

## Occurrence of a *Sciodrepoides* Species (Coleoptera, Cholevidae) on the Islands of Tsu-shima, West Japan

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**Abstract** A cholevid beetle belonging to the genus *Sciodrepoides* is recorded for the first time from the Tsu-shima Islands, West Japan. It is specifically identical with *S. watsoni* (SPENCE), though differing from specimens of northern Japan and Europe in rather convex body, reddish pronotum and longer aedeagus.

The cholevid fauna of the Tsu-shima Islands has scarcely been known up to the present. Only one species, *Catops hilleri* KRAATZ, has been recorded from these islands (NISHIKAWA, 1983). Some years ago, I was entrusted for taxonomic study a strange *Sciodrepoides* species from these islands by Mr. Y. HIRANO. Unfortunately, only a single male specimen was obtained. After a careful examination, however, I have come to the conclusion that it should be considered as a new geographical variant of *Sciodrepoides watsoni* (SPENCE), which is known as a polymorphic species in Europe and North America (JEANNEL, 1936; SCHWEIGER, 1966), but is only fragmentarily known in morphological aspect and distribution from the Korean Peninsula and the Chinese Continent. Thus, a description of the specimen will be made herewith for future references under the name *Sciodrepoides watsoni*. The abbreviations used herein are the same as those explained in my previous papers.

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### *Sciodrepoides watsoni* (SPENCE, 1815)

(Figs. 1–4)

*Choleva Watsoni* SPENCE, 1815, Trans. Linn. Soc. London, **11**, p. 156; type area: England.  
Other references are omitted.

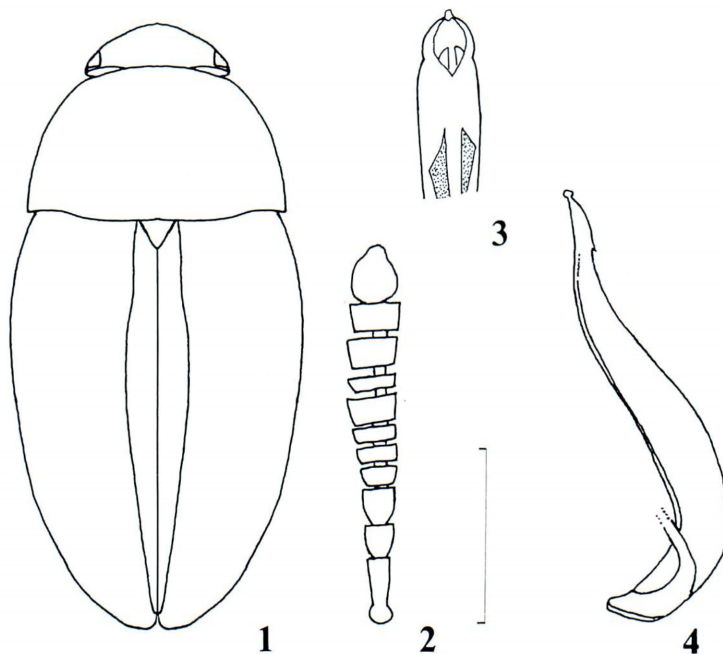
Male. Length 3.50 mm (from apical margin of clypeus to apices of elytra), width 1.68 mm. Body convex, elliptical, almost clothed with distinctly long, yellowish brown adpressed pubescence. Colour reddish brown, except for head, antennal seg-

ments IV–X and scutellum blackish brown, and apical portion of elytra and abdominal sternite V somewhat blackish.

Head gently convex, finely foveolate, with front margin straight, widest at the level of occipital carina (length:width=2:3); labrum transverse, subtrapezoidal, slightly emarginate at front margin, with shallow punctuations sparse; maxillary palpi with last segment  $1.3\times$  as long as the penultimate one; eyes normal, moderately prominent. Antennae robust, hardly reaching the middle of pronotum, with segments IV–X transverse, asymmetrically articulate, and XI pear-shaped. Segmental measurements (length followed by width) as follows: I, 0.15, 0.08; II, 0.10, 0.08; III, 0.08, 0.09; IV, 0.04, 0.10; V, 0.05, 0.10; VI, 0.04, 0.13; VII, 0.08, 0.15; VIII, 0.03, 0.13; IX, 0.08, 0.14; X, 0.08, 0.13; XI, 0.15, 0.11.

Pronotum transverse, subtrapezoidal, gently marginate except for distinctly bordered front margin, widest at base, which is almost as wide as elytral base, PW/HW 1.64, PW/PL 1.64; front margin gently arcuate; front angles rounded; sides arcuate; basal margin gently bisinuate; hind angles distinctly angulate; surface clothed with transversely rugose punctuations; microsculpture formed by short transverse wrinkles. Scutellum triangular, with sparsely granulate punctuations. Hind wings full.

Elytra elongate-ovate, convex, widest at about basal  $1/4$ , EW/PW 1.14, EL/PL 2.59, EL/EW 1.39; sides arcuate, convergent apicad, well marginate, with apices sepa-



Figs. 1–4. *Sciodrepoides watsoni* (SPENCE, 1815), ♂, from Mt. Ariake-yama, Tsu-shima Isls., Nagasaki Pref., West Japan. — 1, Outline of body; 2, right antenna; 3, apical part of aedeagus in dorsal view; 4, male genitalia in lateral view. (Scale: 1.0 mm for Fig. 1 and 0.5 mm for the others.)



rately rounded; suture entire; sutural striae gently arcuate outwards, though subparallel to each other in basal 1/6; surface closed with granulate punctures; microsculpture as those on pronotum though distinct; epipleura ending at about apical 1/6, with punctures granulate. Pygidium with foveolate punctures.

Meso- and metasterna punctate, the punctures dense and partially rugose on the former. Mesepisterna with reticulate punctuations. Abdominal sternites simple in shape, with punctuations transversely rugose.

Legs robust, with protibia expanded towards apex along inner margin, widest at the apex; protarsus dilated in basal three segments, the first segment 6/7 as wide as the apex of protibia; mesotarsus with the first segment also dilated, 4/5 as wide as the apex of mesotibia; metafemur roundly depressed before apex on ventral side.

Aedeagus slender, long (aedeagal length/EL 0.48), slightly twisted at base, rather dilated in preapical portion which is slightly notched on each side, well sinuate in lateral view, with apex dorso-ventrally tuberculate at the middle, the tubercle slightly hooked in its dorsal part; dorsal surface hooked at apical 1/7 in lateral view, with a large oval fenestra at the middle of apical portion; each ligula cuneiform. Parameres slender, reaching about apical 1/3 of aedeagus. Basal piece somewhat small in size.

*Specimen examined.* 1 ♂, Mt. Ariake-yama, Tsu-shima Isls., Nagasaki Pref., W Japan, 28-IV-1973, Y. HIRANO leg.

*Notes.* So far as the external appearance is concerned, with the exception of the ratio of antennal segments, rather convex body, reddish pronotum and longer aedeagus, the present specimen is identical with those of northern Japan and Europe, though the configuration of aedeagus is partially different from that of European ones, which are characterized by smooth apical sides (cf. JEANNEL, 1936, fig. 755; KEVAN, 1945, fig. 10; SZYMCZAKOWSKI, 1961, fig. 102, and 1971, fig. aed. 10: 1; SCHWEIGER, 1966, fig. 1). LAFER (1989, fig. 197, 6) showed the aedeagus of a specimen from the Russian Far East which is practically similar to those of Japanese ones, because each side is notched in preapical portion. Most probably, this character seems to be regarded as an aedeagal peculiarity of East Asian populations. However, SZYMCZAKOWSKI (1976, p. 66) regarded the specimens from the northern part of the Korean Peninsula as belonging to the nominotypical subspecies. It is true that they are somewhat variable in the shape of body, antennal segments and aedeagus as well as in the colour of pronotum, but the specimen from the Tsu-shimas is distinctly characterized by the longer aedeagus of the male genitalia as compared with those from other localities, that is, the ratio of the aedeagal length/EL is 0.48 in the former, while those in the specimens from northern Japan, the Kuril Islands and Europe are 0.40–0.43.

On the other hand, *S. watsoni amoenus* (REITTER, 1896, p. 67 (footnote)) was upgraded from several European varieties by SCHWEIGER (1966, pp. 21–22, fig. 1 a), who recognized it as a peripheral isolated population. It is endemic to the western coast of the base of the Balkan Peninsula in the Mediterranean Region. Incidentally, this species was recorded by JEANNEL (1936, p. 338) from Quelpart (=Chejudo) Island off the southern tip of the Korean Peninsula without any comment. If the two insular pop-

ulations possess the same aedeagal characteristics in common, they can also be regarded as an interesting case of peripheral isolation.

### 要 約

西川正明：対馬に産するムネグロコチビシテムシ。——数年前に平野幸彦氏から研究を委託された対馬産のコチビシテムシ属の1種は、ムネグロコチビシテムシ *Sciodrepoides watsoni* (SPENCE)と同定できるものであった。本種は、全北区に広い分布域をもつ多型種として知られているが、日本とその周辺の個体群の形態や分布の詳細は、かならずしも明らかではない。しかし、LAFER (1989)が示した極東ロシア産の雄交尾器中片には、先端部両側に明瞭な刻み目があるという、日本産のものと同通の特徴が認められる。それに加えて、対馬産の標本は、より中高な体、赤褐色の前胸背板、そして明らかに長い雄交尾器中片をもつことで特異であったので、暫定的に上記の名称のもとに記載を付して報告した。

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