

Records of a Brachyglutine Species, *Barbiera palpalis* (LÖBL)
(Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Pselaphinae) from Japan,
with Notes on its Habitat

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A brachyglutine species, *Barbiera palpalis* (LÖBL), was described from North Korea in 1974. It was collected from seaside wetland with a halophilous grass species *Suaeda maritima* (L.) DUN. according to LÖBL (1977). Some Japanese coleopterologists and I discovered this species from several localities of Japan, and found that this species is very common in a special kind of habitat.

Before going further, I wish to express my special thanks to Messrs. Shigemi SASAKI (Ôita Pref.), Iwao OKAMOTO (Hiroshima Pref.), Mitsuyasu NISHIDA (Saga Pref.), Takeshi KINODA (Miyazaki Pref.), Kenshi OTSUKA (Saga Pref.) and Kôji TOYODA (Saitama Pref.) for their kind offer of the invaluable specimens.

Barbiera palpalis (LÖBL)

[Japanese name: Ashibe-arizukamushi]

(Figs. 1–2)

Briara palpalis LÖBL, 1974, Acta zool. cracov., **19**: 97.

Barbiera palpalis: LÖBL, 1977, Bull. Acad. pol. Sci., (Sci. Biol. V), **25**: 236.

Specimens examined. 6 ♂, 19 ♀, Obitsugawa Kakô, Kuroto, Kisarazu C., Chiba Pref., 28–IX–1996, K. TOYODA leg.; 5 ♂, 19 ♀, same locality as above, 5–V–1997, S. NOMURA leg.; 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Nigata-chô, Kure C., Hiroshima Pref., 14–V–1988, I. OKAMOTO leg.; 6 ♂, 12 ♀, Dokigawa Kakô, Marugame C., Kagawa Pref., 12–X–1996, K. TOYODA leg.; 1 ♂, by light trap, Rokkaku-gawa Kakô, Kôhoku-chô, Saga Pref., 20–VII–1997, M. NISHIDA leg.; 4 ♂, by light trap, same locality, 13–VIII–1997, M. NISHIDA leg.; 7 ♂, by light trap, Shiotagawa Kakô, Kashima C., Saga Pref., 27–VII–1997, M. NISHIDA leg.; 1 ♀, Kitakashima, Kashima C., Saga Pref., 10–VI–1988, M. NISHIDA leg.; 1 ♀, Saiki C., Ôita Pref., 15–IX–1951, S. MASHIBA leg.; 5 ♂, by light trap, Ônuki-chô, Nobeoka C., Miyazaki Pref., 21–VIII–1997, T. KINODA leg.

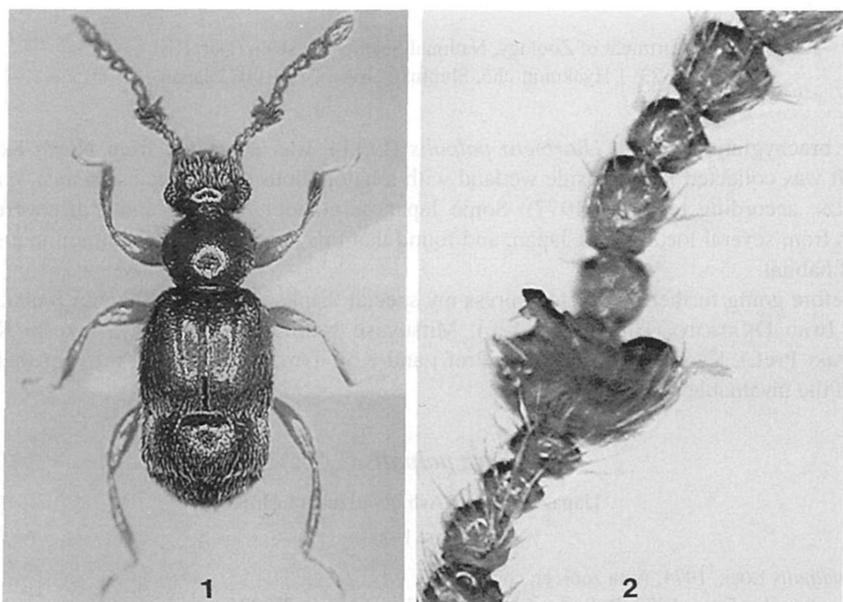
Distribution. North Korea, Japan (Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu).

Remarks. This species is similar to some species of the subtribe Natypleurina of the tribe Inocyphini in the parallel-sided and weakly flattened body and the slender aedeagus with reduced parameres. However, it doubtless belongs to the tribe Brachyglutini in view of the well sclerotized and nearly ovoid ninth abdominal sternite.

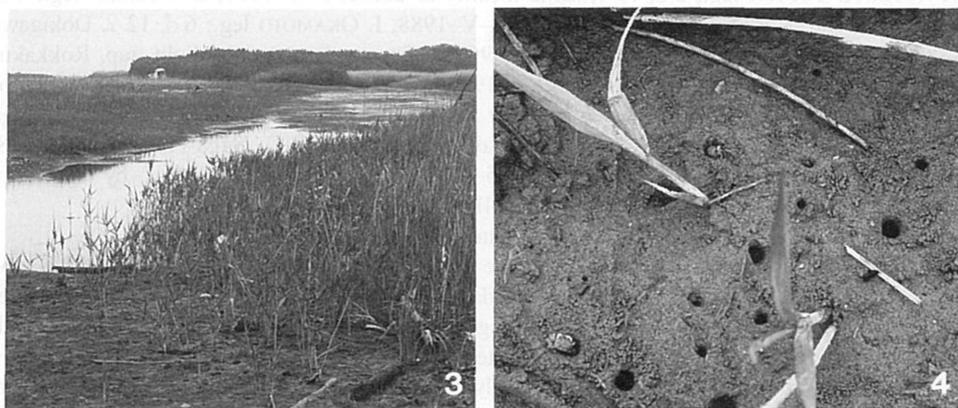
Biological notes. This species has usually been collected from wetland nearby the estuaries of rivers at most localities in Japan. The habitat in Obitsugawa Kakô, Chiba Pref. is as shown in Fig. 3. At this place, many beetles were observed on wet ground near the estuary in

later mornings of very fine and warm days. They actively walked about on the surface of mud, where common Japanese reed (*Phragmites australis* (CAV.) TRIN. ex. STEUD., Japanese name: Yoshi) sparsely grew, and many holes 5 mm in diameter were dug by small crabs (Fig. 4). A male beetle preyed upon a red mite (about 0.8 mm in size).

It is concluded that the habitats of this species are not restricted to patches of halophilous grasses as LÖBL (1977) noted, which is the vegetation closest to the sea in this area, but are also found in other vegetations near the sea.



Figs. 1-2. *Barbiera palpalis* (LÖBL); male, habitus (1); ditto, male antenna, enlarged (2).



Figs. 3-4. Habitat of *B. palpalis* at Kuroto, Chiba Pref. (3); close-up of the same (4).