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A New Species of *Athemellus* (Coleoptera, Cantharidae) from Japan

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Abstract A new cantharid beetle, *Athemellus watanabei* is described from Mie Prefecture, Central Japan. It is allied to *A. insulsus* (HAROLD).

On their collecting trip to Mie Prefecture, Professor Yasuaki WATANABE and his students collected an interesting *Athemellus* species at the Forest Research Station of Mie University. After a careful examination of the specimens, we have come to the conclusion that this cantharid beetle belongs to a new species. This species is very similar to *A. insulsus* in many external characters, but seems to be different from that species in some characters described below.

Athemellus watanabei ISHIDA et M. SATÔ, sp. nov.

(Figs. 1–5)

Male. Body almost black with reddish yellow pronotum, hypomeron, prosternum and claws, elongate and flattened; surface covered with long bristles on elytra and short recumbent bristles on pronotum in addition to the primary, grayish white, close and recumbent pubescence covering body.

Head provided with shallow convergent furrows at the bases of antennal insertions; vertex feebly depressed; clypeus hardly prominent, slightly notched at apical margin. Eyes large, globular and distinctly prominent. Antennae long, slender and filiform, extending beyond 2/3 of elytral length; approximate ratio of segments as 1.6: 1.0: 1.6: 2.9: 2.9: 2.9: 2.9: 2.9: 2.5: 2.5: 2.2; all the segments lacking in groove.

Pronotum subquadrate, as wide as head, almost as wide as long at mid-line, scarcely and finely punctate; anterior and posterior margins weakly arcuate, lateral margin ridged; anterior and posterior corners obtusely angulate; disc provided with a shallow median furrow and conspicuous and hardly convex upheavals. Scutellum triangular

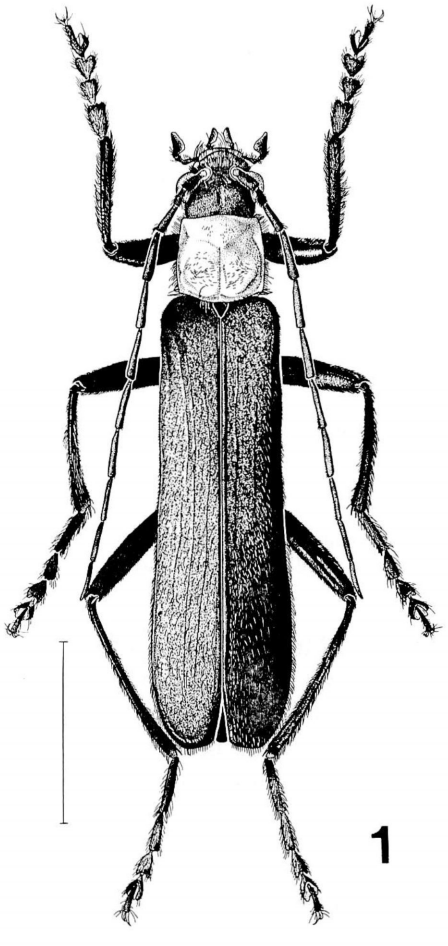


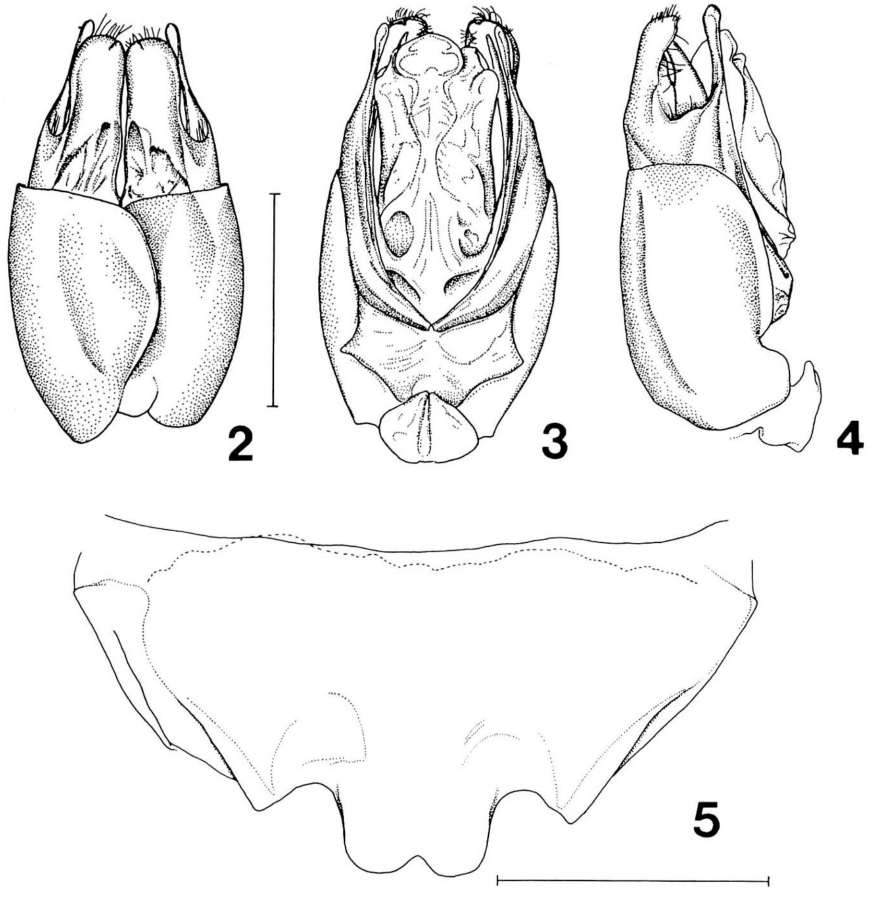
Fig. 1. *Athemellus watanabei* ISHIDA et M. SATÔ, sp. nov., male. (Scale line=5 mm.)

with rounded apex.

Elytra large and elongate, conjointly 1.4 times as wide as pronotum, about 3.3 times as long as wide, subparallel-sided, but gradually broader apicad; disc provided with three obscure longitudinal keels.

Prosternal process broad, with slightly bifurcate apex. Mesosternum flattened in middle, with conspicuous median ridge. Apical margin of 7th abdominal sternite truncate. Legs long and slender; tibiae slightly bent; all claws simple and lacking small tooth at each base.

Male genitalia oblong-oval, more or less flattened; lateral lobes provided with long dorsal plates with apices distinctly rounded and short ventral processes which are slightly longer than dorsal plates; median lobe furnished with short processes, whose apices do not reach those of dorsal plate of lateral lobe (Figs. 2–4).



Figs. 2–5. *Athemellus watanabei* ISHIDA et M. SATÔ, sp. nov. —— 2–4, Male genitalia (2, ventral view; 3, dorsal view; 4, lateral view); 5, 8th abdominal sternite in female. (Scale line=1 mm.)

Length: body 16.4–16.7 mm; hind tibia 4.4–4.5 mm.

Female. Body somewhat larger and wider than in the male. Eyes hardly prominent. Antennae a little shorter than those of male. Eighth abdominal sternite broad; apex of each lateral lobe angulate; median lobe wide with its terminal margin notched; apex of median lobe distinctly extending beyond those of lateral lobes (Fig. 5).

Holotype: ♂, Hirakura (Forest Research Station of Mie University), Mie Pref., 23–III–1992, Y. WATANABE leg. Allotype: ♀, same locality as for the holotype, 24–III–1992, K. MATSUMOTO leg. Paratypes: 1 ♂, same data as for the holotype; 7 ♂♂, same data as for the allotype.

The holo- and allotype are preserved in the collection of the Biological Laboratory, Nagoya Women's University. The paratypes will be distributed to the following

institutions and entomologists: Tokyo University of Agriculture, the National Science Museum (Nat. Hist.), Tokyo, Mr. Y. OKUSHIMA and K. ISHIDA.

Remarks. This new species is closely related to *A. insulsus* (HAROLD) and *A. oedemeroides* (KIESENWETTER) in black and reddish yellow coloration, and long flattened body, but differs from the latter in large size of body, small head, and rounded dorsal plates and short ventral processes of lateral lobes of male genitalia.

We have dedicated this species to Prof. Dr. Y. WATANABE of Tokyo University of Agriculture who is one of the discoverers of this remarkable species.

Acknowledgement

We wish to express our hearty thanks to Prof. Dr. Yasuaki WATANABE of Tokyo University of Agriculture who gave us the opportunity to examine this interesting material.

要　約

石田勝義・佐藤正孝: 日本産クビアカジョウカイ属（ジョウカイボン科）の1新種. ―― 渡辺泰明教授（東京農業大学）のご好意で，三重県で採集されたクビアカジョウカイ属の1種を検する機会を得た．近似種ウスチャジョウカイ *Athemellus insulsus* (HAROLD) およびクビアカジョウカイ *A. oedemeroides* (KIESENWETTER) と比較検討の結果，新種と認められたので，ここにミエクビアカジョウカイ *A. watanabei* ISHIDA et M. SATÔ と命名して記載した．

References

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