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Notes on the systematic placement of *Eutheia siamensis* Franz (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae)

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Abstract. Examination of the type series (holotype and single paratype) of *Eutheia siamensis* Franz (Thailand) revealed that it was composed of two different species, belonging not only in different genera, but also tribes. The holotype is a representative of *Cephennomicrus* Reitter (Cephenniini), while the paratype is a species of *Paraneseuthia* Franz (Eutheini). Consequently, *E. siamensis* is redescribed as *Cephennomicrus siamensis* (Franz), **comb. n.**; and the paratype *Paraneseuthia* is illustrated, but the specimen is probably a female, and remains as an undescribed species. *Cephennomicrus* has already been recorded from Thailand, but *Paraneseuthia* is reported to occur in this country for the first time, filling a distributional gap between Far Eastern, Sundaland/Australian and recently discovered Himalayan and Turkish species of this interesting genus.

Key words: Cephenniini, Eutheini, *Cephennomicrus*, *Paraneseuthia*, new combination, Oriental, Thailand.

Introduction

Eutheini of south-eastern and eastern Asia are still poorly studied and many species are known only from type specimens. Genera that have been recorded in this vast area include *Eutheia* Stephens, 1830, *Veraphis* Casey, 1897, *Euthiconus* Reitter, 1882, *Paraneseuthia* Franz, 1986 and *Paeneutheia* Jałoszyński, 2003. In Eurasia, the three former genera are distributed predominantly in the Palaearctic region (with a few species of *Eutheia* and *Veraphis* occurring in the transition zone between Palaearctic and Oriental), *Paraneseuthia* is known in various climatic zones, from Mediterranean, sub-Himalayan, Russian Far East and Japan to humid subtropical forests of Sundaland, and *Paeneutheia* has been found only in Borneo. Another Oriental genus, *Eutheimorphus* Franz & Löbl, 1990, was recently revised and transferred from Eutheini to Cephenniini (Jałoszyński 2014a). Nearly all species of Eutheini described in south-eastern and eastern Asia were either described or redescribed recently and can be identified. Notable exceptions are two Himalayan species of *Eutheia* described by Franz, and probably the most enigmatic species in Thailand, also assigned to *Eutheia* by the same author. *Eutheia siamensis* Franz, 1975 was described as very similar to European congeners, but differing in strikingly different aedeagus. As no hitherto revised species of *Eutheia* shows any similarities in the genital structures to the aedeagus illustrated by Franz (1975), the taxonomic placement of this species required verification. Moreover, species of *Eutheia* seem to be associated with cool climate, and even those known to occur in Taiwan or Central America inhabit high mountains and not hot and humid subtropical forests (Jałoszyński 2008a, 2011a). The more unusual seemed the occurrence of *Eutheia* in Thailand, at altitude slightly exceeding 300 m, in subtropical forests of the Nakhon Ratchasima Province. In the present paper the taxonomic status of this intriguing species is clarified.

Material and methods

Dry-mounted specimens were relaxed in warm water. The holotype of *E. siamensis*, due to its fragile condition, was examined in a drop of water (ventral structures) and after remounting (dorsal structures) under a stereoscopic microscope. The paratype was air-dried and mounted on a carbon tab and examined without coating under low pressure with a Quanta 650F scanning electron microscope (SEM) (FEI, Hillsboro, USA). Aedeagus of the holotype, originally mounted in euparal, was remounted in Canada balsam and photographed using an Opta-Tech 5Mp IS digital camera mounted on a Nikon Eclipse Ni compound microscope. Habitus images were taken with a Nikon Coolpix 4500 digital