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Scydmoraphes rothangensis Franz, a misplaced Himalayan species of Cyrtoscydmini (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae)

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Abstract. Based on examination of the type series, *Scydmoraphes rothangensis* Franz is transferred to *Stenichnus* Thomson, resulting in *Stenichnus* (s. str.) *rothangensis* (Franz) **comb. n.** Structural details of this intriguing Himalayan species are illustrated in detail and compared with those of allied genera, and a redescription is given.

Key words: Cyrtoscydmini, *Scydmoraphes*, *Stenichnus*, Palaearctic, Himalayas, India, taxonomy

Introduction

In the years 1970–1985 Herbert Franz published a series of twelve papers entirely or partly focused on Himalayan Scydmaeninae (Franz 1970a, b, 1971, 1973, 1974a, b, 1975, 1979, 1980, 1981a, b, 1985). Among about 150 species described as new, over 100 belong to the large and cosmopolitan genus *Euconnus* Thomson, 1859 and over 20 to *Scydmaenus* Latreille, 1802. Within Cyrtoscydmini, six species of *Neuraphes* Thomson, 1859, one of *Scydmoraphes* Reitter, 1891, two of *Horaeomorphus* Schaufuss, 1889, two of *Microscydmus* Saulcy & Croissandeau, 1893, one of *Stenichnus* Thomson, 1859 and one of *Syndicus* Motschulsky, 1851 were described. Already some of these genera were revised, some synonyms were found and two cases of genus misidentification were corrected. One species originally placed in *Horaeomorphus* was transferred to *Syndicus* (Jałoszyński 2004), and one species placed in *Neuraphes* was transferred to *Scydmoraphes* (Jałoszyński 2008). Judging from original descriptions, several other Himalayan species in various genera may have been misplaced.

One such species is *Scydmoraphes rothangensis* Franz, 1981b, described on the basis of specimens collected in north India, as the first representative of this genus known to occur in the Himalayas. The aedeagus illustrated by Franz (1981a, fig. 1) for this species is not a typical genital organ of *Scydmoraphes*, and a pair of longitudinal keels on the pronotum mentioned by Franz is also not known in any species of this genus (nor in any other Palaearctic species of Cyrtoscydmini). In the present paper taxonomic status of this interesting species is clarified.

Material and methods

Dry-mounted specimens were relaxed in warm water and dissected. Morphological structures were studied in dry-mounted specimens under a stereomicroscope, in uncoated specimens under low pressure with a Quanta 650F scanning electron microscope (FEI, Hillsboro, USA) and in transparent mounts in Canada balsam under a compound microscope (aedeagi only). Habitus images were taken by a Nikon Coolpix 4500 digital camera mounted on a Nikon Eclipse 1500 stereoscopic microscope. Aedeagi were photographed using an Opta-Tech 5Mp IS digital camera mounted on a Nikon Eclipse *Ni* compound microscope. Image stacks were processed using COMBINE ZP (Hadley 2010). For comparative purposes, morphological details of all Palaearctic genera of Cyrtoscydmini were studied. Morphological terms are used after Jałoszyński (2013). The measurements and abbreviations are as follows:

AeL—length of aedeagus
AnL—length of antennae
BL—body length, a sum of lengths of head, pronotum and elytra measured separately
EI—elytral index, length of elytra divided by their combined width

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