

Notes on some Aphodiinae from Micronesia (Coleoptera : Scarabaeidae)

By

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In 1943 Mr. Sizumu Nomura published a paper on some Micronesian Aphodiinae ('Zur Kenntnis der Aphodiiden aus Mikronesien', Mushi, 5: 77-82, pl. 2), in which he described five new species and recorded two known species. I received after the war a small series of examples from Micronesia through the kindness of Messrs. Dengo Matusita and Isaburo Kôno, and the late Prof. Dr. Teiso Esaki gave me kindly a pair of specimens of *Termitodius esakii* for my examination. Further Mr. O. L. Cartwright of the U. S. National Museum sent me readily specimens of *Aphodius lividus* and *Ataenius gracilis* collected in the North America, and wrote me valuable suggestions. The present paper deals with some notices on the material stated above, including descriptions of a new genus and a new subspecies.

Before going further I wish to express my hearty thanks to the above-mentioned gentlemen for their kindness. I am also very much grateful to Dr. Vladimír Balthasar for this kind sending of a lot of reprints of his works at my request.

1. *Aphodius* (*Liothorax*) *lividus* (Olivier, 1789)

Aphodius (*Nialus*) *lividus*, Nomura, XV, 1943, p. 77. (Saipan and Pagan)

Specimens examined: Saipan Is. (1 ♀ 16. VII. 1940, D. Matusita leg.; 2 ♂ 15. X. 1941, D. Matusita leg.; 1 ♂ 1942, D. Matusita leg).

Balthasar (1941) described three new species of *A. lividus* group, showing a key to the four species concerned, and noticed the necessity of the revision of the cosmopolitan 'species', *A. lividus*. The specimens from Saipan differ from those of Europe in having the clypeus not so rugose, the pronotum less convex and more broadly bordered at the sides, and the aedeagus more acuminate to the apex, with much slenderer parameres and robuster, medially swollen basal piece. In these characters as well as in general features the Saipan specimens agree fairly well with the examples from the United States. Under the circumstances I name here the race of Saipan temporarily as follows:

Aphodius lividus subsp. *matusitai* nov.

Holotype: 1 ♂, 16. VII. 1940, D. Matusita leg. Allotype: 1 ♀. Paratype: 2 ♂.

Above shining and glabrous, Head dark or blackish brown, with a yellowish patch on both sides in front of suture. Antennae (except club dull brown), palpi and mouth parts testaceous. Pronotum also dark brown, with base and sides broadly yellow, excepting lateral tubercles infuscate. Scutellum yellowish brown with apex and sides blackish. Elytra yellow, sutural interval almost entirely blackish posteriorly and brownish anteriorly with sutural margin blackish; brownish nebulous marking on disc of each elytron occupying space between 2nd and 7th stria, reaching base at 4th and 5th intervals, and evanescent posteriorly on the inclined part.

Head rather sparsely and somewhat unequally punctulate, in front impressed and feebly emarginate at middle and gently rounded broadly on both sides, anterior margin narrowly reflexed, median tubercle extending from suture towards apex, forming a Y-shaped elevation, lateral tubercles less marked and rather transverse, frontal suture fine but distinct on both sides of median tubercle, cheeks small, hardly produced beyond eyes. Pronotum very finely and sparsely punctured throughout and irregularly bearing coarse punctures which are a little more densely set on both sides of disc and lacking along median line and marginal zone of side and base, sides slightly rounded and gently narrowing from middle forwards, narrowly margined together with obtusely rounded hind angles,

basal border immarginate at all. Scutellum parallel, with surface smooth but finely alutaceous. Elytra finely but sharply striate, punctures in the striae distinct and slightly notching intervals, the latter very finely and sparsely punctured and nearly flat, but very feebly convex in lateral ones and before apex, sutural interval also very slightly convex and narrowing posteriorly (at the level of apex of scutellum twice and a half as broad as the narrowest part before apex), sutural stria deepened and broadened before apex, each stria abbreviated just in front of apical margin of elytra and free at apex, with the exception of sutural and marginal one.

Under surface brownish testaceous, median part of prosternum strongly carinate and hairy, pleura and sides of sterna of pro- and metasternum roughly punctured, alutaceous and bearing yellowish hairs, abdominal sternites also similarly sculptured and hairy. Legs brownish testaceous principally but spurs and ridges partly brown, protibiae with three strong external teeth which are normally formed, upper terminal spur of metatibiae scarcely as long as metatarsus and a little longer than two following tarsal joints combined.

Body length: 4.5mm.

The present subspecies appears to be closely allied to *A. pseudolividus* Balthasar from South America, but the body is larger, the striae of elytra are not so fine, the punctuation of intervals is very fine, somewhat finer than that of pronotum, the scutellum is smooth but finely alutaceous, and the apex of elytra is shining though finely alutaceous.

2. *Ataenius gracilis* (Melsheimer, 1844)

Saprosites nocturnus, Nomura, Mushi, XV, 1943, p. 77. (Saipan & Kusaie) n. syn.

Specimens examined: Saipan Is. (1 ♂ 16. XI. 1941, D. Matusita leg.; 1 ♀ 1942, D. Matusita leg).

Cartwright suggested me that *Ataenius gracilis* became recently a cosmopolitan species, and sent me a few examples which agree with the specimens from Saipan, identified as *S. nocturnus* by myself.

3. *Ataenius sumatrensis* Balthasar, 1941

Specimens examined: Saipan Is. (1 ♀ 16. XI. 1941, D. Matusita leg).

The unique example before me agrees well with the description of *Ataenius sumatrensis*. As Balthasar mentioned already it is closely allied to *A. peregrinator* Harold from Borneo, but smaller, bearing a small humeral tooth on each elytron.

4. *Ataenius nitidulus* Nomura, 1943

Ataenius nitidulus, Nomura, Mushi, XV, 1943, p. 78. (Saipan, Ponape and Kusaie)

Specimens examined: Saipan Is (2 ♀ 15. X. 1941, D. Matusita leg.; 1 ♂ 16. XI. 1941, D. Matusita leg.); Truk Is. (2 ♀ 2. III. 1945, I. Kôno leg.)

5. *Termitodiellus* gen. nov.

Type species: *Termitodius esakii* Nomura, 1943.

The characteristics of this new genus are all indicated in the original description of the type species. The present genus may be separated from *Termitodius* Wasmann by the following points:

Clypeus bearing only one very obtuse tooth at middle of front margin, not quadridentate; eyes entirely reduced; prothorax markedly bisinuate at sides, hind angles rather broadly and deeply emarginate obliquely, and hind femora not reaching apex of abdomen (according to the description of Nomura it is 'die Abdominalspitze überragend', but it is not so in my specimens).

Termitodiellus esakii (Nomura) n. comb.

Termitodius esakii, Nomura, Mushi, XV, 1943, p. 81, fig., pl. 2. (Yap)

Specimens examined: Yap Is. (1 ♂ 1 ♀ 16. IX. 1939, T. Esaki leg.).

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