

New or Little-known Elateridae (Coleoptera) from Japan, XXXVII

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Abstract Two new species and a new subspecies of elaterid beetles are described from Japan. They are named *Harminius kurotai*, *Melanotus (Spheniscosomus) cete tokarensis*, and *Melanotus (Melanotus) akusekianus*.

In the present study, I am going to describe two new species and a new subspecies of elaterid beetles from Japan. The holotype of each species and subspecies to be described in this paper are preserved in the collection of the National Science Museum (Nat. Hist.), Tokyo.

Before going further, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Shun-Ichi UENO of the National Science Museum (Nat. Hist.), Tokyo, for reading the manuscript and giving me useful suggestions, and to Dr. Masahiro SAKAI of Ehime, and Messrs. Yuuji KUROTA of Tokushima and Heikichi IRIE of Fukuoka for their kindness in offering the specimens for this study.

Harminius kurotai sp. nov.

(Fig. 1 A–G)

Male. Length 13 mm, width about 3.5 mm. Body elongate, parallel-sided and moderately convex above; surface shining, black to slightly blackish brown except around margins of pronotum, sutural intervals of elytra, some parts of prosterno-pleural areas, outer margins of sternites of abdomen, antennae and legs more or less dusky brown. Vestiture rather fine, semidecumbent and pale yellow. Transverse maculae at posterior portion of elytra very obscure.

Head broadly and transversely impressed between eyes; surface coarsely and deeply punctate; clypeal margin well ridged, expanded anteriorly and transversely truncated at anterior rim. Antenna elongate, extending beyond posterior angle of pronotum more or less by apical segment; basal segment subcylindrical; 2nd small and subglobose, 3rd subtriangular and about twice as long as 2nd (Fig. 1 B); 4th to 10th distinctly serrate, with a median longitudinal smooth line obscurely indicated.

Pronotum subquadrate, a little longer than its width including posterior angles, widest at posterior angles, with sides slightly expanded outwards at middle; disc simply convex, rather finely and evenly punctate, without median longitudinal smooth line or channel; posterior angles sharply projecting postero-laterad, each bearing a narrow

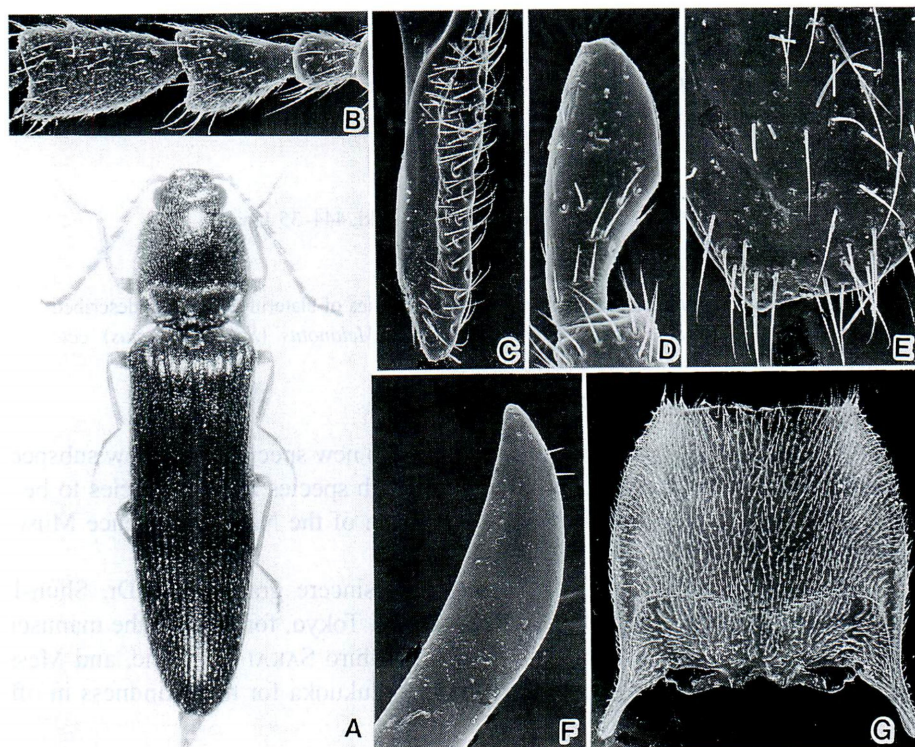


Fig. 1. *Harminius kurotai* sp. nov., male. — A, Holotype; B, 2nd to 4th segments of right antenna; C, prosternal process, lateral aspect; D, apical segment of left maxillary palpus; E, apical portion of right elytron; F, apical portion of right lateral lobe of aedeagus, dorsal aspect; G, pronotum, dorsal aspect.

carina above (Fig. 1 G). Prosternal process elongate and straightly projecting posteriad just behind procoxal cavities (Fig. 1 C).

Elytra about 2.7 times as long as its basal width, with sides almost parallel in basal two-thirds, thence gradually convergent towards apices which are normally rounded, each with apex of sutural line more or less minutely pointed (Fig. 1 E); striae clearly defined; intervals elevated, irregularly and transversely rugose. Basal plates narrow, gradually narrowing towards sides. Legs slender; 2nd to 4th segments of tarsi more or less lobed beneath; claws simple.

Apical portion of median lobe of aedeagus (dorsal aspect) narrow, weakly constricted near tip and pointed apically, with each apical portion of outer margins of lateral lobes rounded and obtusely pointed apically (Fig. 1 F).

Female. Very similar to male, but the antennae are shorter, not attaining to posterior angles of pronotum and more weakly serrate from 3rd to 10th segments.

Holotype: ♂, Mt. Tsurugi, Tokushima Prefecture, 1–VII–1994, Y. KUROTA leg. Paratypes: 1 ♂, Mt. Tsurugi, 11–VII–1981, Y. KUROTA leg.; 1 ♂, Mt. Marusasa, 5–VIII–1990, Y. KUROTA leg.; 1 ♀, Tou-no-maru, 16–VII–1994, Y. KUROTA leg.; 1 ♀, Mt.

Takashiro, 6–VIII–1994, Y. KUROTA leg.; 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Nagamochi Pass, 7–VIII–1994, Y. KUROTA leg.; 1 ♀, Kawanari, 7–VIII–1994, Y. KUROTA leg. All are found in Tokushima Prefecture.

Distribution. Shikoku, Japan.

This new species somewhat resembles *Harminius nihonicus* KISHII, 1979 from Japan, but can be distinguished from the latter by the black and more parallel-sided body, subquadrate and only weakly expanded sides of pronotum at median portion, shorter 3rd segment of antennae, and differently shaped aedeagus.

Melanotus (Spheniscosomus) cete tokarensis subsp. nov.

(Fig. 2)

Male. Length 16 mm, width about 4 mm. Body rather slender and gently convex above; surface shining, black except for reddish brown antennae and legs; vestiture fine, subdecumbent and pale yellow.

This new subspecies can be distinguished from the nominotypical subspecies from Honshu and Kyushu by the following points: body slenderer and more flattened above; antennae elongate, a little longer than each posterior angle of pronotum, with the 3rd to 10th segments more weakly serrate; pronotum trapezoidal, more coarsely and densely punctate towards sides; striae of elytra finer, with the intervals smooth and flattened.

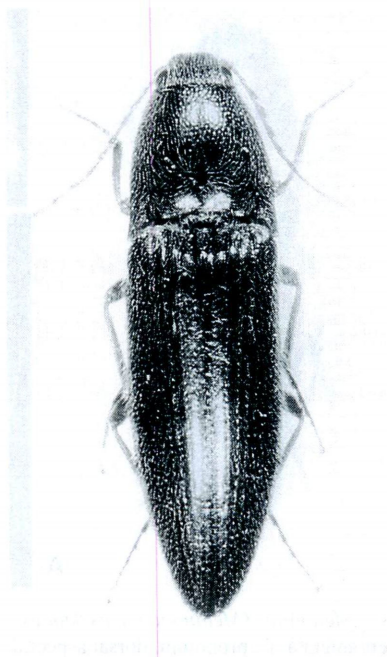


Fig. 2. Holotype of *Melanotus (Spheniscosomus) cete tokarensis* subsp. nov., male.

Holotype: ♂, Nakano-shima Is. of the Toakara Islands, 30-IV-1975, H. IRIE leg.
 Paratype: 1 ♂, same locality as for the holotype, 28-IV-1975, H. IRIE leg.

Distribution. Nakano-shima Island of the Tokara Islands.

Melanotus (Melanotus) akusekianus sp. nov.

(Fig. 3 A-F)

Male. Length 13 mm, width about 3.5 mm. Body elongate and fusiform, rather depressed above; surface shining, dark chestnut brown except for antennae and legs light castaneous brown; vestiture subdecumbent and pale yellow.

Head gently convex between eyes, almost flattened between antennae; surface coarsely and evenly punctate; clypeal margin well ridged, weakly rounded at middle (Fig. 3 D). Antenna slender, extending beyond posterior angle of pronotum at least by apical segment; 2nd segment small and subglobose, 3rd subclavate and about 1.6 times as long as 2nd, 4th subtriangular and about 1.9 times as long as 3rd (Fig. 3 B), 4th to 10th normally serrate.

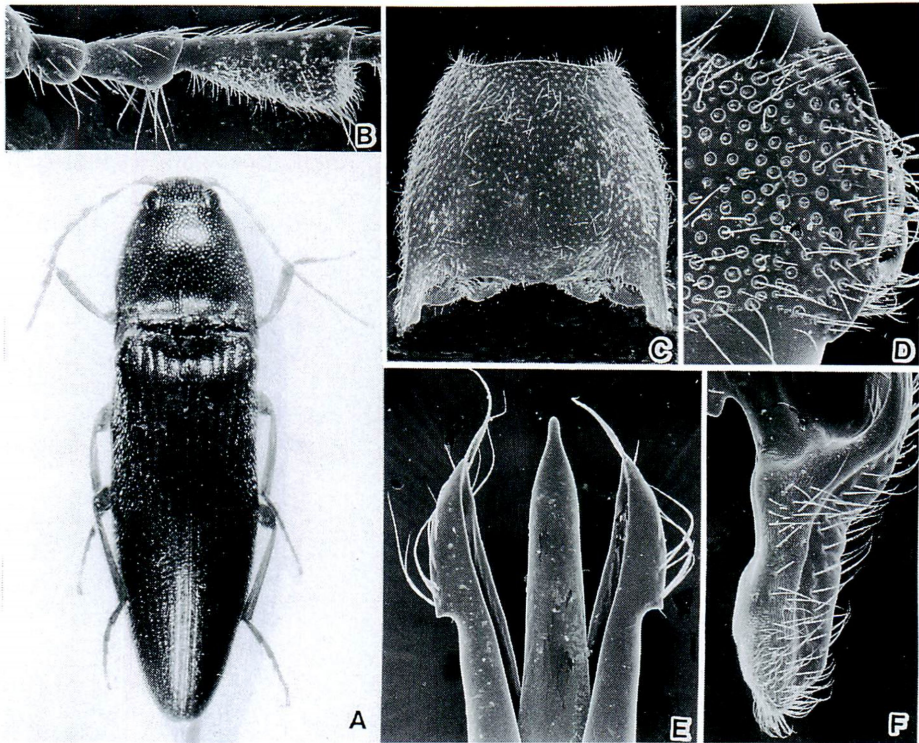


Fig. 3. *Melanotus (Melanotus) akusekianus* sp. nov., male. — A, Holotype; B, 2nd to 4th segments of left antenna; C, pronotum, dorsal aspect; D, head, dorsal aspect; E, aedeagus, dorsal aspect; F, prosteral process, lateral aspect.

Pronotum subtrapezoidal, widest across middle, with sides weakly sinuate just before posterior angles, gently rounded at middle, thence rather clearly convergent towards anterior angles; disc gently convex, without any median longitudinal line or channel, with surface smooth, evenly and deeply punctate, but punctures become denser and coarser towards sides; posterior angles sharply projected posteriad, each bearing a distinct carina above (Fig. 3 C). Prosternal process clearly bent inwards just behind procoxae and straightly projected posteriad (Fig. 3 F). Scutellum lingulate, flattened and punctulate.

Elytra about 2.6 times as long as their basal width, with sides almost parallel in basal half, thence gradually convergent towards apices which are normally rounded; striae defined, deeply and regularly punctate; intervals almost flattened, punctulate and finely rugose. Legs slender, each claw with about 7 denticles.

Aedeagus as illustrated, median lobe more or less arcuate near apex and pointed apically; apical portion of each lateral lobe narrowly triangular and pointed apically as illustrated (Fig. 3 E).

Female unknown.

Holotype: ♂, Akuseki-jima Island of the Tokara Islands, 23-IV-1971, M. SAKAI leg. Paratypes: 2 ♂♂, same locality as for the holotype, 23~25-IV-1971, M. SAKAI leg.

Distribution. Akuseki-jima Island of the Tokara Islands.

This new species is somewhat allied to *Melanotus (Melanotus) legatus ogatai* KISHII, 1988 from the Ryukyu Islands, but can be distinguished from the latter by the more slender and depressed body, narrower and more weakly serrate 3rd to 10th segments of antennae, and differently shaped aedeagus.

要 約

大平仁夫：日本産コメツキムシ科の新種，XXXVII。——本報告では2新種1新亜種を記載した。

Harminius kurotai ÔHIRA (シコクムネスジダングラコメツキ) は、徳島県剣山やその山系の高山森林帯に分布する。体長13mm内外で体は黒色～黒褐色、体の両側が平行状をした特徴のある種である。

Melanotus (Spheniscosomus) cete tokarensis ÔHIRA (トカラアカアシオオクシコメツキ) はトカラ諸島の中ノ島から入江平吉氏によって見いだされた。九州などに分布する基亜種に比して、体はより細長く、前胸背板の点刻はより雑に印刻され、上翅の間室部は偏平で平滑状である。

Melanotus (Melanotus) akusekianus ÔHIRA (アクセキクシコメツキ) はトカラ諸島の悪石島から酒井雅博博士によって見いだされた。体長13mm内外、一般外形は奄美大島あたりから知られている *Melanotus (Melanotus) legatus ogatai* (オガタクシコメツキ) に類似するが、体はより偏平で細長く、触角の第4節からの鋸歯状部がより弱い。また、上翅の間室部は偏平である。

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Elytra, Tokyo, **25** (2): 348, November 15, 1997

Sciodrepoides watsoni (SPENCE) (Coleoptera, Cholevidae)
from the Kuril Archipelago

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Through the courtesy of Dr. Masahiro ÔHARA, one of the members of the International Kuril Islands Project (IKIP), I had an opportunity to examine a series of specimens of *Sciodrepoides watsoni* (SPENCE) obtained from the central part of the Kuril Archipelago during the 1995 expedition. This species is widespread in the Holarctic Region, though its occurrence in the archipelago has not been recorded as yet.

I wish to express my deep gratitude to Drs. S.-I. UËNO and M. ÔHARA for their kindness in critically reading the manuscript or supplying with interesting specimens. This study was supported in part by the Biological Science Directorate (Biotic Surveys and Inventories Program) and the International Program Division of the U. S. National Science Foundation, Grant No. DEB–9505031 (Theodore W. PIETSCH, principal investigator), and by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Grant No. BSAR–401 (Kunio AMAOKA, principal investigator).

Sciodrepoides watsoni watsoni (SPENCE, 1815)

Choleva Watsoni SPENCE, 1815, Trans. Linn. Soc. London, **11**, p. 156.

Other references are omitted.

Specimens examined. Kuril Islands. Urup Is.: [UR95MO006–007] 54 ♂♂, 51 ♀♀, 46°05.38'N, 150°08.33'E, Natalii Bay, nr. the mouth of the Vesetaya Riv., 6~7–VIII–1995, M. ÔHARA leg. (under rocks & bait traps); [UR95MO8–009] 10 ♂♂, 18 ♀♀, 46°12.84'N, 150°18.69'E, Novo-kuryliskaya Bay, nr. the mouth of the Bystraya Riv., 8~9–VIII–1995, M. ÔHARA leg. (feces of cows, aerial net & bait traps). Simushir Is.: [SI–95–VR–027C] 2 ♂♂, 46°58.98'N, 152°01.28'E, inland coastal margin of Srednaya Bay (under boards along coarse grained sandy coast, from intertidal to edge of vegetated margin), 21–VIII–1995, V. ROTH leg. (by hand & forceps).