Elytra, Tokyo, **26** (2): 399–402, November 15, 1998

A New Species of the Genus *Achrostus* (Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, Tenebrionini) from Asia

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Abstract A new species of the tenebrionid genus *Achrostus* is described under the name of *A. asiaticus* sp. nov. This is the first record of the occurrence of the genus in Asia.

The genus *Achrostus* Fairmaire, 1891, comprises about 10 species described from Africa, that is, Angola, Rhodesia, Ivory Coast, etc. Specimens are mostly found from fungus combs growing in old termitaries of *Macrotermes*.

In the course of the study on the tenebrionid beetles from northern Thailand, one of the authors (K. M.) has found a strange species, submitted to him by his friends. He showed it to the other author (C. G.), and confirmed that the specimens belong to the genus *Achrostus*.

As mentioned above, the members of this genus have never been known from outside Africa. Thus, the authors are going to describe the first species of the genus from Asia.

Before going into details, they wish to express their hearty thanks to Dr. Yoshiaki Komiya, Tokyo University, and Mr. Hideo Akiyama, Yokohama City, for their contribution in offering material specimens. Thanks are also due to Dr. Makoto Kiuchi, Tsukuba City, for taking the photograph inserted in this paper. Finally they sincerely thank Dr. Shun-Ichi Uéno, National Science Museum (Nat. Hist.), Tokyo, for his invaluable advice in the course of this study.

Achrostus asiaticus sp. nov.

(Figs. 1–3)

Pale yellowish brown, with black eyes; surface moderately shining and almost glabrous. Rather elongate, gently convex above.

Head subhexagonal, rather closely and finely punctate; clypeus somewhat trapezoidal, truncate at apex, feebly convex in middle, fronto-clypeal border not sulcate but rather noticeably depressed; genae triangular, weakly depressed in posterior portion, with outer margins gently produced laterad in posterior portions; frons gently convex, rather sparsely punctate; eyes transversely reniform, rounded laterad, obliquely inlaid into head, diatone about 1.5 times the width of an eye; vertex rather steeply inclined posteriad. Antennae rather bold, reaching basal 1/5 of elytra, each segment except the terminal one more or less thickened towards each apex, the terminal being somewhat acinaciform, ratio of the length of each segment from basal to apical: 0.4, 0.2, 0.36, 0.48, 0.46, 0.48, 0.49, 0.53, 0.57, 0.6, 0.86.

Pronotum subquadrate, 1.36 times as wide as long, widest at apical 2/5, apex very slightly produced forwards, not bordered widely in middle; base slightly bisinuous, weakly produced in middle, entirely bordered, with lateral parts of margins slightly expanded; sides gently declined to lateral margins, which are arcuate laterad and entirely bordered; front angles rounded, hind angles obtusely angulate; disc gently convex, very weakly micro-shagreened, rather closely punctate, the punctures larger than those on head. Scutellum wide triangular, micro-shagreened, sparsely scattered with small

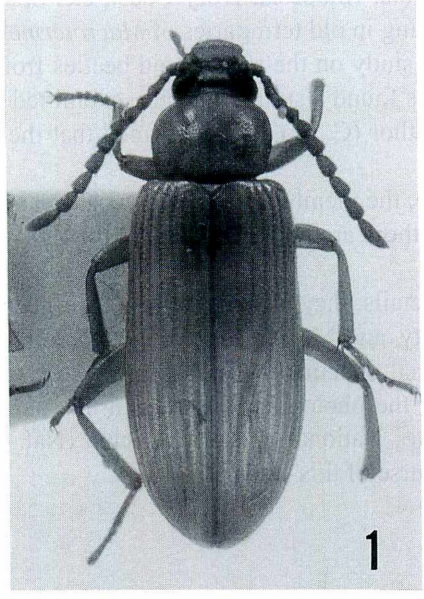
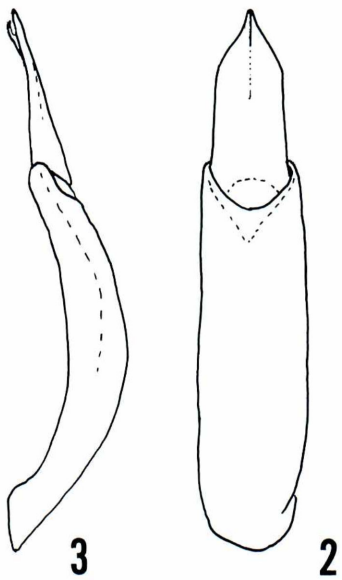


Fig. 1. Habitus of *Achrostus asiaticus* sp. nov., holotype, ♂.



Figs. 2–3. Male genitalia of *Achrostus asiaticus* sp. nov.; 2, dorsal view, 3, lateral view.

punctures.

Elytra slightly less than twice as long as wide, 4 times the length and 1.4 times the width of pronotum, weakly widened posteriad, widest at apical 3/7; dorsum moderately convex, highest at basal 3/7; disc punctato-striate, the punctures small and closely set; intervals moderately convex, very weakly micro-shagreened, rather closely punctate and transversely micro-aciculate, the punctures smaller than those on pronotum; humeri not modified; apices rounded.

Abdominal sternites alutaceous, closely punctate, without secondary sexual characteristics. Legs not modified; ratios of the lengths of pro-, meso- and metatarsomeres: 0.67, 0.52, 0.38, 0.36, 1.2; 1.2, 0.46, 0.36, 0.32, 1.22; 1.85, 0.62, 0.33, 1.63.

Male genitalia (Figs. 2–3) somewhat elongated fusiform, 2.2 mm in length and 0.5 mm in width, basal piece medially curved in lateral view; fused lateral lobes flattened and nib-shaped, about 0.6 mm in length.

Body length: 8.6–9.3 mm.

Holotype: ♂, Wieng Ko Sai National Park, Phrae Pref., N Thailand, 19–V–1985, H. AKIYAMA leg. (NSMT). Paratype: 1 ex., Nong Bang, N Thailand, 14–V–1985, Y. KOMIYA leg. (MNHNP).

Notes. This new species somewhat resembles *A. amariformis* FAIRMAIRE, 1894, from Sierra Leone, but can be distinguished from the latter by the body paler in colour and more elongate, with head wider, antennal segments obviously dilated towards each apex, pronotum narrowed basad, and elytral intervals more noticeably convex and punctate.

The type specimens were taken at light.

要　　約

益本仁雄・Claude GIRARD：アジア産*Achrostus*属の1新種．――― 北タイで得られたゴミムシダマシ科の1甲虫は，熱帯アフリカに分布する*Achrostus*属（ゴミムシダマシ族）の新種であることが判明したので新種記載をした．なお，この属の種は，オオシロアリ属*Macrotermes*の廃巣に発生するキノコに生息している．基準標本は，灯火に飛来した．

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