

A New Inoepolid Beetle (Coleoptera, Inoepolidae) from the Ryukyu Islands

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Abstract A new inoepolid beetle, *Uruminopeplus sakaii* gen. et sp. nov. is described from the Ryukyu Islands. The new genus is distinguished from *Inoepplus* mainly by the peculiarities of prothorax and tarsi.

Although the Japanese species of the family Inoepolidae were recently revised by the junior author (HATTA, 1988), we had an opportunity to examine an additional species from the Ryukyus through the courtesy of Messrs. SAKAI and TOMOKUNI. It was captured during the survey for the "Study of Essential Factors for Preservation of Wild Life in the Nansei Islands" in 1987. After a careful examination, it proved to be a new species belonging to a new genus. It will be described in the present paper under the name of *Uruminopeplus sakaii* gen. et sp. nov.

Before going further, we wish to express our sincere gratitude to Dr. Shun-Ichi UÉNO, Messrs. Masaaki TOMOKUNI and Masahiro SAKAI for their kindness extended to us in many ways.

Genus *Uruminopeplus* nov.

Type species: *Uruminopeplus sakaii* gen. et sp. nov.

Body elongate, extremely flat, strongly constricted between prothorax and elytra. Head large, distinctly punctate, provided with a short mediolongitudinal impression and with a shallow fovea at the inner side of each eye; clypeus and labrum transverse and transparent; eyes lateral and moderately prominent; antennae submoniliform, moderately long, scape large, 2nd and 3rd segments small, 4th to 10th subequal, 11th longer than the preceding one. Pronotum transverse, broadest at apical third, thence slightly narrowed anteriorly and strongly so posteriorly; posterior halves of lateral and posterior margins conjointly rounded and bordered; surface distinctly punctate and furnished with a pair of strong foveae at the lateral sides near the middle. Scutellum moderate. Elytra short, finely and sparsely punctate; shoulders evident. Terminal 3 or 4 tergites exposed from elytra as in staphylinid beetles. Prosternal process broad with rounded apex. Metasternum well developed and finely punctate. Legs moderate in length, femora thick, tarsal formula 4-4-4, coxae of each leg widely separated, with fore cavities open behind.

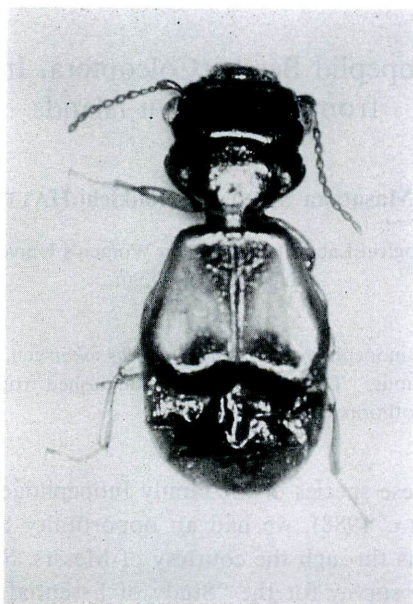


Fig. 1. *Uruminopeplus sakaii* gen. et sp. nov., from Ohkuni-rindô on Is. Okinawa-hontô, the Ryukyus.

This new genus is closely related to the genus *Inopeplus* SMITH, 1851, but can be distinguished from the latter by having the following features: clypeus and labrum transverse, pronotum provided with a strong fovea on each lateral side and with distinct lateroposterior margin, and tarsal formula 4-4-4.

The new generic name is derived from *Urum[a]* meaning the Ryukyus in old language plus *inopeplus*.

Uruminopeplus sakaii sp. nov.

(Figs. 1-2)

Body shining, brown to dark brown, elytral macula and legs yellowish. Maculae on elytra M-shaped.

Head capsule including eyes about 2.4 times as broad as long, slightly broader than pronotum; disc distinctly and sparsely punctate, the punctures being longitudinally rugose at anterior and lateral portions, integument smooth; clypeus about 4.4 times as broad as long and smooth; labrum about 5 times as broad as long, obsolete microreticulate and bearing some pubescence in anterior area. Pronotum about 1.8 times as broad as long; disc furnished with minute and sparse punctures in addition to primary distinct and sparse punctures which are almost the same as those on head. Scutellum semicircular. Elytra about 1.3 times as broad as pronotum, a little broader than long; lateral sides distinctly broadened terminally, with rounded apices; disc

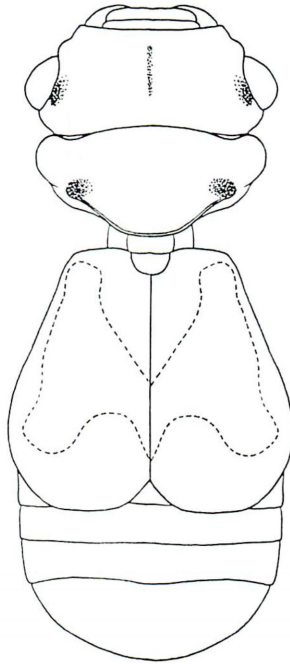


Fig. 2. *Uruminoepilus sakaii* gen. et sp. nov.; outline of body.

furnished with two different kinds of punctures, one of which is shallow, large and sparse and the other minute and sparse; integument smooth. Abdominal tergites finely punctate and microreticulate.

Ventral surface of head striolate in lateral areas; mentum microreticulate. Prosternum finely and sparsely punctate, its process being wider than long with rounded apex. Meso- and metasternum and abdominal sternites shining, finely and sparsely punctate. All tarsi 4-segmented, 1st segment longer than 2nd, 3rd the shortest, 4th the longest.

Sexual dimorphism not pronounced in external characters.

Length: 3.8–3.9 mm; breadth: 1.6–1.8 mm.

Holotype: ♂, Ohkuni-rindô (alt. 320 m), Is. Okinawa-hontô, Ryukyus, 21. X. 1987, M. SAKAI leg. (in coll. Natn. Sci. Mus., Tokyo). Allotype: ♀, same locality as for the holotype (alt. 300 m), M. TOMOKUNI leg. (in coll. Nagoya Women's Univ.).

This new species is easily separated from all the known Japanese species in the elytral macula and the pronotal structure and conformation as described above. It is named in honour of Mr. M. SAKAI who is a good friend of ours and one of the collectors of the beetle.

摘 要

佐藤正孝・八田耕吉：琉球産の新しいハネカクシダマン科甲虫。——日本産のハネカクシダマン科には1属3種が知られ、そのうちの2種が琉球列島に分布している。1987年度に行なわれた“南西諸島における野生生物の種の保存に不可欠な条件に関する研究”のための調査中に、友国雅章、酒井雅博両氏によりハネカクシダマン属に近縁の1新属新種が採集されたので、ここに記載した。

References

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