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Confused identity: subgenera of *Pseudoeudesis* Binaghi belong in two tribes (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Scydmaeninae)

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Abstract

Afroeudesis Franz and *Oreoeudesis* Franz, Afrotropical subgenera of *Pseudoeudesis* Binaghi (Scydmaenini), are elevated to the genus rank and transferred to Cyrtoscydmini. The East Palaearctic genus *Nanoscydmus* Jałoszyński is reduced to a subgenus of *Afroeudesis* **stat. n.**, resulting in *Afroeudesis* (*Nanoscydmus*) *baoshanus* (Jałoszyński), **comb. n.** and *Afroeudesis* (*Nanoscydmus*) *nepalensis* (Jałoszyński), **comb. n.** Morphological structures of the type species of *Afroeudesis* and *Oreoeudesis* are illustrated and described in detail, and the following species are redescribed: *Afroeudesis* (s. str.) *basilewskyi* Franz (Tanzania), *Oreoeudesis lindneri* Franz (Tanzania), *Oreoeudesis aberdarensis* Franz (Kenya) and *Oreoeudesis camerunensis* Franz (Cameroon).

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae, Cyrtoscydmini, Scydmaenini, *Pseudoeudesis*, *Afroeudesis*, *Oreoeudesis*, *Nanoscydmus*, morphology, taxonomy, Afrotropical, Palaearctic

Introduction

Morphologically very similar genera *Eudesis* Reitter, 1882 and *Pseudoeudesis* Binaghi, 1948 have been traditionally placed in Scydmaenini. Jałoszyński (2014a) included *Pseudoeudesis sulcipennis* (Reitter, 1890) in a phylogenetic analysis based on adult morphological characters, and indeed, the most parsimonious topology obtained assumed a sister-group relationship between *Pseudoeudesis* and *Scydmaenus* Latreille, 1802. A short and rounded, nearly dome-shaped maxillary palpomere IV and the basisternal part of prosternum laterally fused with prothoracic hypomera, structures found in *Pseudoeudesis* (Jałoszyński 2014a), are shared by all Scydmaenini (Jałoszyński 2012). A major morphological difference between *Eudesis* and *Pseudoeudesis* can be seen in the tarsi: the former genus is characterized by a unique tarsal formula 4-4-4, whereas *Pseudoeudesis* has the tarsi composed of the usual number of five tarsomeres (Binaghi 1948).

All species of both genera described in the 19th and the first half of the 20th century are distributed in the Mediterranean basin. *Eudesis* and *Pseudoeudesis* are very small (around 1 mm in length), slender and blind beetles, regarded as adapted to subterranean habitats (e.g., Binaghi 1948), but their biology is very poorly known. In 1963 and 1985, Franz described two new subgenera of *Pseudoeudesis*, to accommodate species collected in eastern and western parts of central Africa. The subgenus *Afroeudesis* Franz, 1963 comprises one species known to occur in Tanzania, and *Oreoeudesis* Franz, 1985 includes three species from Tanzania, Kenya and Cameroon. Later Franz (1967) added new species of *Pseudoeudesis* s. str. from Brazil and Chile. This surprising distribution, combined with rather peculiar characters described and illustrated by Franz (1963, 1967, 1985), especially the aedeagi rather dissimilar to those known in Palaearctic *Pseudoeudesis*, suggested a possibility of misplacement. Despite minute bodies, Palaearctic species of *Eudesis* and *Pseudoeudesis* are easy to identify as belonging in one of these genera on the basis of a remarkable body shape. Examination of Afrotropical species of *Pseudoeudesis* in the Franz Collection (Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Vienna, Austria) revealed that they markedly differ from the Palaearctic taxa. Neotropical species of *Pseudoeudesis* s. str. will be discussed separately; the present study is focused on *Afroeudesis* and *Oreoeudesis*.

The Afrotropical subgenera of *Pseudoeudesis* comprise microphthalmous or anophthalmous and mostly