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***Terataki*, a new genus of Staphylinini (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Staphylininae) from South America**

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Abstract

A new genus of Xanthopygina is described here as *Terataki* **gen. n.** and includes the following species: *Te. badiipennis* **comb. n.**, *Te. caterinoi* **sp. n.**, *Te. erithracus* **comb. n.** and *Te. liliputanum* **comb. n.** Lectotypes are designated for *Creophilus badiipennis* Nordmann, *C. chloris* Nordmann, *C. erithracus* Nordmann and *Polyphematiana liliputana* Bernhauer. *Creophilus chloris* is shown to be a junior synonym of *C. erithracus* and *Trigonopselaphus nobilis* Wendeler a junior synonym of *C. badiipennis*. A key and illustrations of structural features are provided for the identification of specimens.

Key words: Xanthopygina, Staphyliniformia, *Torobus*, *Trigonopselaphus*, *Gastrisus*

Introduction

Herman (2001) recognized that *Polyphematiana* E. Stand was a junior synonym of *Trigonopselaphus* and all species in *Trigonopselaphus* (not assigned to *Polyphematiana*) required a new generic name. Thus, Herman (2001) erected the genus *Torobus* Herman to accommodate those species placed until then in the genus *Trigonopselaphus* Gemminger and Harold (see Herman 2001:28 for more details). The erection of *Torobus* left in *Trigonopselaphus* all species that were once assigned to *Polyphematiana* (*Tr. banghaasi* (Bernhauer), *Tr. coelestis* (Bernhauer), *Tr. columbinus* (Erichson), *Tr. herculeanus* (Laporte), *Tr. liliputanus* (Bernhauer), *Tr. melzeri* (Bernhauer), *Tr. myrtillinus* (Nordmann), and *Tr. zikani* (Bernhauer)). *Torobus* included the following species: *To. badiipennis* (Nordmann), *To. brasilianus* (Bernhauer), *To. chloris* (Nordmann), *To. erithracus* (Nordmann), *To. fassli* (Bernhauer), *To. laetipes* (Bernhauer), *To. mautnermarkhofi* (Scheerpeltz), *To. principalis* (Bernhauer) and *To. purpurascens* (Nordmann).

Unfortunately, *Torobus* is not a homogeneous group of species and several different morphogroups exist within the genus. To make matters worse, as currently defined, the genera *Gastrisus* Sharp, *Nausicotus* Sharp and *Torobus* cannot be adequately distinguished from each other and require considerable taxonomic revisions. The taxa currently in *Torobus* belong to several different morphogroups and likely several different genera. One such group (*Torobus* sensu stricto) includes the species *To. brasilianus* (Bernhauer), *To. fassli* (Bernhauer), *To. laetipes* (Bernhauer) and *To. purpurascens*, which is the type species of *Torobus*. Several species currently in *Gastrisus* and *Nausicotus* also belong in the same morphogroup, although whether or not taxa should be transferred in or out *Torobus* is to be determined (Chatzimanolis in preparation). A different morphogroup includes species that are moved out of *Torobus* in this paper: *To. badiipennis* (Nordmann), *To. chloris* (Nordmann), *To. erithracus* (Nordmann). Another morphogroup includes *To. mautnermarkhofi* (Scheerpeltz), which is most likely related to one of the myrmecophilous genera (*Glenus* Sharp or *Scariphaeus* Erichson). Finally, the last morphogroup includes *To. principalis* (Bernhauer), which is probably related to the genus *Ocyolinus* Sharp (Chatzimanolis and Ashe 2009). This paper is a first attempt to clarify the generic concepts of these genera by erecting a new genus for some species currently in *Torobus*, *Trigonopselaphus* and *Gastrisus*.

the structure of the antennae (specifically antennomeres 7–10 appearing asymmetrical), and the morphology of anterior basal transverse carina of tergum III and IV. Perhaps future extensive morphological and molecular analyses will place *Te. liliputanum* in a genus of its own. But as it currently stands, *Te. liliputanum* is more similar to the other species in *Terataki* than to any species in *Trigonopselaphus* (a revision of that genus is in preparation by Chatzimanolis), and *Te. liliputanum* does not belong in any other genus of Xanthopygina as those are currently defined.

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