

On the Validity of *Agonotrechus tenuicollis* S. UÉNO
(Coleoptera, Trechinae)

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Agonotrechus tenuicollis S. UÉNO (1986, p. 84, figs. 1–3) is a medium-sized trechine beetle described from Shivinokhola in eastern Nepal. As was clearly demonstrated in its original description, it is intermediate in many respects between *A. iris* ANDREWES and *A. andrewesi* JEANNEL, and is evidently closer to the former than to the latter. It was, however, synonymized with the latter by DEUVE (1988, p. 80) without any convincing reason. The French author merely stated that *A. tenuicollis* “ne me paraît significativement distinct” from *A. andrewesi*, which is an “espèce à vaste répartition” and is “l’objet d’importantes variations géographiques et individuelles.”

It is true that our knowledge is not sufficient about the trechine species belonging to the genus *Agonotrechus*. All but one of them have been known from only a very few specimens. Geographical and individual variations of any species have not been determined except for *A. horni* JEDLIČKA, and I am the only specialist who is fully aware of the considerable variability of *Agonotrechus* through the study of this Taiwanese species (cf. UÉNO, 1980). Besides, my opinion is based on a direct comparative study of the holotypes, which is the best possible way we can take under the present circumstances. DEUVE’s conclusion is too hasty to be readily accepted, as is sometimes the case of his studies on the Trechinae. I believe that *A. tenuicollis* should be considered a good species, unless future investigations prove that *A. andrewesi* is unusually variable and that all the three taxa, *iris*, *tenuicollis* and *andrewesi*, are variants within a single polymorphic species.

References

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- 1986. A new *Agonotrechus* (Coleoptera, Trechinae) from Nepal, with notes on its congeners. *Ibid.*, (A), 12: 83–92.