

A New Species of the Genus *Onychothecus* (Coleoptera,  
Scarabaeidae) from Laos\*

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**Abstract** A new species of the genus *Onychothecus* BOUCOMONT is described from Laos under the name of *O. riekoae* sp. nov. This new species can easily be distinguished from the other three known species of this genus in several external characteristics.

The genus *Onychothecus* was described by BOUCOMONT (1912) from Yunnan, and is known as one of the most peculiarly formed scarab genera, above all in the unique sexual dimorphism with horned females and hornless males. The three species, *O. ateuchoides* BOUCOMONT, 1912, *O. corniclypeus* CHANG, 1980, and *O. tridentigeris* ZELENKA, 1992, have so far been known.

Recently, through the courtesy of Mr. M. FUJIOKA, we had the opportunity to examine three specimens of an *Onychothecus* species from Laos, and found it distinct from the three known species of this genus in some external morphology. Thus, we recognize a new species based on the specimens from Laos.

***Onychothecus riekoae* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 1–6)

Length: 18.0–26.8 mm; width: 9.6–13.7 mm (n=3).

Body large, oblong-ovate, rather strongly convex; dorsal side entirely glabrous, very shining; ventral side also shining and almost glabrous except for partly hairy head and prosternum. Color black; mouth parts, palpi and antennal foot-stalks dark reddish

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\* This study was supported in part by Grants-in-Aid from the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, Japan (Nos. 09839030, 10041166).

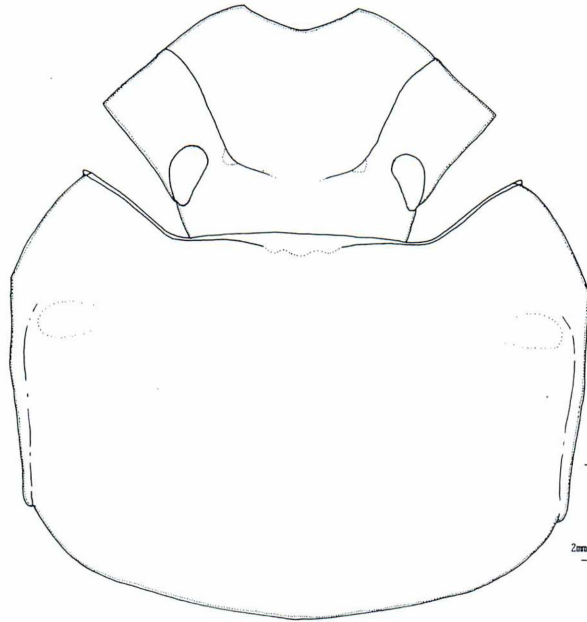
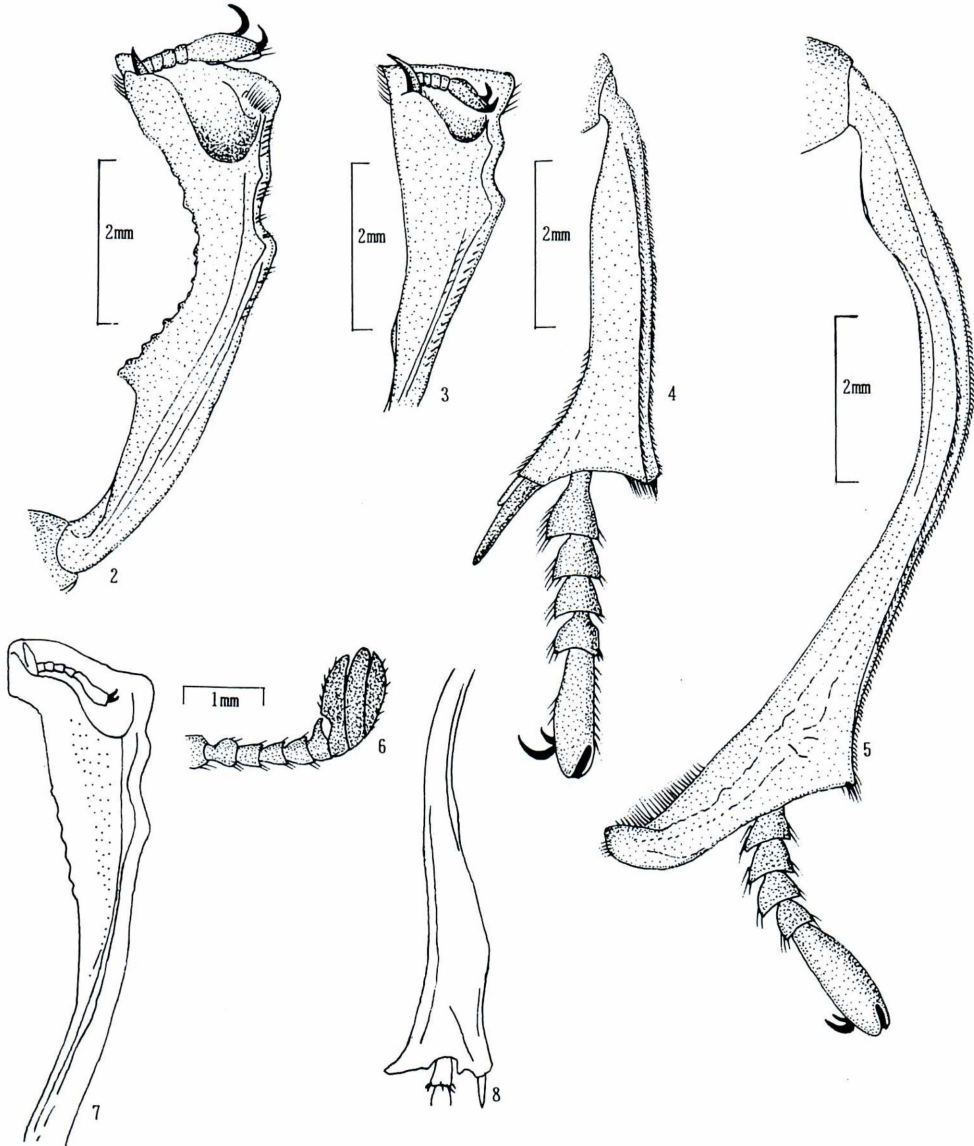


Fig. 1. *Onychotheclus riekoae* OCHI et KON, sp. nov.; head and pronotum, dorsal view, male.

brown; club segments of antenna blackish-brown.

*Holotype* (male). Head well flattened, gently hollowed on the antero-median portion, about 1.76 times as wide as long; clypeus strongly produced forwards, rather deeply and widely emarginate in the middle, and a little reflexed on each side of the emargination; the emargination with a transverse excavated area surrounded by dorsal and ventral edges on anterior side; clypeal margin very thinly bordered; clypeo-genal sutures distinct; clypeo-frontal one fine but well defined laterally, entirely effaced medially; genae large, strongly produced laterally, with genal corners nearly right-angled; genal margins finely bordered, almost straight though very slightly sinuate in front and also behind; eyes relatively large, the interspace between them about 4.8 times as wide as the width of one eye; surface rather densely covered with moderate-sized strong annular punctures, the punctures becoming sparser and smaller in the middle, coarser and shallower on vertex and posterior part of genae, the interspaces between punctures half-shining except for clearly micro-granulose vertex.

Pronotum strongly convex, about 1.68 times as wide as long; anterior margin emarginate and finely bordered, but the marginal line becomes much widened and obsolete in the middle; lateral margins obtusely angulate in anterior third, with apical portion weakly curved, posterior portion almost straight though very slightly sinuate towards posterior angles, marginal borders thin; basal margin gently rounded and finely bordered; anterior angles strongly produced forwards and right-angled, with each apex very slightly produced outwards as a small tooth; posterior angles slightly



Figs. 2–8. *Onychothecus* spp. — 2–6, *O. riekoae* OCHI ET KON, sp. nov.; right protibia, dorsal view, male (2); right protibia, dorsal view, female (3); right mesotibia, dorsal view, female (4); right metatibia, dorsal view, male (5); right antenna, dorsal view, male (6). — 7–8. *O. ateuchooides* BOUCOMONT; right protibia, dorsal view, male (7); left metatibia, dorsal view, male (8).

produced as rounded lobes; disc with a small depression at antero-median portion, and with a pair of shallow excavations medially on both sides near lateral margins; surface very finely and sparsely punctate medially, the punctures gradually changing into

dense, coarse, and annular ones towards all margins, the interspaces between punctures shining except for micro-granulose baso-lateral marginal areas.

Elytra about 0.96 times as wide as long; disc strongly convex, with ten striae including one along the lateral costa and two along epipleural margin, the 1st to 8th striae extending from base to near apex between sutural margin and the lateral costa, the 1st and 10th, the 2nd and 9th, the 3rd and 8th, the 4th and 5th joining at apices, the 6th and 7th not distinctly joining; all striae shallowly and very finely impressed, the 6th and 7th being obsolete apically, and the 9th and 10th also obsolete basally, with strial punctures strong though rather small, and clearly crenulating interstriae; interstriae entirely flat, the 1st to 7th very smooth and shining, and almost impunctate except near each side of interstriae, where the punctures are somewhat regularly arranged in a longitudinal row containing one or two small but strong punctures along interstriae, the 8th and 10th opaque, strongly micro-granulose, evenly and a little densely bearing annular punctures, the 9th almost shining, irregularly punctate.

Pygidium distinctly convex a little before the middle, margined at base, micro-granulose basally, shining apically, and densely covered with coarse and annular punctures in basal half, the punctures gradually changing into simple and smaller ones towards apex. Prothorax with apical angles deeply excavated on the ventral side. Metasternum with median part shallowly and broadly hollowed along mid-line in basal half, and then again more deeply so in apical half, surface rather closely punctate medially, the punctures becoming coarser and more distinctly annular laterally. Abdomen densely covered with rather uneven and coarse annular punctures. Profemora broad, each with anterior edge subtriangularly produced forwards in basal third. Mesofemora with posterior edge simple. Metafemora with posterior edge produced in apical two-fifths. Protibiae elongate and very strongly curved internally, each with three fairly blunt teeth apically on external margin, the 1st tooth the largest, the 2nd small, the 3rd larger than the 2nd; internal margin strongly projected as a strong tooth at basal third, and then irregularly and obtusely denticulate towards apex; apical portion deeply excavated for receiving small protarsi. Mesotibiae rather short, strongly dilated near apices; outer side forming a distinct lateral smooth surface defined by dorsal and ventral edges, the two edges closely fringed with short yellowish hairs throughout. Metatibiae extremely long, well arcuate internally; outer side forming a distinct lateral smooth surface defined by dorsal and ventral edges, the two edges also fringed with similar hairs to those on mesotibiae; inner side a little tumid internally near base, and then gradually and very slightly dilated towards apex; inner distal end fairly strongly produced as an elongate projection, of which the inner margin is densely fringed with rather long yellowish hairs. All tarsi with the 5th segment deeply split apically and forming two terminal plates; all claws often completely concealed by the terminal plates.

Female. Head flat, with the outline almost similar to that of male, about 1.81 times as wide as long ( $n=1$ ); clypeus widely and rather shallowly emarginate in the middle, with the emargination bearing a small reflexed triangular process at the mid-

dle; the emargination with a subrhombic depressed area surrounding by dorsal and ventral edges in anterior side, the dorsal one continuous with anterior margin of the triangular process; clypeal margin nearly straight on each side of the emargination; clypeo-genal sutures neither strongly prominent forwards nor reflexed at margins; surface almost the same as in the male, but the antero-median portion smooth and impunctate.

Pronotum about 1.77 times as wide as long ( $n=1$ ); anterior margin with marginal border becoming a little widened and strongly curved backwards in the middle, but distinct throughout; anterior marginal membrane wide; disc with a pair of lateral depressions small; surface with median greater part very smooth and strongly shining, almost impunctate.

Elytra about 1.04 times as wide as long ( $n=1$ ); lateral margins distinctly sinuate near base; striae rather strongly impressed; interstriae nearly flat, with sutural ones a little convex than in male.

Protibiae short and stout, gradually dilated towards each apex, with three blunt external teeth apically, the 1st tooth the largest, the 2nd smaller, the 3rd a little larger than the 2nd; anterior margin almost truncated; internal margin very slightly toothed near base; apical portion deeply excavated for receiving small protarsi; terminal spur sharp and incurved, placed at the apical inner portion of the excavation. Mesotibiae relatively short, strongly dilated near apices. Metatibiae also short, strongly dilated near apices.

*Type series.* Holotype: ♂, Nhahin, Lak Xao, Laos, 25-VII-1996, M. FUJIOKA coll. Paratypes: 1 ♀, the same data as for the holotype; 1 ♂, Laxa, Laos, VI-1996, M. FUJIOKA coll.

The holotype will be deposited in the collection of the Kyoto University Museum.

*Etymology.* This species is named in honor of Prof. Rieko MURAOKA of Senshu University, who has been giving support to the senior author.

*Notes.* The present new species can be distinguished from all the known three species, *Onychothecus ateuchoides*, *O. corniclypeus* and *O. tridentigeris*, by the following characteristics: 1) elytra with interstriae flat; 2) a pair of lateral excavations on pronotum very weak; 3) pronotum and elytra more strongly polished; 4) in the male, protibiae with inner margin bearing a strong tooth at basal third instead of being simple; 5) in the male, metatibiae very elongate and strongly arcuate, with inner distal end very strongly produced as an elongate projection; 6) in the male, pronotum with a pair of basal depressions indistinct; 7) in the female (comparing with similar-sized females), clypeo-genal suture neither strongly produced forwards nor reflexed at the margin; 8) in the female, clypeal margin except for the median emargination almost straight instead of being strongly sinuate.

### Acknowledgments

We are deeply indebted to Mr. M. FUJIOKA and Prof. R. MURAOKA for giving us

the opportunity to study interesting specimens, and to Dr. Y. CAMBEFORT of the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, for invaluable information.

### 要 約

越智輝雄・近 雅博：ラオス産 *Onychothecus* 属コガネムシの1新種。—— Laosから *Onychothecus* 属の1新種を記載し, *O. riekoae* sp. nov. と命名した。本種は同属の既知の3種から、いくつかの外部形態において容易に区別される。

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*Elytra, Tokyo*, **26** (2): 346, November 15, 1998

## New Records of Elaterid Beetles (Coleoptera) from Kikai-jima Island of the Ryukyu Islands

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Kikai-jima (喜界島) is situated about 25 kilometers to the east off Amami-Ôshima Island of the Ryukyu Islands. I had an opportunity to make a collecting trip to this small island on May 3–6, 1998, and found the following newly recorded species from there.

1. *Agrypnus (Sabikikorius) amamiensis amamiensis* (MIWA, 1934); 4 ♂♂ 1 ♀.
2. *Melanotus (Melanotus) takahashii* KISHII, 1974; 13 ♂♂ 7 ♀♀.
3. *Platynychus (Displatynychus) adjutor adjutor* (CANDÈZE, 1873); 3 ♀♀.