

## A Review of the Genus *Melanoscython* FLEUTIAUX (Coleoptera, Eucnemidae), with Descriptions of New Species

Jyrki MUONA

Oulanka Biological Station, University of Oulu, 90570 Oulu, Finland

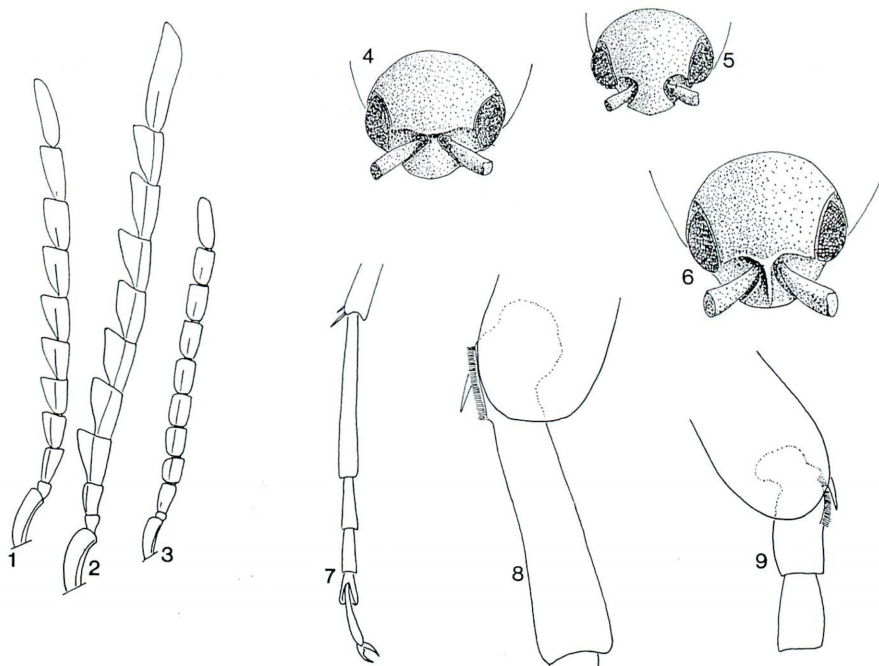
**Abstract** *Melanoscython ohmomo* n. sp. from Japan and *Melanoscython carinatus* n. sp. from Java are described. A key including all known *Melanoscython* species is given. Characters defining the genus and its relations to other genera are given.

*Melanoscython* FLEUTIAUX, 1926, is a little known Oriental genus. The type species is *Melanoscython denticornis* (FLEUTIAUX) (MUONA, 1987). It shows a number of derived characters uniting it with genera like *Dromaeolus* KIESENWETTER, 1858, and *Fornax* LAPORTE, 1835: aedeagus with lateral lobes partly fused with median lobe, median lobe with long struts, secondary lateral lobes well developed, male first protarsomere with basal sex comb and dorsal surface of meso- and metatibiae with rows of specialized spines. Within this lineage *Melanoscython* can be recognized by the combination of the following characters: claws simple, antennae flattened, densely pubescent and with dorsal keel on most segments, head and pronotum very densely punctate, dull, form elongated.

Most *Melanoscython* species, including the type species, have medially feebly defined lateral antennal grooves on hypomera. As FLEUTIAUX (1926: 71-72) already pointed out, this character is difficult to judge and thus of limited value. Both character states can be found in closely related species, e.g., the Nearctic *Dromaeolus basalis* LECONTE and *Dromaeolus striatus* (SAY). For this reason I will in the present paper include in *Melanoscython* one new species which has medially well limited antennal grooves. In all other respects it clearly belongs in this genus.

### A Key to the Species of the Genus *Melanoscython*

- 1. Frons with transverse keel across base of clypeus (Figs. 4, 6)..... 2.
- Frons without transverse keel (Fig. 5)..... 3.
- 2. Clypeus with longitudinal median keel (Fig. 6)..... *M. carinatus* n. sp.
- Clypeus without longitudinal median keel (Fig. 4)..... *M. denticornis* (FLEUTIAUX).
- 3. Colour yellow, elytra and pronotum with black spots.... *M. decoratus* FLEUTIAUX.
- Dorsally unicoloured, dark brown or black species..... 4.
- 4. Third antennal segment about twice the length of fourth .....
- ..... *M. monilicornis* FLEUTIAUX.



Figs. 1-9. — 1. *Melanoscythron denticornis* (FLEUTIAUX), antenna. — 2. *Melanoscythron carinatus* n. sp., holotype, antenna. — 3. *Melanoscythron ohmomi* n. sp., paratype, antenna. — 4. *Melanoscythron denticornis* (FLEUTIAUX), head. — 5. *Melanoscythron ohmomi* n. sp., paratype, head. — 6. *Melanoscythron carinatus* n. sp., holotype, head. — 7. *Melanoscythron ohmomi* n. sp., holotype, mesotarsus. — 8. *Melanoscythron carinatus* n. sp., holotype, male first protarsomere. — 9. *Melanoscythron ohmomi* n. sp., holotype, male first protarsomere.

- Third antennal segment slightly longer than fourth (Fig. 3) .....  
 ..... *M. ohmomi* n. sp.

***Melanoscythron carinatus* n. sp.**

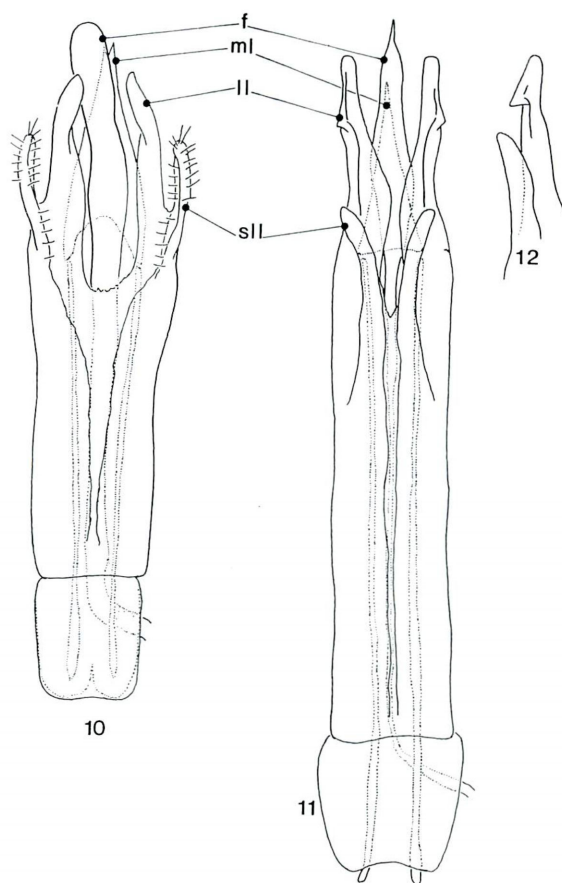
(Figs. 2, 6, 8, 10, 13)

*Type area.* Indonesia, Java.

*Type material.* Holotype male, Java Occ. Toegoe, J. D. PASTEUR, in MHNP.

*Description* (male only). Form oblong, elongated (Fig. 13). Length 7.5 mm. Colour black, legs brown, knees and tarsi yellowish.

Head orderly and very densely punctate. Clypeus very narrow at base, with basal transverse keel and well developed median keel (Fig. 6). Antennae flattened, densely pubescent, segments 3 to 10 dentate, all segments except for 2nd with dorsal keel (Fig. 2). Antennae slightly longer than length of half the insect. Pronotum very densely, orderly punctate with short basal keel in front of scutellum. Disc of pronotum with lateral impressions in middle and two basal impressions on both sides.



Figs. 10–12. — 10. *Melanoscython carinatus* n. sp., holotype, aedeagus. — 11. *Melanoscython ohmomoï* n. sp., holotype, aedeagus. f=sclerotized tip of ductus ejaculatoris, ll=lateral lobes, ml=median lobe, sll=secondary lateral lobes. — 12. *Melanoscython monilicornis* FLEUTIAUX, part of primary and secondary lateral lobes.

Elytra with weak striae, interstices flat, densely punctate, mostly rugose. Thoracic sterna and hypomera very densely punctate. Hypomera with medially well-defined, deep lateral antennal grooves. Abdomen shiny, densely punctate. Pubescence yellowish grey, inconspicuous.

Legs fairly slender, tarsi longer than tibiae in middle and hind legs, first meso- and metatarsomeres longer than rest of tarsi (partly missing in the only specimen seen). First protarsomere elongated, sex-comb nearly straight (Fig. 8).

Aedeagus with simple lateral lobes and well developed secondary lateral lobes (Fig. 10).

*Diagnosis.* This species is similar to *M. denticornis* (FLEUTIAUX). From that species it can be easily distinguished by the median keel on clypeus. The aedeagi of

the two species are quite different. The aedeagus of *M. denticornis* resembles that of *M. ohmomo* n. sp. In *M. denticornis* the lateral teeth of the apices of the lateral lobes are blunt and the median lobe is much shorter in relation to the lateral lobes than in *M. ohmomo*.

*Melanoscython ohmomo* n. sp.

(Figs. 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 14)

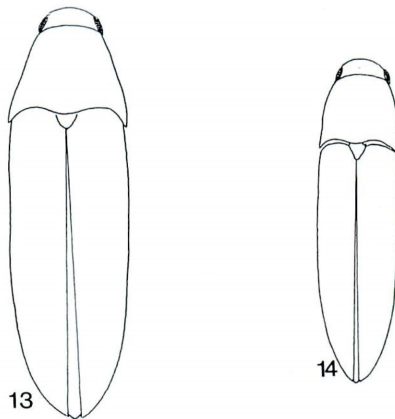
*Type area.* Japan.

*Type material.* Holotype male, Japan, Fukushima Pref., Shitokigawa Glen, 29. IV. 1982, leg. S. OHMOMO, in coll. National Science Museum (Nat. Hist.), Tokyo. Paratype male with same data, in coll. MUONA.

*Description* (male only). Form elongated (Fig. 14). Length 5.3–5.5 mm. Colour blackish brown, abdomen reddish brown, legs pale brown.

Head dull, very densely punctate, partly rugose. Clypeus at base narrower than distance from there to eye (Fig. 5). Antennae flattened, slender, densely pubescent with dorsal keel on all segments except for 2nd and 11th, slightly longer than half the insect (Fig. 3). Pronotum very densely punctate, partly rugose, dull. Elytra with well defined, non-punctate striae, interstices flat, densely punctate, largely granulose on basal third. Thoracic sterna and hypomera very densely punctate, mostly rugose. Hypomera with fairly deep, shiny lateral antennal grooves, these not limited medially by ridge. Abdomen shiny, densely punctate. Apex of 7th sternum feebly produced. Pubescence yellowish grey, inconspicuous.

Legs slender, tarsi longer than tibiae in middle and hind legs, first meso- and metatarsomeres longer than rest of tarsi (Fig. 7). First protarsomere short, sex-comb curved (Fig. 9).



Figs. 13–14. — 13. *Melanoscython carinatus* n. sp., holotype, habitus. — 14. *Melanoscython ohmomo* n. sp., holotype, habitus.

Aedeagus slender, apices of lateral lobes with smaller lateral tooth than those of *M. monilicornis*, secondary lateral lobes well developed (Figs. 11, 12).

*Diagnosis.* This species is closely related with *M. monilicornis*. From that species *M. ohmomoï* can be distinguished by its much longer antennae with short third segment, reddish brown abdomen and differently shaped aedeagus.

*Note.* Among the Japanese Eucnemidae, *M. ohmomoï* is unique in having medially not defined, well developed antennal grooves on pronotal hypomera. Some species belonging to the genera *Hylis* DES GOZIS, 1886, and *Proxylobius* FLEUTIAUX, 1900, have antennae that greatly resemble those of *M. ohmomoï*. None of these species have, however, complete lateral antennal grooves and in addition to this their males do not have sex-combs on first protarsomere.

*Melanoscython decoratus* FLEUTIAUX

FLEUTIAUX, 1926, 69–70.

*Distribution.* Philippines, Butnan.

Only the holotype female is known to me (MHNP).

*Melanoscython monilicornis* FLEUTIAUX

(Fig. 12)

FLEUTIAUX, 1931, 74; 1947, 33.

*Distribution.* Laos, Haut-Mekong, Neme-Tiene.

Only the holotype male is known to me (MHNP).

*Melanoscython denticornis* (FLEUTIAUX)

(Figs. 1, 4)

FLEUTIAUX, 1916, 392 (as *Fornax*); 1929, 69; 1947, 33.

*Distribution.* Philippines, Mt. Makiling & Los Baños.

The holotype male is in MHNP. In addition to it I have seen two males from Los Baños (BPBMHH).

**Abbreviations**

BPBMHH — Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii. MHNP — Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris.

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### 摘 要

MUONA, J.: *Melanoscython* 属 (コメツキダマシ科) とその 2 新種について. — *Melanoscython* 属は、これまでフィリピンとラオスから 3 種が知られていたが、今回ジャワと日本から各 1 新種を記載するとともに 5 種の検索表を付した.

1. *Melanoscython carinatus* n. sp. *M. denticornis* に似ているが、頭盾中央に縦隆条をもつことで容易に区別されるほか、♂ 交尾器の形も異なっている。ジャワ産。

2. *Melanoscython ohmomi* n. sp. *M. monilicornis* に近縁だが、より長い触角、短い第 3 触角節、赤褐色の腹部、異なった ♂ 交尾器によって区別される。本新種はまた、前胸側板によく発達した触角溝をもつことで特異である。本州 (福島県産)。

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