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On the Microhabitat of *Taeniocerus pygmaeus* (Coleoptera, Passalidae)¹⁾

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JOHKI and KON (1989) pointed out that passalid species living in the detritus-like microhabitats bear markedly wide front tibiae as compared with ones living either in the gallery excavated into fallen trees or under the bark of dead trees, and showed three species of the genus *Taeniocerus* KAUP with wide tibiae, *T. bicanthatus* (PERCHERON), *T. platypus* (KAUP) and *T. pygmaeus* (KAUP). Of these, the former two species have been reported to

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live in colony under fallen trees on the ground, not tunneling into logs (KON & JOHKI, 1987; KON & ARAYA, 1992).

Recently, we had an opportunity to observe the microhabitat of *Taeniocerus pygmaeus*, and herewith briefly report it. One of us (ARAYA) collected some carcasses of adult and two live 2nd instars of *T. pygmaeus* in Sungai Jelak, Sarawak, Borneo, on 28 Aug., 1993. They occurred in clay-like, rotten wood substance in the abandoned termite's nest within a fallen tree (wood and termite species unknown). This clay-like substance is presumed to originate from the detritus made during the termite's activity. In addition, some adults of this species were collected from the same kind of microhabitat on Pankor Is. off the Malay Peninsula, in May, 1995 (IWASE, pers. comm.).

It has been reported that larvae of some species of the Scarabaeoidea are likely to specialize in the detritus-like microhabitat produced by termite's activity; e.g., *Aegus* spp. in the Lucanidae (ARAYA, 1994) and *Madrasostes kazumai* OCHI *et al.* in the Ceratocanthidae (IWATA *et al.*, 1985). Moreover, the New World passalid species, *Ptichopus angulatus* (PERCHERON), is known to be possibly associated with leaf-cutter ants (REYES-CASTILLO, 1970; SCHUSTER, 1984). All life stages of this species are found in the detritus of leaf-cutter ant's refuse (SCHUSTER, 1984).

Further field studies are desired to know whether *Taeniocerus pygmaeus* may also specialize in the microhabitat produced by termite's activity.

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