Elytra, Tokyo, 17 (2): 187–191, November 15, 1989

Tenebrionidae of East Asia

(V) A New Genus Related to *Blaps* (Blaptini) and a New Species from Northwest Thailand

Kimio MASUMOTO

Laboratory of Entomology, Tokyo University of Agriculture,
1–1, Sakuragaoka 1-chôme, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo, 156 Japan

Abstract A new tenebrionid genus related to *Blaps* is erected for a new Northwest Thai species, *Thaioblaps punneeae* gen. et sp. nov. (Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, Blaptini).

During a field survey in Northwest Thailand, I obtained an unknown blaptine species by a liquid (mixture of vinegar and spirits) trap. Although resembling certain species of the genus *Blaps*, it has many remarkable characters. After a careful examination, I have concluded that this tenebrionid species is not only new to science but also belongs to a new genus. It will be described herein and a new genus will be erected at the same time.

Dr. Ottó MERKL, Természettudományi Múzeum, Budapest, gave me invaluable suggestion concerning the systematic position of the new genus. Mr. Manit YIMYAM, Toongnoi School, Chiang Mai Province, helped me to collect the type specimens. Dr. S.-I. UÉNO, National Science Museum (Nat. Hist.), Tokyo, has been continuously supporting me in my study. Mr. Kaoru SAKAI took a beautiful photograph inserted in this paper. I express my hearty thanks to the above persons for their kindness.

The holotype to be designated in this paper will be preserved in the collection of the National Science Museum (Nat. Hist.), Tokyo, and some paratypes are also in the Természettudományi Múzeum, Budapest, the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, and also the British Museum (Natural History), London.

Thaioblaps gen. nov.

Type species: *Thaioblaps punneeae* gen. et sp. nov.

Body fairly large (22.5–33.5 mm); mostly piceous; oblong oval, rather strongly convex above; apterous.

Male. Head mostly transverse elliptic, almost horizontal though feebly convex above, more or less punctate; clypeus transverse, shortly subparallel-sided anteriorly, truncate at apex; frons fairly broad; genae obtusely produced laterad; eyes medium-sized. Terminal segment of maxillary palpus rather large, dilated. Antennae rather

slender, reaching basal portion of elytra.

Pronotum rather trapezoidal, though each side is arcuate; apical margin gently and widely emarginate, not bordered; base very feebly arcuate forwards, not bordered; sides more or less reflexed though not bordered; front angles obtuse; hind angles subrectangular; disc gently convex, more or less punctate, often vaguely impressed on each side, with a shallow longitudinal impression in the middle. Scutellum invisible.

Elytra longitudinally oblong-ovoid; dorsum strongly convex though gently flattened in middle; disc more or less micro-shagreened and shallowly punctato-striate; intervals with rows of granules, which become larger and somewhat carinulate postero-laterally; sides moderately arcuate, gradually declined to outer margins; lateral margins solidly enveloping hind body, thus invisible from above; epipleuron fairly broad basally, gradually narrowed towards apices, with inner margin rimmed; apices distinctly projected posteriad.

Prosternum medium-sized, mostly coriaceous, strongly raised between coxae and deeply grooved medially, apical margin widely and feebly arcuate, prosternal process strongly depressed; mesosternum short and coriaceous, rather triangularly inclined forwards; metasternum short, coriaceous.

Abdomen large, feebly coriaceous, two basal sternites gently depressed in middle, borders between 3rd and 4th sternites, and also 4th and 5th membranous; anal sternite rounded at apex.

Legs fairly long though rather thick; profemur with a tooth at an apical portion of upper edge of inner margin; protibia with two terminal spurs.

Genitalia elongate fusiform.

Female. Compared with male, body larger and more robust, apices of elytra less projected posteriad.

Distribution. Northwest Thailand.

Notes. This new genus somewhat resembles the genus *Blaps* broadly distributed in Palearctic and Ethiopian Regions, but can be easily distinguished from the latter by the body larger, the pronotum more strongly arcuate and reflexed laterally, the scutellum invisible, the elytra shallowly punctato-striate, the border between 1st and 2nd abdominal sternites without tuft, the borders between 3rd and 4th, and also 4th and 5th membranous, and the profemora toothed. Some genera from Central Asia, *e. g.*, *Coelocnemodes* BATES and *Dila* FISCHER, are armed with a tooth on each profemur, and also without abdominal tuft. From the former the new genus can be discriminated by the transverse, truncate clypeus, and rather slender antennae, and from the latter it can be discriminated by the pronotum not swollen on each side.

It is very interesting that such a peculiar genus as this new one is distributed in Northwest Thailand, near the northern periphery of the Oriental Region.

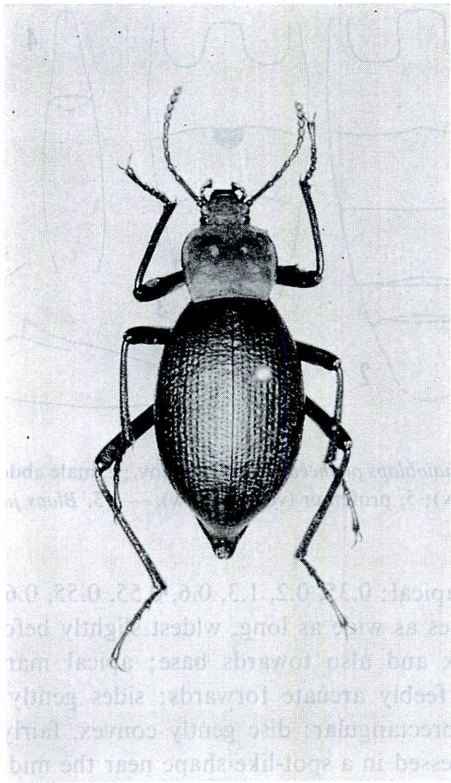


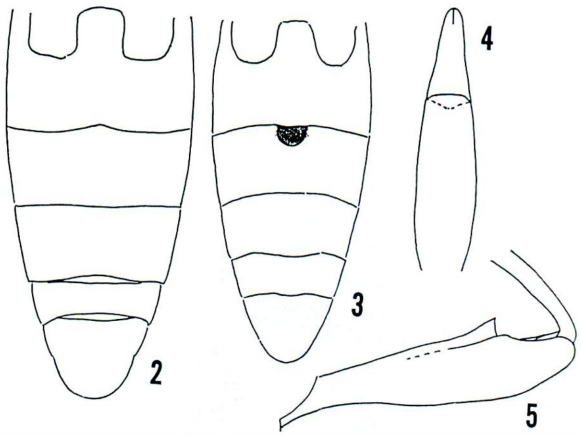
Fig. 1. *Thaioblaps punneeae* gen. et sp. nov., ♂, holotype.

Thaioblaps punneeae gen. et sp. nov.

(Figs. 1–2, 4–5)

Piceous, with mouth parts, apical portions of antennae, tarsi, etc., more or less lighter in colour; dorsal suface rather mat, ventral surface also mat except for abdomen, which is gently shiny. Oblong-oval, rather strongly convex above.

Male. Head rather transverse elliptic, almost flat, closely and shallowly punctate; clypeus transverse, shortly subparallel-sided anteriad, widely truncate at apex; fronto-clypeal border obscure; frons fairly broad, very feebly raised; genae obtusely produced laterad, depressed posteriorly; eyes medium-sized and slightly oblique, with outer margin rounded, distance between them a little less than 5 times their transverse diameter. Mentum rather transverse elliptic with base almost straight, coarsely rugoso-punctate though the punctures are shallow; gula parabolic, coriaceous and finely haired, shortly but deeply impressed apicad on each side; terminal segment of maxillary palpus moderately dilated. Antennae reaching basal 1/5 of elytra, gently thickened towards apex, with 4 apical segments densely covered with short hairs, 8th to 10th moniliform, 11th drop-shaped, ratio of the length of each



Figs. 2–5. —— 2, 4–5. *Thaioblaps punneeae* gen. et sp. nov.; 2, male abdominal segments; 4, male genitalia (dorsal view); 5, profemur (ventral view). —— 3. *Blaps japonensis* MARSEUL, male abdominal segments.

segment from basal to apical: 0.35, 0.2, 1.3, 0.6, 0.55, 0.55, 0.6, 0.4, 0.4, 0.4, 0.6.

Pronotum 1.25 times as wide as long, widest slightly before the middle, roundly narrowed towards apex and also towards base; apical margin gently and widely emarginate; base very feebly arcuate forwards; sides gently reflexed; front angles obtuse; hind angles subrectangular; disc gently convex, fairly closely and shallowly punctate, vaguely impressed in a spot-like shape near the middle and at basal 1/3 on each side, with a shallow longitudinal impression in the middle. Scutellum invisible.

Elytra about 1.7 times as long as wide, 3.4 times length and 1.6 times width of pronotum; dorsum strongly convex though gently flattened in middle; disc microshagreened and shallowly punctato-striate; intervals with rows of granules, which become larger and somewhat carinulate postero-laterally; sides widest nearly at basal 2/5, roundly narrowed forwards and backwards, gradually declined towards outer margins; lateral margins enveloping hind body so sufficiently that they are invisible from above; epipleuron fairly broad basally, gradually narrowed towards apex, with inner margin finely rimmed; apices distinctly projected posteriad.

Prosternum medium-sized, shallowly, transversely wrinkled apically, shallowly punctate and rather coriaceous in middle, strongly raised between coxae and deeply grooved medially, apical margin widely and feebly emarginate, prosternal process strongly depressed, transverse and only feebly produced posteriad; mesosternum short and coriaceous, shallowly wrinkled, inclined forwards; metasternum short, coriaceous and shallowly wrinkled.

Abdomen large, feebly coriaceous, two basal sternites gently depressed in middle, borders between 3rd and 4th sternites, and also 4th and 5th membranous; anal sternite rounded at apex.

Legs fairly long though rather thick; profemur with a tooth at apical 1/4 of the

upper edge of inner margin; protibia with two terminal spurs; ratio of the length of pro-, meso- and metatarsomeres from basal to apical: 0.55, 0.4, 0.4, 0.4, 1.3; 0.65, 0.5, 0.5, 0.45, 1.35; 1.05, 0.75, 0.65, 1.55; claws falciform and sharp.

Genitalia elongate fusiform.

Female. As compared with male, body larger and more robust, apices of elytra less projected posteriad.

Body length: 22.5–33.5 mm.

Type series. Holotype: ♂, Angkhang, Fang, Chiang Mai Prov., Northwest Thailand, 4–XII–1988, Manit Y. leg. (in NSMT). Paratypes: 2 exs., same data as for the holotype; 1 ex., Angkhang, 25–XI–1988, K. MASUMOTO leg.; 4 exs., Angkhang, 18–XII–1988, Manit Y. leg.; 3 exs., Angkhang. I–1989, Manit Y. leg.; 10 exs., Angkhang, 26–V～1–VI–1989, Manit Y. leg.; 8 exs., Samoeng, Chiang Mai, 26–V–1989, K. MASUMOTO leg.

要　　約

益本仁雄: 北西タイ産 *Blaps* 属 (Tenebrionidae, Blaptini) 近縁の1新属新種の記載. —— 北西タイで採集されたゴミムシダマシが, ヤマトオサムシダマシに近縁ではあるが, まったく新しい属の新種であることがわかったので, 新属 *Thaioblaps* を設立し, 新種を *T. punneeae* MASUMOTO と命名した.

References

GEBIEN, H., 1937. Katalog der Tenebrioniden (Coleoptera Heteromera). Teil I. *Pubbl. Mus. ent. "Pietro Rossi", Duino*, (2): 1–381.

SEIDLITZ, G., 1893. Tenebrionidae. *In* ERICHSON, W. F., *et al.* (eds.), *Naturgeschichte der Insecten Deutschlands*, Erste Abtheilung (Coleoptera), **5** (1): 201–400. Nicolaischen Buchhandlung, Berlin.