

A New Species of the Group of *Lathrobium brachypterum*
(Coleoptera, Staphylinidae) from Southern Aizu in
Northeastern Honshu, Japan

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Abstract A new species of the group of *Lathrobium* (s. str.) *brachypterum* is described and illustrated under the name of *L.* (s. str.) *kurosawai*. It is obtained from under dead leaves at Nanairi of southern Aizu in northeastern Honshu, Japan.

The members of the group of *Lathrobium brachypterum* are usually found from under dead leaves accumulated in broadleaved forests on various mountainous areas in Japan. They are similar in coloration and facies, and belong to the members of the two species-groups, those of *L. pollens* and of *L. monticola*, but can be distinguished from the latter two by body size and second sexual characters of the abdominal sternites in the male.

Examining the members of the group of *L. brachypterum* from Japan, I have found an interesting species obtained from under dead leaves at Nanairi of southern Aizu in northeastern Honshu, Japan. This species is similar in general appearance to *L. brachypterum* known from Miyanoshita of Hakone in central Honshu, Japan.

After a careful examination, it has become clear that this species is new to science because of different configuration of second sexual characters of the abdominal sternites and genital organ in the male. It will be described and illustrated in the present paper in dedication to the memory of the late Dr. Yoshihiko KUROSAWA, former president of the Coleopterist' Association of Japan, which is a forerunner of the present society. The type series of the new species to be described is deposited in the collection of the Laboratory of Insect Resources, Tokyo University of Agriculture.

Before going further, I wish to express my hearty thanks to Dr. Shun-Ichi UENO, Visiting Professor at Tokyo University of Agriculture, for his kind advice on the present study.

Lathrobium (s. str.) *kurosawai* Y. WATANABE, sp. nov.

[Japanese name: Kurosawa-himekobanenaga-hanekakushi]

(Figs. 1–5)

Body length: 6.8–7.7 mm (from front margin of head to anal end); 3.3–3.5 mm (from front margin of head to elytral apices).

Body elongate, parallel-sided and somewhat depressed above. Colour reddish brown to brownish black and moderately shining, with mandibles, antennae, sometimes sutural areas and posterior margins of elytra brownish red; palpi, legs and two apical abdominal segments brownish yellow.

Male. Head subquadrate and slightly elevated medially, as long as broad, widest at posterior fourth and gently narrowed both anteriorly and posteriorly; lateral sides feebly arcuate; frontal part between antennal tubercles flattened and glabrous, provided with a large setiferous puncture inside each antennal tubercle; surface sparingly scattered with coarse and setiferous punctures which become much sparser in antero-dorsal part, and covered all over with microscopic coriaceous ground sculpture; eyes small and almost flat, the longitudinal diameter nearly one-third as long as postocular part. Antennae elongate, extending a little beyond the middle of pronotum and not thickened apically, 6th to 11th more or less moniliform, two proximal segments polished, the remainings opaque; 1st segment robust and strongly dilated apically, about twice as long as broad; 2nd constricted at the base, a little longer than broad (length/width=1.20) but considerably shorter (2nd/1st=0.50) and somewhat narrower (2nd/1st=0.83) than 1st; 3rd and 4th almost equal in width to each other, 3rd distinctly longer than broad (length/width=1.40) and a little longer (3rd/2nd=1.17) than though as broad as 2nd; 4th somewhat longer than broad (length/width=1.20) but a little shorter (4th/3rd=0.86) than 3rd; 5th to 7th equal in both length and width to one another, each slightly longer than broad (length/width=1.10); 8th and 9th equal in both length and width to each other, each slightly longer than broad (length/width=1.04); 10th as long as broad, and as long as but slightly broader than (10th/9th=1.04) 9th; 11th fusiform, remarkably longer than broad (length/width=1.80) and distinctly longer (11th/10th=1.80) than though as broad as 10th, subacuminate at the tip.

Pronotum elevated medially, distinctly longer than broad (length/width=1.17), apparently longer (pronotum/head=1.35) and somewhat broader (pronotum/head=1.15) than head, widest behind anterior angles and slightly narrowed in anterior fourths though more strongly so in posterior fifth; lateral sides straight or slightly arcuate with the exception of arcuate parts of anterior and posterior angles as seen from above, anterior margin gently arcuate, posterior margin nearly truncate, anterior angles obtuse and not visible from dorsal side, posterior ones narrowly rounded; surface sparingly, coarsely and setiferously punctured except for a narrow smooth median space through the length of pronotum. Scutellum subtriangular, provided with a few minute setiferous punctures on the surface. Elytra subtrapezoidal and dilated posteriorly, slightly transverse (width/length=1.09), distinctly shorter (elytra/pronotum=0.81) and slightly

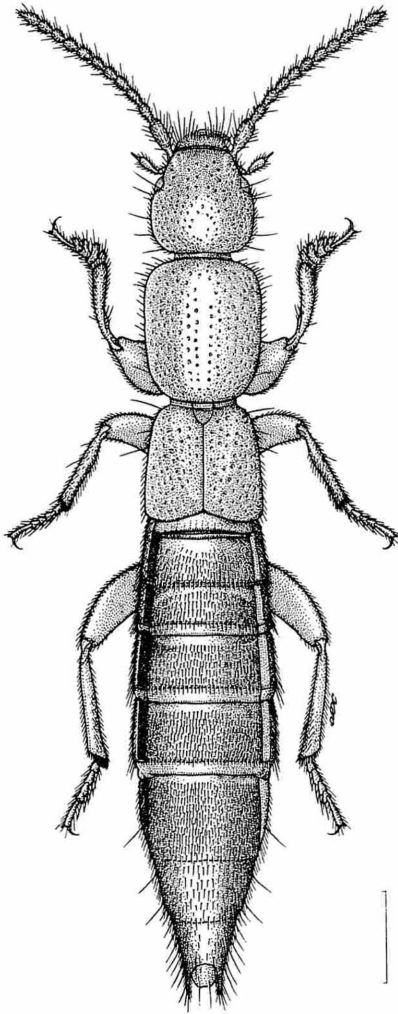


Fig. 1. *Lathrobium* (s. str.) *kurosawai* Y. WATANABE, sp. nov., ♂, from Nanairi of southern Aizu in northeastern Honshu, Japan. Scale: 1.0 mm.

broader (elytra/pronotum=1.04) than pronotum, or as broad as the latter; lateral sides nearly straight, posterior margin broadly emarginate at the middle, posterior angles rounded; surface closely and roughly punctured, and covered with fine brownish pubescence all over. Legs relatively short, profemora and protibiae similar in structure to those of *L. brachypterum*, 1st to 4th protarsal segments strongly widened.

Abdomen elongate, nearly parallel-sided from 3rd to 6th segments, and then abruptly narrowed towards the anal end, 3rd to 6th tergites each transversely depressed along the base, closely and superficially punctured and covered with fine brownish pubescence; 7th and 8th tergites each much more sparingly and more finely punctured than in the preceding tergites; 8th sternite shallowly, semicircularly emarginate at the middle of posterior margin and somewhat depressed in front of the emargination, sur-

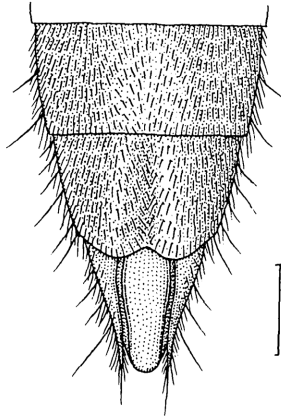
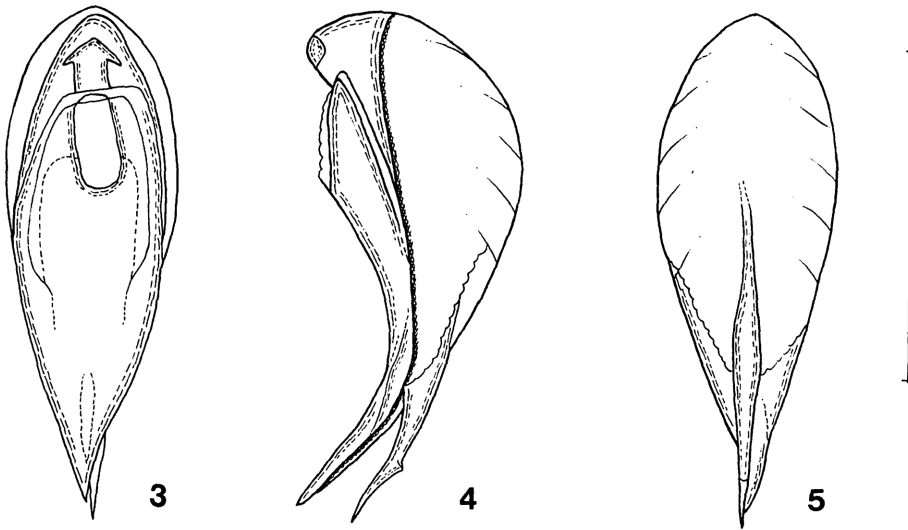


Fig. 2. Last three abdominal sternites in the male of *Lathrobium* (s. str.) *kurosawai* Y. WATANABE, sp. nov. Scale: 0.5 mm.



Figs. 3-5. Male genital organ of *Lathrobium* (s. str.) *kurosawai* Y. WATANABE, sp. nov.; dorsal view (3), lateral view (4), and ventral view (5). Scale: 1.0 mm.

face of the depression more closely set with fine blackish setae than in other parts.

Genital organ elliptical, well sclerotized except for membranous ventral side of median lobe. Median lobe very slightly longer than fused paramere, widest at basal third and more strongly narrowed apicad than basad; ventral piece elongate, somewhat widened at the middle, and then narrowed both basad and apicad, with a minute subtriangular projection at a distance from the apex in profile. Fused paramere slightly asymmetrical and relatively broad, widest near the middle and abruptly narrowed to-

wards the pointed apex as seen from dorsal side, and strongly curved dorsad in posterior half in profile.

Female. Similar in facies to male, but different from it in the following points: 1st to 4th protarsal segments not so widened, abdomen with 8th sternite narrowed towards the rounded apex.

Type series. Holotype: ♂, allotype: ♀, Nanairi, southern Aizu, Fukushima Pref., Honshu, Japan, 24-VI-1990, Y. WATANABE leg. Paratypes: 2 ♀♀, same data as for the holotype; 1 ♂, same locality and collector as for the holotype, 14-VII-1967.

Distribution. Japan (northeastern Honshu).

Remarks. The present new species is similar in body size and facies to *L. (s. str.) brachypterum* SHARP (1889, p. 255) from Miyanoshita in central Honshu, but is different from it in the following points: in male, 8th abdominal sternite more deeply emarginate at the middle of posterior margin and more distinctly depressed before the emargination, 7th sternite indistinctly depressed at the middle in front of posterior margin; genital organ with median lobe slightly longer than fused paramere which is relatively short and much broader in apical half. Also similar in general appearance to *L. nabetaniense* Y. WATANABE (1997, p.144) from Hokuriku District and *L. masaoi* Y. WATANABE (1999, p. 109) from the Kii Peninsula, but can be distinguished from them by different configuration of second sexual character of the abdominal sternites and genital organ in the male.

Bionomics. The type series was obtained from under dead leaves in a deciduous broadleaved forest at an altitude of about 600 m.

Etymology. The present new species is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Yoshihiko KUROSAWA, who was a leading coleopterologist in Japan and has continuously encouraged my studies on the staphylinid beetles.

要 約

渡辺泰明：南会津の七入で採集されたヒメコバネナガハネカクシ種群（甲虫目ハネカクシ科）の1新種。—— ヒメコバネナガハネカクシ種群に含まれる種は、通常山地帯の落葉樹林の林床に堆積した落ち葉の下から採集される。私は手許のこの種群に含まれる種を検討しているが、福島県南会津の七入で採集された1未記載種を見出したので、*Lathrobium* (s. str.) *kurosawai* と命名・記載した。この種は、箱根宮ノ下から記載された *L. brachypterum* に体長および形態が類似しているが、雄の第8腹節腹板の後縁中央はより深く湾入し、この湾入部の前方はより強く凹陷すること、第7腹節の第二次性徴は不明瞭であること、交尾器中葉はわずかに側葉より長く、側葉は後半がはるかに幅広いことなどによって区別される。また、北陸地方から記載された *L. nabetaniense* および紀伊半島から記載された *L. masaoi* の両種にも類似しているが、雄の第二次性徴および交尾器の形状が明らかに異なることによって区別される。

なお、種小名の *kurosawai* は、本学会の前身である「甲虫談話会」の代表者であった黒澤良彦博士に献名したものである。

References

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