

## A New Species of the Genus *Megapenthes* (Coleoptera, Elateridae) from the Ryukyu Islands

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**Abstract** A new species of the elaterid genus *Megapenthes* is described and illustrated from the Ryukyu Islands, Southwest Japan. It is related to *M. opacus* CANDÈZE from the mainland.

In Japan, three species of the genus *Megapenthes* KIESENWETTER, 1863, *M. opacus* CANDÈZE, 1873, *M. shirozui* KISHII, 1959, and *M. kurosawai* W. SUZUKI, 1986, have been known up to the present. Recently, the author had an opportunity to examine two male specimens of this genus from the Ryukyu Islands. After a careful study, he came to the conclusion that it was new to science. He is going to describe it under the name of *M. azumai* sp. nov. in the present paper.

Before going further, the author wishes to express his hearty thanks to Dr. Hitoo ÔHIRA for his constant guidance, and Mr. Kôji AZUMA and Mr. Ryouji TOYOSHIMA for their kind offer of the invaluable specimens.

### *Megapenthes azumai* sp. nov.

(Figs. 1–5)

*Male.* Length 7.5 mm; width 2.1 mm.

Body elongate, subparallel-sided, convex above and slightly shining. Body black, prothorax dark red except for black prosternal process, femora and tibiae dark brown, trochanters, tarsi and claws almost reddish brown. Dorsal surface clothed with black setae; ventral surface with golden yellow setae.

Head gently convex between eyes; clypeal margin well ridged and rounded at the middle; surface densely punctate, each puncture seemingly umbilical; apical segment of each maxillary palpus hatchet-like in shape and about 2.7 times as long as wide. Antennae short, not reaching posterior angles of pronotum; basal segment robust and oblong-ovate; second subglobular and slightly longer than wide; third subconical, slightly longer than second; second and third segments taken together about 0.8 times as long as fourth; fourth the longest and triangular; fourth to tenth strongly serrate; apicalmost subovate and 2.1 times as long as wide.

Prothorax about 1.2 times as long as the distance across posterior angles; disk strongly convex, densely punctate, each puncture seemingly umbilical; sides almost straight in dorsal view and slightly converging from tips of posterior angles to apical

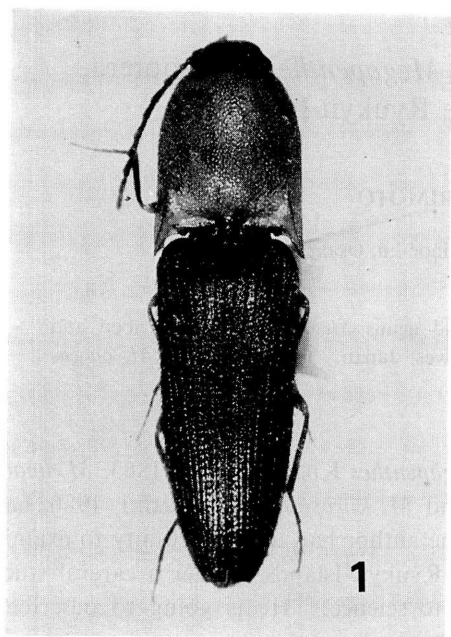


Fig. 1. *Megapenthes azumai* sp. nov., holotype, from Mt. Omoto-dake, Ishigaki-jima Is., Okinawa Prefecture.

fourth, then weakly and roundly narrowed anteriorly; hind angles acutely projecting posteriorly, each bearing a distinct carina above; propleuron shallowly and sparsely punctate; punctures on prosternum slightly sparser than those of pronotum; prosternal process elongate, projecting backwards, with undersurface sparsely and coarsely punctate. Scutellum elongate, gradually tapering posteriorly, flattened and sub-vertical, with surface finely punctate.

Elytra about 2.4 times as long as humeral width; sides subparallel in basal halves, then gradually tapering towards apices; apices clearly truncate though broadly emarginate; striae well defined, bearing deep and elongate punctures; intervals elevated and weakly granulated. Abdominal sternites bearing shallow and elongate punctures.

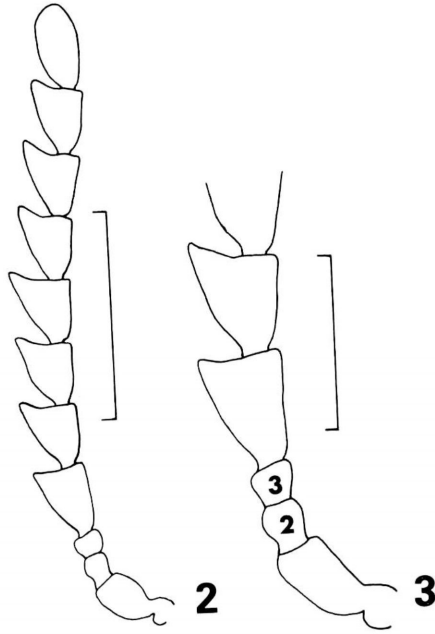
Legs slender, with tarsi and claws simple.

Aedeagus as illustrated (Figs. 4-5); median lobe slender, widest near base, then gradually narrowed towards apex; lateral lobes distinctly shorter than median lobe, each apical portion clearly expanded and furnished with many long setae.

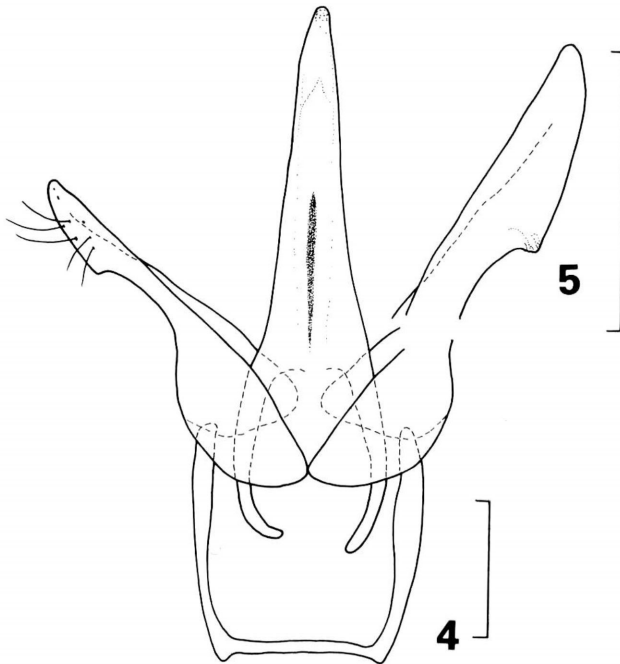
Female unknown.

Holotype: 1 ♂, Mt. Omoto-dake, Ishigaki-jima Is., Okinawa Pref., 1-V-1988, K. AZUMA leg. Paratype: 1 ♂, near Kanpira-no-taki, Iriomote-jima Is., Okinawa Pref., 1-V-1984, R. TOYOSHIMA leg. The holotype is deposited in the National Science Museum (Nat. Hist.), Tokyo.

This new species is allied to *M. opacus* CANDÈZE, 1873, from Japan, but can be distinguished from the latter by the following points: 1) The body is distinctly smaller. 2) The punctures on the pronotum are clearly larger. 3) The prosternum is dark red



Figs. 2–3. Right antenna of *M. azumai* sp. nov. Scales: 1 mm (for Fig. 2) and 0.5 mm (for Fig. 3).



Figs. 4–5. Aedeagus of *M. azumai* sp. nov. Scale: 0.2 mm (for Figs. 4–5).

except for the black prosternal process, while that of *M. opacus* is entirely black. 4) The antennae are more strongly serrate from the fourth segment.

### 要 約

有本久之: 琉球列島産 *Megapenthes* 属コメツキムシ科の1新種。——石垣島および西表島から採集された *Megapenthes* 属の1新種, *M. azumai* を記載した。この種は、日本本土産のムネアカツヤケシコメツキ *M. opacus* CANDÈZE に似ているが、触角や点刻の形態、前胸腹板の色彩などの差異によって区別できる。

### References

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