

## A New Species of the Genus *Laccobius* (Coleoptera, Hydrophilidae) from the Ryukyu Islands, Japan

Eishi MATSUI

Reimei High School, 495, Hondobaba, Hondo-chô,  
Hondo City, Kumamoto, 863 Japan

**Abstract** A new species of the hydrophilid genus *Laccobius* is described from the Ryukyu Islands, under the name *Laccobius yonaguniensis* MATSUI. It is related to *L. oscillans* SHARP, but is distinguished by the different shape of the median lobe of the male genitalia.

### Introduction

Up to the present, two species of the hydrophilid genus *Laccobius* have been recorded from the Ryukyu Islands (GENTILI, 1982, 1989). The present paper contains a description of a new species, *Laccobius yonaguniensis* MATSUI. It was found in a very small stream at Thindabana of Yonaguni Island lying at the southwesternmost of the Ryukyu Islands, Japan.

Before going further, I wish to express my hearty thanks to Dr. T. NAKANE for his kind help extended to me during the course of this study.

### *Laccobius (Microlaccobius) yonaguniensis* MATSUI, sp. nov.

(Fig. 1)

♂♀:— Head, pronotum and labrum fuscous or dark brown, with a pair of ante-ocular spots; sides of pronotum broadly yellow. Antennae and palpi also yellow, except for the club of the former and the apex of the terminal segment of the latter which are brown. Elytra yellow, with the punctures, humeral prominences and several obscure discal spots fuscous or dark brown. Under surface fuscous, with the sides of prothorax broadly and elytral epipleura yellow. Legs yellowish brown, with the basal halves of femora brown.

Short oval, convex, and shining above.

Head and pronotum neither micro-reticulate nor shagreened, sparsely and distinctly punctured. Front margin gently arcuate-emarginate on clypeus and nearly straight on labrum. Eyes broadly oval in shape, separated by about 3.3 times their width. First segment of antennae elongate and thickened to apex, 2nd nearly as wide as but about a half as long as 1st, 3rd and 4th very short and small, 5th and 6th glabrous and dilated to apex, and 7th to 9th densely pubescent and forming a loosely articulated oblong club. Second segment of maxillary palpus dilated to apex and

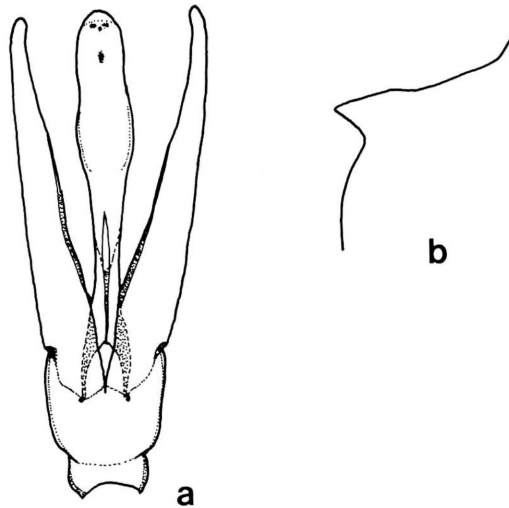


Fig. 1. *Laccobius yonaguniensis* MATSUI, sp. nov.; a, dorsal view of male genitalia; b, outline of the anterior end of mesosternal carina.

nearly twice as long as wide, 3rd also dilated to apex but shorter than 2nd, 4th (apical) moderately elongate and longer than 2nd and 3rd. Terminal segment of labial palpus as long as the preceding, with the outer margin arched and the inner sublinear.

Pronotum transverse, about 2.5 times as wide as long, narrowed from base to apex, front angles rounded and rather broadly but not markedly produced forwards, hind angles obtuse, all margins bordered with a row of fine punctures, which are set in a furrow along the base and just inside the fine outer edge at the sides. Scutellum triangular, nearly flat, about as long as wide, with several finer punctures.

Elytra about 1.2 times as long as wide, widest at anterior third, with the sides rounded, each elytron bearing some twenty-one rows of punctures, intervals without micro-reticulation.

Mentum wider than long, subquadrate, flat but somewhat uneven, not closely finely punctured. Front margin of mentum sinuate. Under surface of thoraces densely punctulate and pubescent. Prosternum with a sharp longitudinal carina at the middle. Mesosternum also bearing a longitudinal keel at the middle (Fig. 1 b), which is, when seen from side, angulate and minutely hooked before apex and bears some long yellow hairs just behind the hook. Front margin of mesosternum tuberculate at middle. Median part of mesosternum broadly but plainly convex, with a narrow longitudinal polished space on posterior half. Abdomen shining, with long hairs, sparsely punctured, but the punctuation is dense on apical segment. Femora of four hinder legs glabrous and sparsely punctate. Metatibia slender and slightly curved. Male genitalia as illustrated (Fig. 1 a). Parameres as long as median lobe. Median lobe dilated at posterior third. Parameres slightly curved inwards at apices.

Length of body: ♂, 2.5 mm; ♀, 2.5–2.7 mm. Width of body: ♂, 1.4 mm; ♀, 1.4–1.5 mm.

Holotype (♂), allotype (♀) and 3 paratypes: Thindabana, Yonaguni Is., Ryukyu Islands, 8–VIII–1989, E. MATSUI leg.

The holotype and allotype are preserved in the Entomological Laboratory, Kyushu University, Fukuoka. The paratypes are in the author's collection.

*Distribution.* Yonaguni Is. (Ryukyu Islands).

*Remarks.* This species is closely allied to *L. oscillans* SHARP, but differs from it in the median lobe of the male genitalia, which is dilated at the posterior third.

### 要 約

松井英司: 日本産シジミガムシ属 (ガムシ科) の 1 新種. — 琉球列島与那国島の極細流から *Laccobius* 属の 1 種を発見し, ヨナグニシジミガムシ *Laccobius yonaguniensis* MATSUI (Coleoptera, Hydrophilidae) と命名記載した. この種は, コモンシジミガムシに近縁であるが, 雄交尾器の中央片が端方 1/3 のあたりで拡がっていることにより区別できる.

### References

- GENTILI, E., 1975. Revisione dei *Laccobius* palearctici (Coleoptera, Hydrophilidae). *Mem. Soc. ent. ital.*, **54**: 5–187.
- 1982. *Laccobius* del Vecchio Mondo: nuove specie e dati faunistici (Coleoptera, Hydrophilidae). *Annli. Oss. Fis. Terr. Mus. Stoppani Semin. Arc. Milano*, (n. s.), **4**: 31–38.
- 1989. Alcune novità sul genera *Laccobius* (Coleoptera, Hydrophilidae). *Ibid.*, **10**: 31–39.