific species (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae)

PAWEŁ JAŁOSZYŃSKI

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

Abstract

Subgenera of the speciose ant-like stone beetle genus *Stenichnus* Thomson are revised. The genus is re-classified and only two subgenera are retained: *Stenichnus* s. str. and *Scydmaenichnus* Reitter. Two remaining subgenera, *Austrostenichnus* Franz and *Scydmaenilla* King, are elevated to the genus rank (the status of *Scydmaenilla*, originally described as a genus and later reduced to a subgenus of *Stenichnus*, is restored). Two species occurring in New Zealand, *Stenichnus insignis* (Broun) and *Stenichnus kuschelianus* Franz, previously classified in *Stenichnus* (*Austrostenichnus*), are placed in a separate genus *Zeanichnus* **gen. nov.** (with *Scydmaenus insignis* Broun as a type species). *Scydmaenilla* is divided into two subgenera: *Scydmaenilla* s. str. and *Scydmaenillumia* **subg. nov.** (with *Scydmaenilla adelaidensis* Franz as a type species). Lectotypes are designated for *Stenichnus* (*Scydmaenichnus*) *fossifrons* Reitter, *Scydmaenilla pusilla* King and *Scydmaenilla constricta* Lea. All Australo-Pacific species, previously placed in *Stenichnus*, are redescribed: *Austrostenichnus caledonicus* Franz (New Caledonia), *Zeanichnus insignis* (Broun) **comb. nov.** (New Zealand), *Zeanichnus kuschelianus* (Franz) **comb. nov.** (New Zealand), *Scydmaenilla* (s. str.) *pusilla* King, **stat. rest.** (Australia), *S.* (s. str.) *constricta* Lea, **stat. rest.** (Tasmania), *S.* (s. str.) *queenslandica* Franz (Australia), *S.* (s. str.) *thompsoniana* Franz (Australia), *S.* (s. str.) *brisbanensis* Franz (Australia), *S.* (s. str.) *sydneyana* Franz (Australia), and *S.* (*Scydmaenillumia*) *adelaidensis* Franz (Australia). A possible synonymy of *Scydmaenilla queenslandica* and *S. thompsoniana* is discussed, not possible to verify on the basis of the available material.

Key words: Insecta, Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae, Cyrtoscydmini, *Stenichnus*, *Scydmaenichnus*, *Austrostenichnus*, *Zeanichnus*, *Scydmaenilla*, *Scydmaenillumia*, Australo-Pacific, taxonomy

Introduction

Stenichnus Thomson, 1859 is one of the largest genera of Cyrtoscydmini, currently comprising about 200 species distributed worldwide (except South Africa and Chile) (Newton & Franz 1998; Jałoszyński 2004). The majority of species inhabit the temperate climate zone of the northern hemisphere, mainly the western part of the Palaearctic region (Davies 2004). Currently *Stenichnus* is divided into four subgenera: *Austrostenichnus* Franz, 1971; *Scydmaenichnus* Reitter, 1905; *Scydmaenilla* King, 1864; and *Stenichnus* s. str. (Newton & Franz 1998; Meybohm 2004). The nominotypical subgenus, after recognizing *Cyrtoscydmus* Motschulsky, 1870 as its junior synonym (Meybohm 2004), includes currently ca. 180 species and nearly all of them occur in the northern hemisphere. *Scydmaenichnus* comprises 5 species known from the Middle East. *Austrostenichnus* and *Scydmaenilla* are exceptional as exclusively southern hemisphere taxa, known to occur in New Caledonia and New Zealand (*Austrostenichnus*), and Australia and Tasmania (*Scydmaenilla*). All the southern species were revised or described by Franz in a series of papers (Franz 1971, 1975, 1977). Descriptions and illustrations given in these works suggest that *Austrostenichnus* and *Scydmaenilla* may only superficially resemble northern *Stenichnus*, and in fact represent separate genera of unknown affinities within Cyrtoscydmini. Most of the southern species were inadequately described or redescribed and it is not possible to identify them on the basis of the existing literature. Moreover, the redescription of *Scydmaenilla* and its type species, *S. pusilla* King, 1864 given by Franz (1975) was based on a non-type female specimen whose true identity was uncertain.

The goal of the present study is to verify the taxonomic placement of Australo-Pacific species included in *Stenichnus*. For this purpose, the morphology of all subgenera of *Stenichnus* was studied, with particular stress on a