

## A New Species of the Genus *Neosclerus* (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae) from Taiwan

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**Abstract** A new staphylinid beetle of the genus *Neosclerus* hitherto unrecorded from Taiwan is described under the name of *N. atsushii*. It is easily distinguished from the known species of the genus by its large eyes, short elytra and degenerated hind wings.

The genus *Neosclerus* CAMERON is a small genus of the subfamily Paederinae, consisting of about ten known species mainly distributed in South Asia. Most species have been known from India, Assam, Nepal and Bhutan. One species, *N. nigerrimus* (KRAATZ, 1859), was described from Ceylon, and one, *N. javanus* (BERNHAEUER, 1920) from Java. However, none of the species of this genus have been recorded from Taiwan. In the present paper, I am going to describe a new species collected from temperate forests of the northern and central mountainous areas in Taiwan.

Before going further, I wish to express my cordial thanks to Professor Yasuaki WATANABE of Tokyo University of Agriculture, for his continuous guidance and encouragement, and to Dr. Shun-Ichi UENO of the National Science Museum (Nat. Hist.), Tokyo, for his kindness extended to me in various ways. Hearty thanks are also due to Mr. Akinori YOSHITANI for his assistance in preparing the illustration of the whole insect inserted in the present paper.

### Genus *Neosclerus* CAMERON

*Neosclerus* CAMERON, 1924, Trans. ent. Soc. Lond., **1924**, p. 188 (type species: *Neosclerus fortepunctatus* CAMERON, 1924). — BLACKWELDER, 1939, Proc. U. S. natn. Mus., **87**: 120; 1952, U. S. natn. Mus. Bull., **200**: 260.

*Lobochilus* BERNHAUER, 1920, Arch. Naturg., (A), **84**(10): 179 (type species: *Lobochilus javanus* BERNHAUER, 1920) [junior homonym of *Lobochilus* BOULENGER, 1882]. — CAMERON, 1931, Fn. Brit. Ind., Coleopt. Staphyl. II, p. 123. — SCHEERPELTZ, 1933, Coleopt. Cat., (129): 1239. — BLACKWELDER, 1939, Proc. U. S. natn. Mus., **87**: 119; 1952, U. S. natn. Mus. Bull., **200**: 225.

In the large head and very large eyes, this genus recalls of the subgenus *Raphirus* of the genus *Quedius*, or the members of the genera *Stenus* or *Dianous*.

*Neosclerus* can be separated from all the known genera of the subfamily Paederinae by the following combination of characters: last segment of maxillary palpus minute and subulate; labrum feebly emarginate in front, edentate; eyes very large, almost occupying the whole sides of head; antennae not geniculate; neck at least a fourth

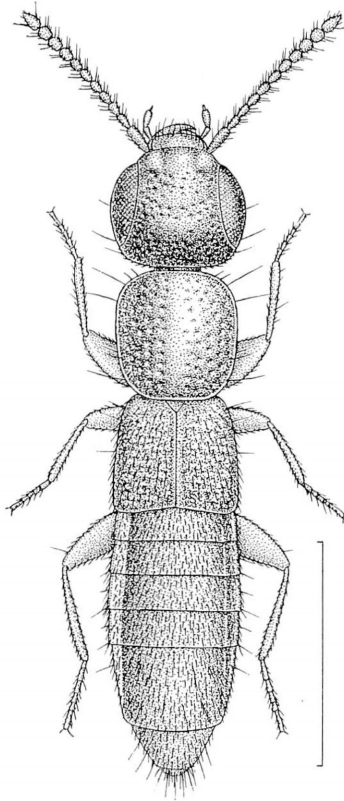


Fig. 1. *Neosclerus atsushii* sp. nov., ♂, from Lushan Wenchuan in Taiwan. Scale: 1.0 mm.

as broad as the base of head; 4th segment of tarsi simple.

*Neosclerus atsushii* sp. nov.

(Figs. 1–5)

Body nearly parallel-sided and somewhat depressed above. Colour reddish brown and shining, with head almost black and legs brownish yellow. Length: 3.2–3.5 mm.

Head large, a little transverse (greatest width of head / greatest length of head = 1.21), suborbicular and slightly wider than pronotum (greatest width of head / greatest width of pronotum = 1.12); eyes very large and very protruding from lateral outlines of head, almost occupying the whole sides of head, their longitudinal diameter much longer than postocular areas (longitudinal diameter of eyes / length of postocular area = 5.2), which are barely indicated; base truncate; frontal area between antennal tubercles transversely flattened and almost impunctate, bearing several conspicuous

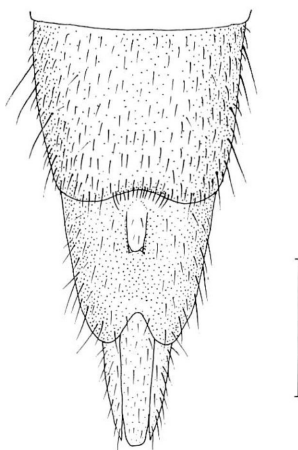


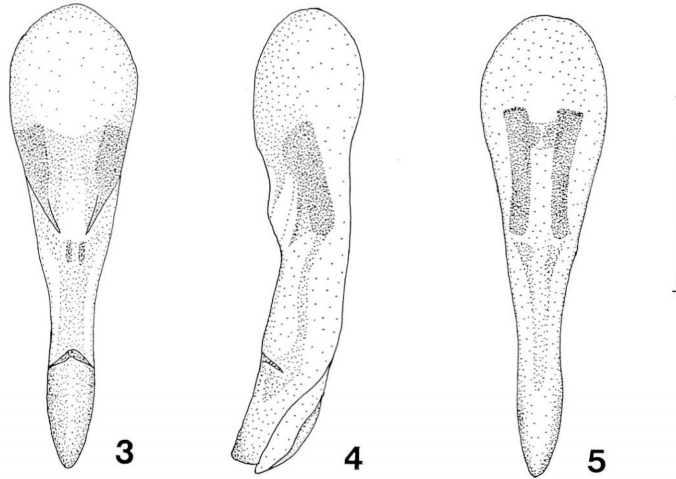
Fig. 2. Last three abdominal sternites in male of *Neosclerus atsushii* sp. nov. Scale: 0.5 mm.

setiferous punctures inside each antennal tubercle; disc closely covered with large and distinct punctures, except for a small smooth vertexal area; latero-posterior parts also with setiferous punctures which are finer and closer than those on the disc. Antennae extending a little beyond the middle of pronotum and not thickened apicad; 1st segment robust and feebly dilated apicad, 2nd 1.3 times as long as broad and constricted at base, 3rd somewhat longer than 2nd ( $3rd/2nd=1.25$ ), 4th to 5th slightly longer than broad (length/width=1.2), 6th to 10th subequal in length to one another, each about as long as broad, the apicalmost nearly twice as long as 10th and 1.5 times as long as broad, subacuminate towards the tip.

Pronotum slightly longer than head (length of pronotum, measured along the midline / length of head=1.06), almost quadrate, about as long as broad (length of pronotum / greatest width of pronotum=0.97), widest behind anterior angles, obliquely narrowed to the neck from there, posteriorly slightly and straightly narrowed to rounded posterior angles; anterior angles obtuse; surface strongly, rather coarsely and moderately closely punctate, except for a comparatively broad smooth area along the median line throughout its length. Scutellum subtriangular, almost impunctate and smooth.

Elytra small, somewhat widened posteriorly, slightly wider than long (greatest width of elytra / greatest length of elytra=1.14), and a little shorter than (greatest length of elytra / length of pronotum=0.89) but as wide as pronotum (greatest width of elytra / greatest width of pronotum=0.99); lateral sides almost straight; posterior angles broadly rounded; surface roughly and somewhat rugosely punctate and finely pubescent; hind wings degenerated.

Abdomen elongate, slightly divergent towards the 4th visible segment which is the widest, 5th segment to anal end distinctly narrowed; surface moderately closely covered with extremely fine punctures, and very finely pubescent, apex and sides of



Figs. 3–5. Male genital organ of *Neosclerus atsushii* sp. nov.; ventral view (3); lateral view (4); dorsal view (5). Scale: 0.3 mm.

each tergite provided with some fine black setae; in male, 6th visible sternite deeply and subtriangularly excised at the middle of posterior margin, and provided with narrow longitudinal U-shaped carinae near the basal region; 5th visible sternite also broadly and shallowly emarginate at middle of posterior margin, the emargination being furnished with short black setae. Legs moderately long, protarsi thin in both sexes.

Male genital organ elongate and moderately sclerotized; median lobe gradually narrowed towards somewhat rounded apex, with basal part a little globular; no style nor parameres; in dorsal view, paired sclerotized structure of internal sac long and distinct.

*Type series.* Holotype: ♂, Lushan Wenchuan, about 1,200 m alt., Nantou Hsien, Taiwan, 28–VII–1983, Y. SHIBATA leg. Allotype: ♀, same data as for the holotype. Paratypes: 3 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀, same data as for the holotype.

The holo- and allotypes are deposited in the collection of the Laboratory of Entomology, Tokyo University of Agriculture, and the paratypes are preserved in the author's private collection.

*Further specimens examined.* 2 ♀♀, near Lalashan, about 1,600 m alt., on the borders between Taoyuan and Taipei Hsiens, Taiwan, 23–VII–1982, Y. SHIBATA leg.

*Notes.* The present new species resembles *N. fortepunctatus* CAMERON from India, Assam and Nepal in general appearance, but can be readily distinguished from the latter by the elytra being shorter than the pronotum and less strong punctures on head and pronotum. In view of its shorter elytra, this new species is similar to *N. brachypterus* (CAMERON) from India, but differs from the latter by the large eyes almost occupying the whole sides of the head, with the postocular areas barely in-

licated.

The two female specimens taken near Lalashan are excluded from the type series, because of the different coloration of the body. They have dark brown body with black head, reddish brown antennae and reddish yellow legs. It is possible that the coloration of the Lalashan specimens shows a mature state, while that of the type series is still somewhat teneral.

All the specimens of the type series were found from heaps of humid fallen leaves accumulated at the edges of the water of a narrow mountain stream.

The specific name is given after Mr. Atsushi KAWABE, one of the best friends of mine, who kindly collaborated with me in searching for this new species at Lushan Wenchuan.

### 要 約

柴田泰利: 台湾から未記録の *Neosclerus* 属ハネカクシの1新種。——*Neosclerus* 属は、アリガタハネカクシ亜科の比較的小さい属で、現在までに10種がインド、アッサム、ネパール、ブータン、セイロン、ジャワなどから知られている。いずれも大きい頭部とその側面の大部分を占める複眼により、この亜科のほかの属のものとの識別は容易である。さらにこの特徴によって、ツヤムネハネカクシ属の *Raphirus* 亜属やメダカハネカクシ属、ヒョウタンメダカハネカクシ属のものにも外観が似ている。

今回、台湾の中部と北部の山地帯で採集した本属の標本を精査した結果、新種と認められたので、*Neosclerus atsushii* と命名記載した。種名は友人で本種の採集にご協力いただいた川辺 湛氏に献名した。*Neosclerus atsushii* は小型で、頭部側面の4/5を占める大きい複眼、前胸より短い上翅、退化縮小した後翅などにより、同属の既知種から容易に区別される。

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