



### First record of *Otibazo* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Molytinae) outside of Japan, with description of a new species from Vietnam

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#### Abstract

A new species of wingless leaf litter weevil, *Otibazo polyphemus* sp. n., is described from Tam Dao, northern Vietnam. This is the fourth named species in the genus, with its three other species known only from Japan. Habitus and genitalia of the male holotype are illustrated and DNA barcoding data are provided.

#### Introduction

The genus *Otibazo* Morimoto, 1961 was established for a wingless edaphic species *O. nagasakiensis* Morimoto, 1961 from Nagasaki City, Japan. Two other species from Japan added later were *O. morimotoi* Nakane, 1963 and *O. oshimaensis* Morimoto & Miyakawa, 1985 (Alonso-Zarazaga 2013, Kojima 2014). *Otibazo* are small flightless weevils (1.6–2.6 mm in body length, excluding rostrum) with the following characteristic features: (a) dorsum dark brown and weakly punctate (Fig. 1A); (b) compound eyes each with about 20 ommatidia located ventro-laterally (Fig. 1C); (c) flagella, femora, tibiae and body ventrally with fields of dense short pubescence forming characteristic whitish tufts (Fig. 1D; called “exudate” by Meregalli & Osella 2007); (d) long and robust hind femora extending posteriorly to the level of abdominal apex (Fig. 1A); (e) strongly sclerotized aedeagus and male sternite 9 extending for nearly half body length (Fig. 1); and (f) aedeagus in lateral view with a longitudinal membranous line (Fig. 1G; Grebennikov 2010, fig. 16D). Adult specimens have been found exclusively by sifting leaf litter in wet deciduous primary forests (Karasawa *et al.* 2008), while the immature stages and detailed biological preferences remain unknown. In the area of their known distribution, the southern part of the Eastern Palaearctic Region, *Otibazo* adults could be confused with similarly small and brown wingless species of a new genus of Molytina most closely related to the genus *Leiosoma* Stephens (Grebennikov, unpublished). This unnamed genus, however, has not been recorded from Japan or Vietnam. Moreover, adults possess no tufted pubescence characteristic of *Otibazo*. The genus *Otibazo* is assigned to the tribe Anchonini (Alonso-Zarazaga & Lyal 1999, Lyal 2014) and is thought to be the sister-group of *Anonyxmolytes* Meregalli & Osella accommodating a single soil-dwelling and minute (<1 mm in body length) eyeless species from Vietnam (Meregalli & Osella 2007). The genus *Otibazo* is more diverse than presently known, because Morimoto (1961, 1982) suggested the existence of numerous additional species in southern Japan and Meregalli & Osella (2007) mentioned unnamed species from the Oriental Region. A fossil weevil from Pleistocene deposits in the Yukon Territory of Canada attributed to this genus by Matthews & Telka (1997) was later suggested to be a species of an unrelated *Alaocybites* Gilbert (Grebennikov 2010).

In May 2012, when sampling phytophagous beetles in the Tam Dao Mountain Range in northern Vietnam, we collected a series of an unnamed *Otibazo* species. Herein we provide its formal description, illustrate the holotype and supply the partial CO1 mtDNA barcoding sequences. This short note was primarily triggered by the necessity to provide a name for the first continental member of the genus and make its DNA data publicly available. This report constitutes the second outcome of our joint project on the Vietnamese phytophagous beetles and follows the earlier report on *Coomaniella* Bourgoing jewel beetles by Jendek & Pham (2013).



**FIGURE 1.** *Otibazo polyphemus* sp.n. from Vietnam, holotype, male. A–D: habitus; E–F: aedeagus and tegmen, dorsal (E), ventral (F) and lateral (G); H: sternite 9.

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