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Synopsis of the Japanese species of Aleocharinae (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae), with review of the type specimens I. Tribes Himalusini and Leucocraspedini

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Abstract

The Japanese species of the tribes Himalusini and Leucocraspedini are reviewed. The tribe Sinanarchusini Pace, 2013 is synonymized with Himalusini in which the genera *Protinodes* Sharp, 1888, *Himalusa* Pace, 2006 and *Sinanarchusa* Pace, 2013 are recognized. *Protinodes* and *Sinanarchusa* have been placed in Hygronomini and Sinanarchusini respectively. Only a single species *Leucocraspedum rufotestaceum* Bernhauer, 1927 is recognized in Japanese fauna of Leucocraspedini. Two other known species, *Leucocraspedum pallidum* Cameron, 1933 and *L. parvum* Cameron, 1949 are synonymized with *L. rufotestaceum.*

Key words: Hygronomini, new synonymy, redescription, Sinanarchusini, review.

Introduction

The rove beetle subfamily Aleocharinae is one of the most taxonomically chaotic groups of Coleoptera. About 350 aleocharine species have been recorded from Japan (Shibata *et al*., 2013), and more than half of these records are based on the original descriptions or identifications using some old works, especially those of Sharp (1874, 1888), Weise (1877), Bernhauer (1907) and Cameron (1933). However, the taxonomy of Aleocharinae is very difficult due to their small body size and close similarity in general appearance, even between members of different genera or tribes. The species descriptions in the above works are normally short and devoid of illustrations, and thus, except for a few particularly distinct species, identification of Japanese aleocharines is not possible based on these historical works alone. Though several modern taxonomic papers on known species have reexamined old type material, and included redescriptions (Assing, 1995, 1997, 2001, 2003; Brundin, 1943; Maruyama, 2000a, 2000b, 2006, 2009; Maruyama & Hlaváč, 2002; Sawada, 1974, 1977; Pace, 1983; Yamamoto & Maruyama, 2012, 2013; Yosii & Sawada, 1976), most of the known aleocharine species have not been redescribed since their original descriptions, and their identitification is impossible for researchers and amateur entomologists without access to the original type material.

In March to April 2011, MM visited the Natural History Museum, London (BMNH) and examined the type material of Japanese Aleocharinae, mainly of Sharp (1874, 1888) and Cameron (1933). In August and September of 2011, MM and SY visited the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago (FMNH), extending their examination to the type material of (primarily) Bernhauer (1907). Here we present the first in a series of papers where we review this type material and provide diagnostic features of species that have not been resecribed since their original description. The identities of many Japanese species will be clarified in this series, which we anticipate will be a foundation for the future taxonomy of Japanese Aleocharinae.

In this first paper, we review the type material of the tribes Himalusini Klimaszewski *et al*., 2010 and Leucocraspedini Fenyes, 1921.

The tribe Himalusini was established for the genus *Himalusa* Pace, 2006, previously the only representative of

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Comments. For *L. pallidum*, the number of the specimens was not specified in the original description, and two female syntypes were found in BMNH, one of which we have now designated the lectotype. No significant difference in external structure has been detected between *L. rufotestaceum, L. pallidum* and *L. parvum* so they are synonymized here.

Natural history. This species and other congeners are collected by beating trees or shrubs and considered as arboreal. However, nothing detailed is known about their biology.

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