

New or Little-known Elateridae (Coleoptera) from Japan, XL

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Abstract Three new species of elaterid beetles are described and illustrated from Japan. They are named *Rismethus ryukyuensis*, *Corymbitodes kiiensis* and *Melanotus (Melanotus) kumensis*.

In the present study, I am going to describe three new species of elaterid beetles from Japan. The holotype of each species to be described in this paper is preserved in the collection of the National Science Museum (Nat. Hist.), Tokyo.

Before going further, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Shun-Ichi UÉNO of the National Science Museum (Nat. Hist.), Tokyo, for his kindly reading the manuscript and giving me useful suggestions, and to Miss VON HAYEK of the former chief of the Department of Entomology, the Natural History Museum, London, for the loan of the specimens of *Rismethus scobinula* from China (Shanghai and Hong Kong), and Dr. M. SATÔ of Nagoya, Messrs. H. ARIMOTO of Osaka, T. FUKAISHI of Ishigaki-jima Is., and Y. HIRAMATSU of Wakayama for their kindness in offering the specimens used in this study.

Rismethus ryukyuensis sp. nov.

(Fig. 1 A–J)

Meristhus scobinula: CANDÈZE, 1873, Mém. Soc. Sci. Liège, (2), **5**: 5 (Japan) [nec CANDÈZE, 1857].

Meristhus scobinula: LEWIS, 1894, Ann. Mag. nat. Hist., (6), **13**: 30 (Nagasaki) [nec CANDÈZE, 1857].

Rismethus scobinula: HAYEK, 1973, Bull. Br. Mus. (n. H.), Ent. Suppl., (20): 238. (Designation of the lectotype from China).

E. CANDÈZE (1857) described a new species, *Meristhus scobinula*, from China and Mexico. In 1973, he recorded this species from Japan (Nagasaki?) and later, G. LEWIS (1894) also recorded it from Japan (Nagasaki). Recently, I was able to study some specimens of this species from China and Hong Kong determined by HAYEK (1973). As the result, it has become apparent that the Japanese species is evidently different from the Chinese and is new to science as described below.

Male. Length 2.3 mm, width about 1 mm. Body small and subovate, obviously convex above; surface rather opaque, blackish brown to dusky brown except for hind

angles of pronotum, basal areas of elytra and some parts of ventral surface of body, which are more or less dull brown; antennae and legs yellowish brown; vestiture pale yellow and pile-like.

Head gently convex between eyes; surface coarsely and deeply punctate; clypeal margin only ridged over antennal insertions, broadly obliterated at middle (Fig. 1 E). Antenna short, not reaching posterior angle of pronotum; 2nd segment subcylindrical, 3rd clearly smaller than 2nd which is subquadrate (Fig. 1 F), distinctly serrate from 4th to 10th segments.

Pronotum subquadrate, with sides rounded at middle; disc dome-like, deeply, coarsely and evenly punctate (Fig. 1 G); each posterior angle obliquely truncated (Fig. 1 H↑), without carina above; each anterior angle distinctly acuminate anteriorly. Prosteral process slightly incurved posteriorly and bluntly pointed apically (Fig. 1 D). Each propleuron bearing a shallow tarsal concavity as illustrated (Fig. 1 C↑). Scutellum subquadrate, wider than its length, bearing a short longitudinal elevation at base.

Elytra about 1.4 times as long as its basal width, with sides of basal halves rounded, thence convergent towards apices which are normally pointed; striae rather ram-defined, with intervals bearing a row of pile-like setae.

Aedeagus (in dorsal aspect) as illustrated; median lobe subcylindrical and obtusely rounded apically; apical portion of each lateral lobe subtriangular, with outer angle sharply pointed laterally (Fig. 1 I–J).

Female. Very similar to male and difficult to distinguish from it without examination of genitalic apparatus.

Holotype: ♂, Nakasuji on Ishigaki-jima Is., 4–IV–1997, T. FUKAISHI leg. Paratypes: 40 exs., Akagina on Amami-Ôshima Is., 30–IV–1984, H. ARIMOTO leg.; 15 exs., Kometoku on Tokuno-shima Is., 1–IV–1975, H. ARIMOTO leg.; 2 exs., Hateruma-jima Is., 13–16–VIII–1968, H. ÔHIRA leg.; 3 exs., Katabaru-hama on Yonaguni-jima Is., 27–VIII–1994, M. SATÔ leg.

Distribution. Kyushu (Nagasaki) and the Ryukyu Islands, Japan.

This new species is closely allied to *R. scobinula scobinula* (CANDÈZE, 1857) from China, but can be distinguished from the latter by the smaller body, and more rounded sides of pronotum with more clearly and acutely pointed anterior angles.

Corymbitodes kiiensis sp. nov.

(Fig. 2 A–K)

Male. Length 9–9.5 mm, width about 2 mm. Body elongate, almost parallel-sided and gently convex above; surface shining with a dark brassy lustre except for apical portion of prosternal process and some posterior marginal parts of propleura of prothorax and epipleural areas of elytra more or less dusky brown; antennae black to blackish brown; legs yellowish brown (sometimes femora and tarsi dusky brown); vestiture cinereous, fine and semidecumbent.

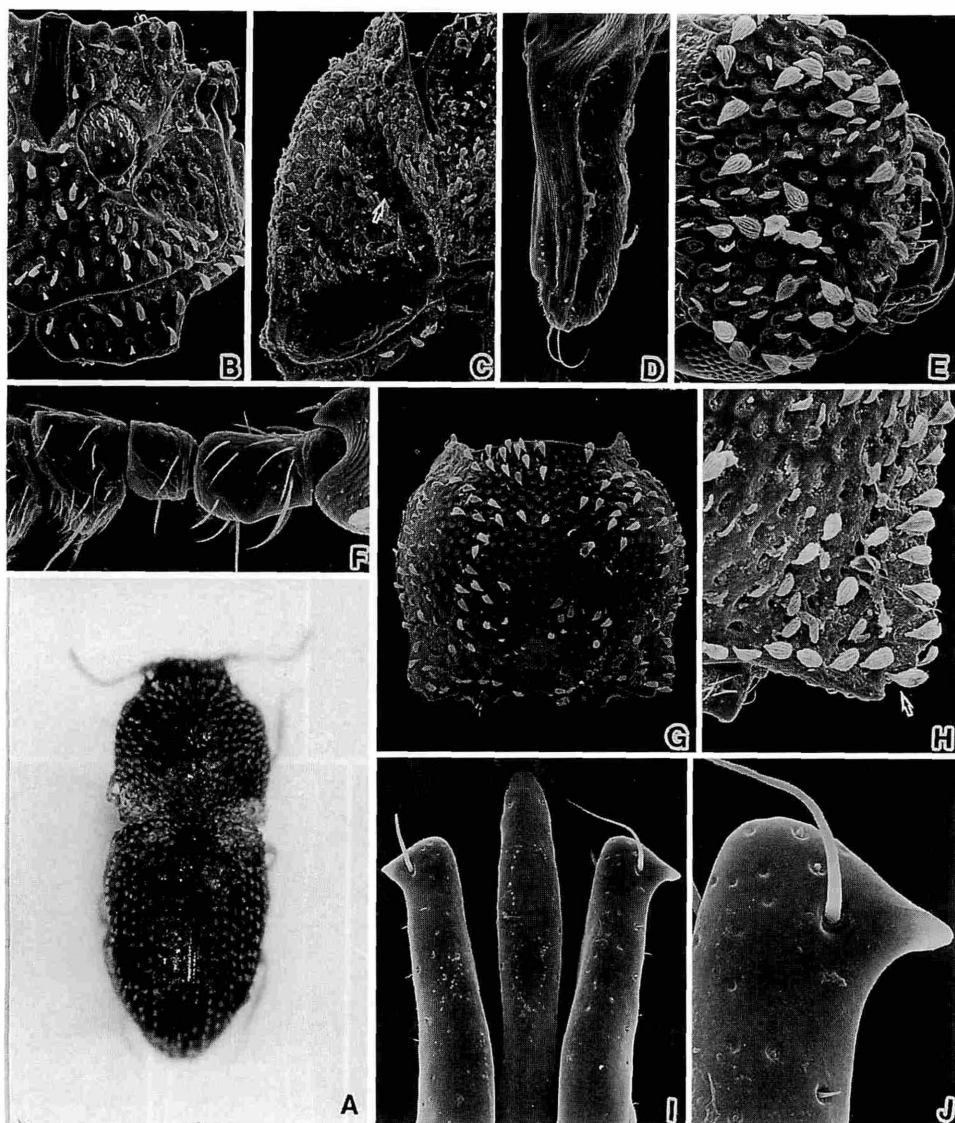


Fig. 1. *Rismethus ryukyuensis* sp. nov., male, from Ishigaki-jima Is. — A, Holotype; B, left half of metasternum and basal plate, ventral aspect; C, right propleuron of prothorax, ventral aspect; D, prosternal process, lateral aspect; E, head, dorsal aspect; F, 2nd to 4th segments of right antenna; G, pronotum, dorsal aspect; H, right hind corner of pronotum; I and J, apical portion of aedeagus, dorsal aspect.

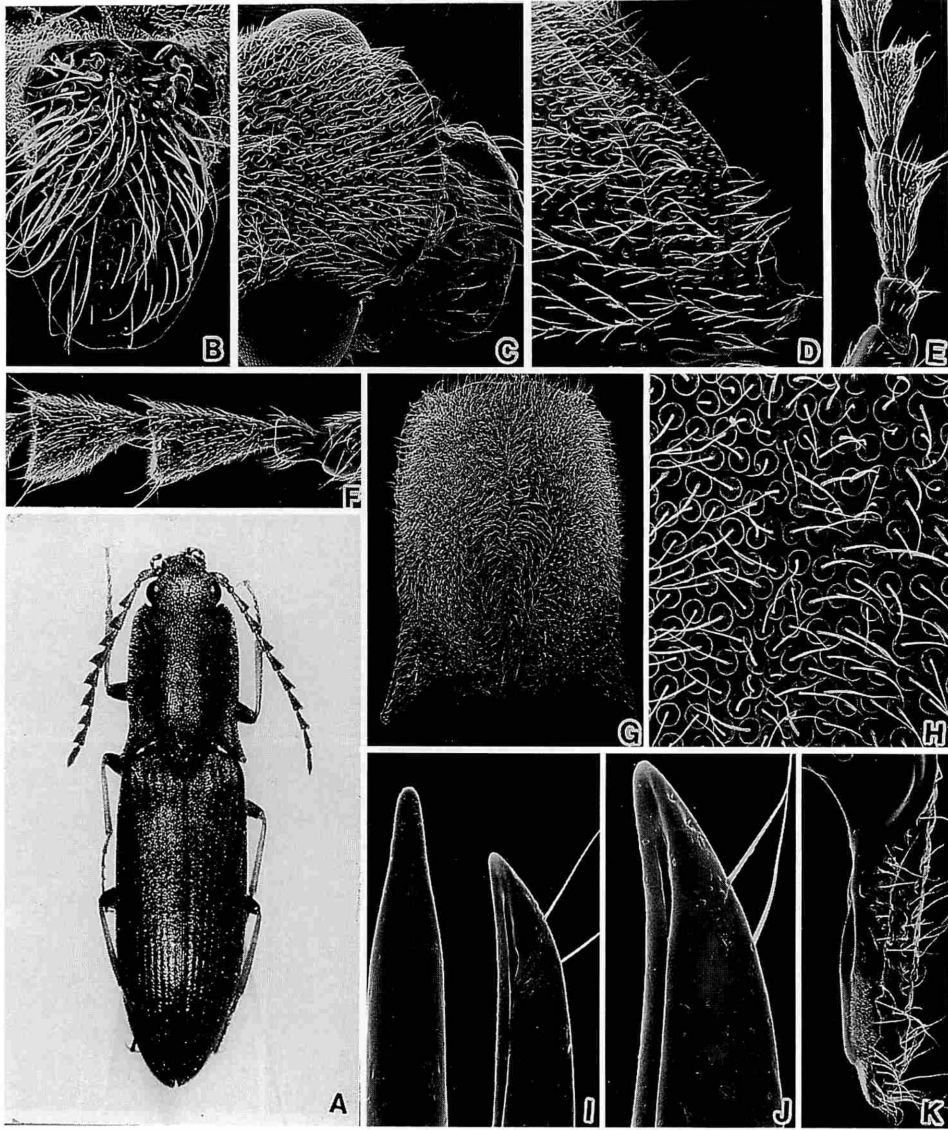


Fig. 2. *Corymbitodes kiiensis* sp. nov., male (except for E which is of a female), from Mt. Ôishi-yama in Wakayama Pref. — A, Holotype; B, scutellum; C, head and clypeal margin, dorso-lateral aspect; D, left basal plate, ventral aspect; E and F, 2nd to 4th segments of antenna; G, pronotum, dorsal aspect; H, some punctures on the disc of pronotum; I and J, apical portion of aedeagus, dorsal aspect; K, prosternal process, lateral aspect.

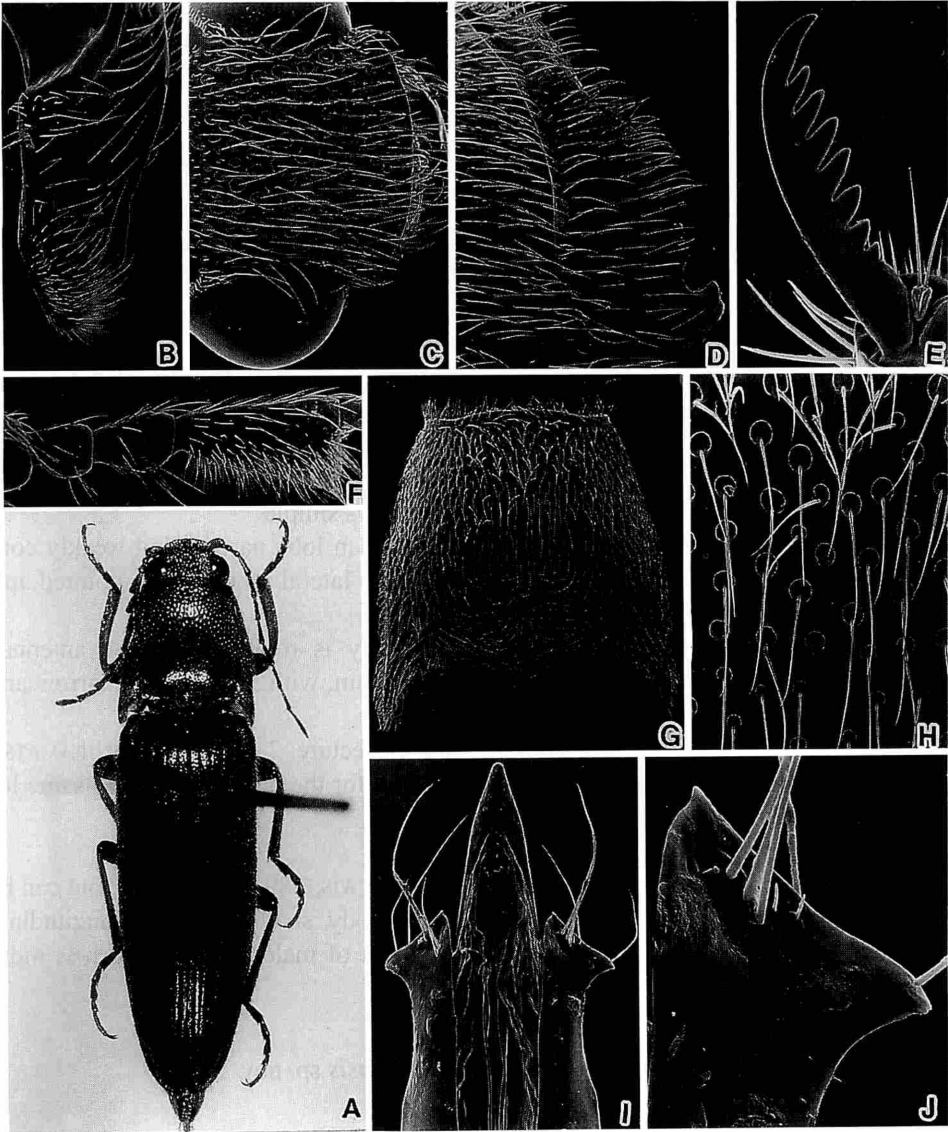


Fig. 3. *Melanotus (Melanotus) kumensis*, male, from Kume-jima Is.— A, Holotype; B, prosternal process, lateral aspect; C, head, dorsal aspect; D, left basal plate, ventral aspect; E, ungula of hind leg; F, 2nd to 4th segments of antenna; G, pronotum, dorsal aspect; H, some punctures on the disc of pronotum; I and J, apical portion of aedeagus, ventral aspect.

Head gently convex between eyes, flattened between antennae; surface coarsely and densely punctate; clypeal margin transverse, depressed and obliterated at middle (Fig. 2 C). Antenna elongate, extending beyond posterior angle of pronotum at least by apical segment; 2nd segment small and subglobose, 3rd subtriangular and a little longer than 4th, 3rd to 4th segments clearly serrate (Fig. 2 F).

Pronotum subquadrate, with sides almost parallel in middle, slightly sinuate just before posterior angles (Fig. 2 G); disc gently convex, densely and coarsely punctate (Fig. 2 H), usually bearing a shallow and broad median longitudinal channel from base to near anterior margin (Fig. 2 G); posterior angles produced postero-laterad, each with an obliterated carina above. Scutellum lingulate, flattened and pubescent (Fig. 2 B). Prosternal process in lateral aspect as illustrated (Fig. 2 K).

Elytra about 2.7 times as long as its basal width, with sides almost parallel in basal halves, thence weakly rounded and gradually convergent towards apices which are ordinarily pointed; striae well defined and deeply punctate; intervals gently elevated, punctate, irregularly and transversely rugose. Basal plates each narrow, gradually narrowing outwards (Fig. 2 D). Legs slender, claws simple.

Aedeagus (in dorsal aspect) as illustrated; median lobe narrow and weakly constricted towards apex which is obtusely pointed; each lateral lobe narrow, pointed apically, with outer margin rounded (Fig. 2 I–J).

Female. Very similar to male, but the body is robuster and the antennae shorter, not attaining to the posterior angle of pronotum, with 3rd segment narrow and longer than 4th (Fig. 2 E).

Holotype: ♂, Mt. Ôishi-yama in Wakayama Prefecture, 2–V–1996, H. HIRAMATSU leg. Paratypes: 40 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, same collecting data as for the holotype; 10 ♂♂, same locality, 1–V–1997, H. HIRAMATSU leg.

Distribution. Honshu, Japan.

This new species is closely allied to *C. gratus* LEWIS, 1894 from Japan, but can be distinguished from the latter by the dark aeneous body, shallow median longitudinal canaliculation of pronotum and shorter 3rd segment of male antenna which is more gently serrate from the 4th to the 10th segments.

***Melanotus (Melanotus) kumensis* sp. nov.**

(Fig. 3 A–J)

Male. Length 13.5–16 mm, width 3.5–4 mm. Body slender and fusiform, moderately convex above; surface shining, entirely castaneous-brown except for antennae and legs light brown; vestiture pale yellow and semidecumbent, becoming longer on head and pronotum.

Head, gently convex between eyes, more or less longitudinally elevated between antennae; surface coarsely and rather densely punctate; clypeal margin well ridged, rounded at middle (Fig. 3 C). Antenna elongate, extending beyond posterior angle of

pronotum at least by 1.5 apical segments (Fig. 3 A); 2nd segment small and almost globose, 3rd subclavate and about 1.4 times as long as 2nd, 4th a little longer than these two preceding segments (Fig. 3 F), 3rd to 10th segments moderately serrate.

Pronotum trapezoidal, widest across base, with sides weakly sinuate just before posterior angles, thence gradually convergent towards anterior angles (Fig. 3 G); disc gently convex, moderately densely and evenly punctate, without median longitudinal smooth line or channel in middle (Fig. 3 H); posterior angles projecting posteriad, each with a distinct carina above. Scutellum flattened and subquadrate. Prosternal process in lateral aspect not excavated behind procoxal cavities (Fig. 3 B).

Elytra about 2.7 times as long as its basal width, with sides almost parallel in basal halves, thence gradually convergent towards apices which are normally pointed; striae defined, regularly and deeply punctate; intervals gently elevated, punctulate and slightly rugose. Legs slender, claws pectinate, each with 6 or 7 denticles (Fig. 3 E).

Apical portion of aedeagus (in ventral aspect) as illustrated; median lobe weakly arcuate near apex which is obtusely pointed; apical portion of each lateral lobes subtriangular, with postero-lateral angle sharply pointed laterad (Fig. 3 I–J).

Female. Unknown.

Holotype: ♂, Kume-jima Is. of the Ryukyu Islands, 1~3-V-1996, H. ÔHIRA leg. Paratypes: 6♂♂, same collecting data as for the holotype. All the specimens are captured by a light trap.

Distribution. Kume-jima Is. of the Ryukyu Islands, Japan.

This new species is closely allied to *M. (M.) okinawensis* ÔHIRA, 1982 from Okinawa-hontô Island of the Ryukyu Islands, but can be distinguished from the latter by the smaller and slenderer body, shorter 3rd segment of antenna, and differently shaped aedeagus.

要 約

大平仁夫：日本産コメツキムシ科の新種，XL。—— 本報告では3新種を記載した。

Rismethus ryukyuensis ÔHIRA (ケシツブスナサビキコリ)。体長は2.3mm内外の小型種で、日本からE. CANDÈZE (1873)が*Meristhus scobinula* (現在は*Rismethus*属に含められている)として記録してから今日まで、長い間この種名が使用されてきたが、基産地のChina産のものとは別種であることが判明した。九州は長崎からE. CANDÈZE (1873)やG. LEWIS (1894)の記録があるのみであるが、屋久島から与那国島にいたる琉球列島には各地に広く分布し、記録も多い。

Corymbitodes kiiensis (キイホソヒラタコメツキ)。体長は9.5mm内外でやや暗い真鍮色の金属光沢を有する種である。一般外形は*C. obscuripes* (コゲチャホソヒラタコメツキ)や*C. gratus* (ドウガネヒラタコメツキ)との中間的な特徴を有しているが、触角の第2-3節や前胸背板や雄交尾器などの形態によって識別できる。

Melanotus (Melanotus) kumensis (クメカンシヤクシコメツキ)。体長は15mm内外。一般外形は*M. (M.) okinawensis* (オキナワカンシヤクシコメツキ)に類似しているが、触角の第2, 3節, 前胸腹板突起, 雄交尾器などの形態によって識別できる。雌は未知で、本種は久米島以外から

はまだ知られていない。

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Elytra, Tokyo, **27** (2): 416, November 13, 1999

Glipostena pelecotomoidea (PIC) (Coleoptera, Mordellidae), Newly Recorded from the Tokara Islands of the Northern Ryukyus

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The largest mordellistenine mordellid in Japan, *Glipostena pelecotomoidea* (PIC), has commonly been known from Honshu, the Ryukyus (Yaku-shima Is., Amami-Oshima Is., Okinawa Is., Ishigaki Is.) and Taiwan, according to HATAYAMA (1985, *Coleopt. Japan Col.*, Osaka, **3**: 387–399). Recently, I have examined one specimen of this species collected on Nakano-shima Is. of the Tokara Islands. It seems to me that this is the first record of the mordellid from the Tokara Islands. The collecting data are as given below:

1 ♂, Nakano-shima Is., Tokara Isls., N. Ryukyus, 12~26–VII–1997, T. HATTORI leg. (in my coll.).

I am grateful to Mr. T. HATTORI of Yokohama for offering me the valuable specimen.