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Comparative morphology and taxonomy of *Sciacharis* s. str., *Chathamaenus* Franz and *Maorinus* Franz (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Scydmaeninae)

PAWEŁ JAŁOSZYŃSKI

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

Abstract

Sciacharis s. str. is redefined based on the morphology of its type species, *S. fulva* Broun, and compared with sympatric genera *Chathamaenus* Franz (endemic to New Zealand) and *Maorinus* Franz (known from New Zealand and Australia). As a result, *Chathamaenus* is placed as a junior synonym of *Sciacharis* s. str., and *Maorinus*, originally described as a subgenus of *Euconnus* Thomson (under a preoccupied name *Maoria* Franz), subsequently elevated in rank, is here reduced to a subgenus of *Sciacharis*. Forty six new combinations resulted from this action are listed and *Sciacharis* (*Maorinus*) *rakiuraensis* **nom. n.** is proposed as a replacement name for *Euconnus australis* Franz, 1975, a junior primary homonym of *Euconnus australis* Franz, 1967.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae, Cyrtoscydmini, *Sciacharis*, *Chathamaenus*, *Maorinus*, morphology, synonymy, Australia, New Zealand

Introduction

Although *Sciacharis* Broun, 1893a is the second largest genus of Cyrtoscydmini, its diagnostic characters remain unclear. The type species, *S. fulva* Broun, 1893a, is known to occur in New Zealand, and has never been properly studied. Broun (1893a) based the diagnosis of *Sciacharis* on a bizarre character: "the extraordinary structure of the tibiae, particularly of the two hind pairs (...). These appear (...) to be articulated near the middle; the upper half represents the natural tibia, the lower is placed in the same line as the tarsus, and (...) is used as a tarsal joint, (...) it has the appearance of an enormously developed basal joint of the foot". The holotype of *S. fulva* is a teneral male with tibiae deformed presumably by an unskillful preparation. Apparently during mounting on a rectangular card the legs curled under the specimen were forcefully spread and they bent near middle. The tibiae, when the specimen was relaxed in warm water during the present study, partly returned to their natural shape. This odd misinterpretation served as a diagnosis for *Sciacharis* until Guillermo Kuschel informed Herbert Franz, the author of a large monograph of Australian and New Zealand Scydmaeninae (Franz 1975) that *Allomaoria* Franz, 1975, a newly established subgenus of *Euconnus* Thomson, 1859, seems to be a synonym of *Sciacharis*, and this is supported by a synonymy of *Euconnus* (*Allomaoria*) *allocerus* (Broun, 1893a) with *S. fulva* (correspondence from Kuschel mentioned by Franz (1980a)). Apparently the discovery of this possible synonymy forced Franz to revisit his previous works and eventually resulted in a large transfer of over 230 species to *Sciacharis*. *Magellanoconnus* Franz, 1967, *Austroconophron* Franz, 1971, *Allomaoria* Franz, 1975 and *Valdivioconnus* Franz, 1980b, all originally established as subgenera of *Euconnus*, were either transferred to *Sciacharis* as subgenera (*Magellanoconnus* and *Valdivioconnus*) or placed as junior synonyms of *Sciacharis* s. str. (*Austroconophron* and *Allomaoria*), and the genus name *Neuraphoconnus* Franz, 1971 was placed as a junior synonym of *Magellanoconnus*. All these actions were undertaken by Franz without studying the type specimen of *S. fulva* or verifying whether the synonymy postulated by Kuschel was correct.

Consequently, *Sciacharis* became a large and taxonomically chaotic dumping ground for species that previously would have been placed by Franz in *Euconnus*, but differing from that genus in two characters overlooked earlier. They were given in an identification key in Franz (1986): the metanepisterna demarcated from

- Maorinus turangii* Franz; implied new combination ex *Euconnus*; Kuschel, 1990
Sciacharis (Maorinus) turreti (Franz) **comb. n.** **NEW ZEALAND**
Euconnus (Maoria) turreti Franz, 1975: 25, Fig. 17 (originally spelled *turrethi* (p. 25) and *turreti* (p. 108); *turreti* is selected here as correct original spelling)
Euconnus (Maorinus) turreti Franz; Franz, 1980
Maorinus turreti Franz; implied new combination ex *Euconnus*; Kuschel, 1990
Sciacharis (Maorinus) wakamarinae (Franz) **comb. n.** **NEW ZEALAND**
Euconnus (Maoria) wakamarinae Franz, 1975: 40, Fig. 30
Euconnus (Maorinus) wakamarinae Franz; Franz, 1980
Maorinus wakamarinae Franz; implied new combination ex *Euconnus*; Kuschel, 1990
Sciacharis (Maorinus) walkeriana (Franz) **comb. n.** **NEW ZEALAND**
Euconnus (Maoria) walkerianus Franz, 1975: 18, Fig. 11
Euconnus (Maorinus) walkerianus Franz; Franz, 1980
Maorinus walkerianus Franz; implied new combination ex *Euconnus*; Kuschel, 1990
Sciacharis (Maorinus) wellingtonensis (Franz) **comb. n.** **NEW ZEALAND**
Euconnus (Maoria) wellingtonensis Franz, 1975: 44
Euconnus (Maorinus) wellingtonensis Franz; Franz, 1980
Maorinus wellingtonensis Franz; implied new combination ex *Euconnus*; Kuschel, 1990

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