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'The curse of *Horaemorphus*': taxonomy of misplaced Australian Cyrtoscydmini (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Scydmaeninae)

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Abstract

All Australian species previously placed in *Horaeomorphus* Schaufuss are revised. None of them was found to belong to this predominantly Oriental genus. Four new genera are established to accommodate these species: *Leascydmus* **gen. n.** for *Scydmaenus simplicicornis* Lea; *Scydmaenozila* **gen. n.** for *Phagonophana macrosticta* Lea (type species) and *Phagonophana latipennis* Lea; *Spinosciacharis* **gen. n.** for *Horaeomorphus puncticeps* Franz; and *Sciacharoides* **gen. n.** for *H. thompsoni* Franz (type species), *H. eucalypti* Franz, *H. maipotonensis* Franz and *H. montistamborinensis* Franz. *Horaeomorphus tasmaniensis* Franz is transferred to *Sciacharis* (Maorinus). *Horaeomorphus australiensis* Franz is placed as a junior synonym of *H. macrostictus* (Lea). *Phagonophana anthicoides* Lea (= *Euconnus* (*Anthicimorphus*) *anthicoides* (Lea)), the type species of *Anthicimorphus*, is transferred to *Horaeomorphus*, and *Anthicimorphus* becomes a junior synonym of *Horaeomorphus*, which automatically results in numerous new combinations in Madagascan species (ex *Anthicimorphus*). These, however, almost certainly do not belong to *Horaeomorphus* and should be treated as *incertae sedis* within Cyrtoscydmini. These actions result in the following new combinations: i) Australia: *Leascydmus simplicicornis* (Lea) **comb. n.**; *Scydmaenozila macrosticta* (Lea) **comb. n.**; *Scydmaenozila latipennis* (Lea) **comb. n.**; *Spinosciacharis puncticeps* (Franz) **comb. n.**; *Sciacharoides thompsoni* (Franz) **comb. n.**; *Sciacharoides eucalypti* (Franz) **comb. n.**; *Sciacharoides maipotonensis* (Franz) **comb. n.**; *Sciacharoides montistamborinensis* (Franz) **comb. n.**; *Sciacharis* (Maorinus) *tasmaniensis* (Franz) **comb. n.**; *Horaeomorphus anthicoides* (Lea) **comb. n.**; ii) Madagascar: *Horaeomorphus aequalis* (Franz) **comb. n.**; *H. ambatolampyensis* (Franz) **comb. n.**; *H. andasyensis* (Franz) **comb. n.**; *H. andasyi* (Franz) **comb. n.**; *H. andranomandery* (O'Keefe) **comb. n.** (= *Euconnus angustus* Franz, 1986b, nec Franz, 1980); *H. angustissimus* (Franz) **comb. n.**; *H. bialatipensis* (Franz) **comb. n.**; *H. comorensis* (Franz) **comb. n.**; *H. gomyi* (Franz) **comb. n.**; *H. imaitsanus* (Franz) **comb. n.**; *H. lacertosus* (Franz) **comb. n.**; *H. matsaboriyi* (Franz) **comb. n.**; *H. nitidulus* (Franz) **comb. n.**;

H. paravulgaris (Franz) **comb. n.**; *H. pellifer* (Franz) **comb. n.**; *H. sogaensis* (Franz) **comb. n.**; *H. tamatavae* (Franz) **comb. n.**; *H. tananarivensis* (Franz) **comb. n.**; *H. tenuissimus* (Franz) **comb. n.**; and *H. vulgaris* (C. Schaufuss) **comb. n.** Additionally, a replacement name *Horaeomorphus anthicimadagascanus* **nom. n.** is proposed for Madagascan *Euconnus* (*Anthicimorphus*) *anthiciformis* Franz, 1986b: 238, a junior primary homonym of Chilean *Euconnus anthiciformis* Franz, 1967. In Australian fauna, seven new species are described: *Horaeomorphus verus* **sp. n.**; *Leascydmus armstrongi* **sp. n.**; *Scydmaenozila mallacootana* **sp. n.**; *Scydmaenozila inexpectata* **sp. n.**; *Spinosciacharis sassy* **sp. n.**; *Spinosciacharis clydensis* **sp. n.**; and *Spinosciacharis acheron* **sp. n.** Morphological structures of all treated genera are described and illustrated (including novel characters in previously redescribed *Sciacharis* (*Maorinus*)); the current state of knowledge of the Australian Cyrtoscydmini and main problems are discussed.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae, Cyrtoscydmini, *Horaeomorphus*, *Leascydmus*, *Scydmaenozila*, *Spinosciacharis*, *Sciacharoides*, *Sciacharis*, *Maorinus*, *Anthicimorphus*, *Euconnus*, morphology, synonymy, new species, Australia, Madagascar

Introduction

Among the Australo-Oriental Cyrtoscydmini, *Horaeomorphus* Schaufuss, 1889 belongs to the most easily recognizable genera. The body form, the shape of the head and the sculpture of pronotal base are clearly different than in all other taxa of this vast region. *Horaeomorphus* (examples shown in Figs. 1–5) comprises slender, often flattened beetles sharing the following characters: the tempora long, strongly curved and convergent posteromesally; the vertex with concave posterior margin; the supraantennal tubercles prominent and abruptly demarcated from frons, each accompanied by a small pit at the posteromesal margin; the pronotum with three or five basal pits, often connected by a transverse groove; and the elytra with two distinct, asetose basal foveae connected by an inversely U-shaped groove extending from each fovea anteriorly, onto the articulating elytral lobe (usually partly visible in intact specimens). Two forms of the pronotum can be found within this genus (Figs. 2–3 vs. 1, 4–5): elongate with an indistinct posterior 'collar' (e.g., *H. antennatus* Jałoszyński, 2006, *H. minor* Jałoszyński, 2009) and strongly broadened, nearly circular, usually with more distinct posterior constriction demarcating a short 'collar' (e.g., *H. valdepunctatus* Franz, 1984, *H. punctatissimus* Franz, 1992a). Newly discovered species can be easily assigned to *Horaeomorphus* already on the basis of the unmistakable general appearance, even without examination of fine ventral characters, which are crucial for diagnoses of many other genera of Cyrtoscydmini. Other structures can be used to confirm identification: the mandibles with two subapical teeth and setose prostheca; the strongly elongated (often more than three times as long as broad) maxillary palpomere III; the posterior tentorial pits adjacent to the transverse groove demarcating ventrally the 'neck' region; distinct and long hypomeral ridges; the submentum not demarcated laterally from postcardinal portions of hypostomae; the pronotosternal sutures complete; the prosternal intercoxal carina distinct and parallel-sided; the prothoracic hypomeral ridges complete; the anterior part of mesoventrite forming a long and massive anterior ridge with a subtriangular median posterior projection extending onto a carinate mesoventral intercoxal process clearly separating mesocoxae; and the metaventral intercoxal process with a pair of long pointed projections or spines extending posteriorly. Thirty six Asian species share these characters.

In the past, identification of *Horaeomorphus* apparently was not so easy, even for such an experienced specialist as Herbert Franz, who revised or described all species known until early nineties of the XX century. Recent revisions revealed several misidentifications involving this genus. *Horaeomorphus taiwanensis* Franz, 1985 turned out to belong to a such dissimilar genus as *Stenichnus* Thomson, 1859 (Jałoszyński 2003); *Horaeomorphus bhutanensis* Franz, 1974 was in fact a *Syndicus* Motschulsky, 1851 (Jałoszyński 2004a); *Stenichnus wailimae* Lhoste, 1939 revised by Franz (1970) and confirmed by him as *Stenichnus* was surprisingly found to be a senior synonym of *Horaeomorphus heissi* Franz, 1985a (Jałoszyński 2014a); the genus *Allohoraeomorphus* Franz, 1986a was placed as a junior synonym of *Horaeomorphus* (Jałoszyński 2012a); and the most recent and striking misplacement was a description of *Syndicus soesilae* (Makhan & Ezzatpanah, 2011) under *Horaeomorphus* (corrected and discussed in Jałoszyński (2014a)). While confusing *Horaeomorphus* with *Stenichnus* seems impossible to explain on logical basis (even the general habitus of species in these genera is much different, and a large number of structural details markedly differ), the errors that involved somewhat similar *Syndicus* are clearly results of ignoring easily observable characters. *Horaeomorphus* has the antennae composed of eleven clearly separated antennomeres, while in *Syndicus* s. str. the antennae are pseudo-10-segmented. The

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