

A New *Stenhomalus* (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae)
from Northeastern Laos

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Abstract A new obriine species, *Stenhomalus saleuicola* sp. nov., is added to the cerambycid fauna of Laos. It is characterized by small fore body with orange prothorax and thin long appendages, and somewhat similar in facies to such bicolored species as *S. ruficollis* GRESSITT from Taiwan and *S. kusakabeorum* NIISATO from Myanmar. Though similar in facies to a member of the genus *Obrium* due to short body with broad elytra, this new species has such autapomorphy of *Stenhomalus* as a weak longitudinal costa between the metepisternum and metepimeron, and vestigial tegmen of the male genital organ.

During my recent collecting trip to Laos, I was able to find a very strange *Stenhomalus* species in a primary forest near Saleui Village of Houaphan Province. This species has small fore body with orange prothorax and short broad elytra, and is somewhat similar to several bicolored species of the genus, e.g., *S. ruficollis* GRESSITT from Taiwan, *S. ater* NIISATO et KINUGASA from Thailand and *S. kusakabeorum* NIISATO from Myanmar. Though similar in coloration, the *Stenhomalus* in question has short broad habitus like a member of *Obrium*, and is not directly related to those bicolored species from the neighboring areas. In this short paper, I will introduce it as being new to science under the name *S. saleuicola* sp. nov.

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The abbreviations used in the description are explained in previous papers of mine.

Stenhomalus saleuicola sp. nov.

(Figs. 1 & 2)

Small-sized but broad species of bicolored body with orange prothorax; appendages long and thin. Colour dark chestnut brown, moderately shiny; head blackish chestnut brown, with yellowish brown palpi, reddish brown apical parts of mandibles and black eyes; prothorax light orange, though infuscate in apex and base of pronotum, and in base of prosternum; elytra dark chestnut brown; legs yellowish chestnut brown.

Male. Head globose including eyes, rather small and not voluminous, distinctly convex, evenly raised posteriad, a little wider than pronotum across lateral swellings, partly covered with small-sized punctures, rather sparsely clothed with pale hairs, HW/PA 1.24, HW/PW 1.07; frons transversely quadrate, slightly produced anteriad, with arcuately emarginate sides, almost flattened, somewhat rugose on surface, with a median longitudinal furrow barely attaining to apical third, fronto-clypeal furrow indistinct due to coarse punctation, FL/FB 0.69, FB/FA 1.14; clypeus transverse trapezoidal, distinctly narrowed to apex, which is nearly a half the basal width, truncate at apical margin; mandibles stout and moderate in length; genae $2/9$ the depth of lower eye-lobes, with sides distinctly convergent apicad in frontal view; eyes moderately prominent and not so large, relatively coarsely faceted, separated from each other by $2/5$ on dorsum or $5/11$ on venter the width of occiput. Antennae long and almost filiform, 1.22 times as long as body, surpassing elytral apices at apices of segment 8, matted and densely clothed with minute yellowish pubescence, and supplemented with sparse low of pale hairs along undersides of segments 2–4; scape slender and gently clavate, faintly shiny on surface, $4/3$ the length of segment 3; segment 2 strongly reduced, $1/5$ the length of scape; segments 3 and 4 slightly thickened at each apex, the former a little shorter than the latter; segments 5 filiform, the longest, $5/3$ the length of segment 3; segments 6–10 also filiform, slightly decreasing in length; terminal segment gently arcuate.

Pronotum moderate in length, rather slender, distinctly narrower than elytra, not so divergent both apicad and basad, with sinuate sides and uneven disc, PL/PA 1.40, PB/PA 0.88, PL/PW 1.25, PW/EW 0.67, PL/EL 0.35; apex moderately arcuate, narrowly bordered throughout, slightly wider than base; base nearly transverse though gently rounded near middle, not bordered; sides parallel for a short distance from apex, then weakly raised near apical seventh, strongly constricted at apical and basal $2/7$, with strongly prominent lateral swellings at a level between the constrictions, nearly parallel in basal fifth; disc distinctly convex in apical $5/7$, moderately raised near apex and weakly so on a pair of oblique parts near middle of sides, almost smooth, provided with a few minute punctures and sparse pale erect hairs in apical $5/7$, though rugged and densely covered with pale pubescence in basal fifth. Scutellum lingulate, small, not raised, sparsely clothed with pale pubescence.

Elytra broad, reaching the base of tergite 6, widest at humeri, almost parallel-sided, EL/EW 2.36; sides with humeri roundly quadrate, gently convergent to basal fourth, almost parallel to just before middle, then gently divergent to apical fifth, with apices rounded, very shortly dehiscent at suture; disc weakly convex, raised near suture behind scutellum and in apical fifth, closely provided with rather large-sized punctures except for base and apical fifth, clothed with dense pale pubescence and short light brown hairs.

Prosternum distinctly constricted in apical fifth, and weakly raised from apex to base of coxal cavities, almost smooth and thinly clothed with pale hairs; prosternal process strongly compressed between coxal cavities, with strongly dilated apical part,

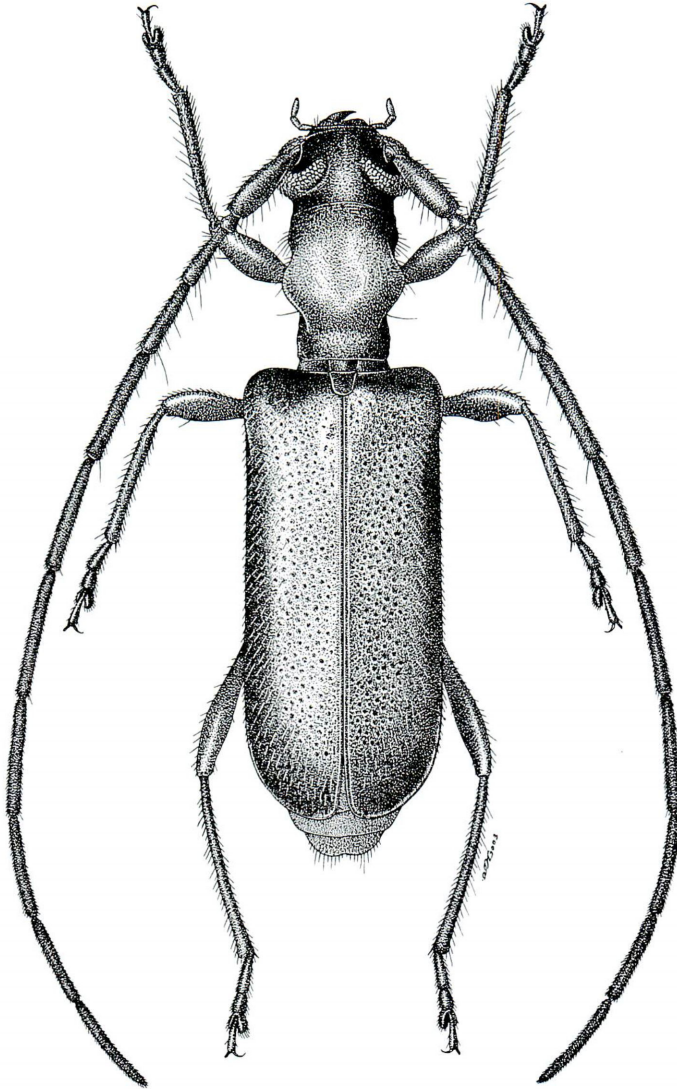


Fig. 1. *Stenhomalus saleuicola* sp. nov., holotype ♂, from Ban Saleui, Houaphan Province of NE. Laos.

whose sides is rested by inner projections of pleural processes. Meso- and metathoraces moderately convex throughout, though shallowly concave near median line of metasternum, very sparsely punctured, rather sparsely clothed with short pale hairs. Abdomen distinctly narrowed apicad, punctured and haired as on ventral sides of thoraces, with anal sternite semicircular.

Legs thin and relatively long; hind femur rather distinctly compressed, moderately swollen in apical 2/3; all tibiae straight; tarsi short, with metatarsus 9/20 the length of

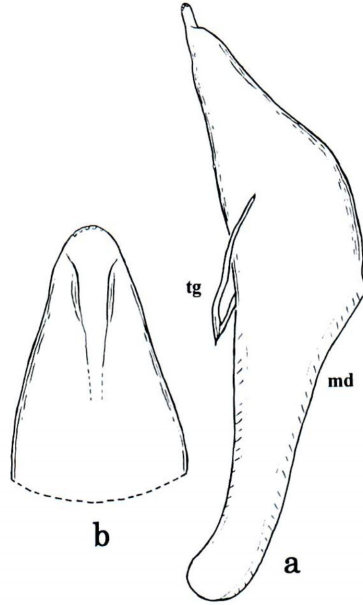


Fig. 2. Male genital organ of *Stenhomalus saleucicola* sp. nov.; a, median lobe with vestigial tegmen, lateral view (md: median lobe, tg: tegmen); b, ditto, apical part in dorsal view.

metatibia, 1st segment equal in length to the following two segments combined.

Median lobe of male genital organ large and robust, a little more than 1/3 the length of elytra, heavily sclerotized, amber-colored though dark brown in median struts; viewed laterally, apical lobe strongly convex in base, with dorsal margin gradually divergent to just before apex, ventral margin almost straight; viewed dorsally, apical lobe almost straightly convergent to rounded apex, with lateral walls rather narrowly sulcate, straightly separated from base to before apex, then obliquely bent laterad; median struts large and broad, nearly equal in length to apical lobe.

Body length 4.5 mm.

Female. Unknown.

Type specimen. Holotype ♂, foot of Phu Pakan, 1,550 m in alt., Ban Saleui (43 km W from Xamneua City), Houaphan Province, NE. Laos, 1–V–2003, T. NIISATO leg. Deposited in the collection of the National Science Museum (Nat. Hist.), Tokyo.

Distribution. Laos.

Notes. *Stenhomalus saleucicola* sp. nov. may be an isolated species in view of the *Obrium*-like facies and unique bicolored body with orange prothorax, and has no close relationship to any of the known congeners of *Stenhomalus*. In spite of such *Obrium*-like facies, *S. saleucicola* sp. nov. no doubt belongs to the genus *Stenhomalus*. This new species has such two autapomorphies of *Stenhomalus* as a weak longitudinal costa on the metepisternum and metepimeron, and strongly vestigial tegmen of the male genital organ which is represented only by a V-shaped ring part.



Fig. 3. Collecting site of *Stenhomalus saleuicola* sp. nov.; foot of Phu Pakan, 1,550 m in alt., Ban Saleui, Houaphan Province, NE. Laos.

On the last day of my stay in Ban Saleui, I tried to seek a better collecting site preserved in a primary forest near the village. After lunch at the village, I went deep into the forest of Phu Pakan along a narrow trail, and found a small gap made by felling in the forest. The new *Stenhomalus* was caught from leaves of *Quercus acutissima*, a dominant oak tree in the forest, together with such other cerambycid beetles as clytine and callichromine species.

要 約

新里達也：ラオス北東部産メダカカミキリ属の1新種。—— ラオス北東部のフアパン州サルイ村で採集された標本に基づき、メダカカミキリ属の新種 *Stenhomalus saleuicola* sp. nov. を命名記載した。本種は、暗色の体に橙色の前胸をもつ小型種で、同様の色彩をもつ台湾の *S. ruficollis* GRESSITT やミャンマーの *S. kusakabeorum* NIISATO などにやや似ているが、はるかに小さい体前半部、前胸に比べて顕著に幅広い上翅、細く長い触角と肢、さらにムナミゾアメイロカミキリ属に似た外観などから一見して区別が可能である。また、色彩の類似を除くと近縁な同属種はなく、真の類縁関係は明らかではない。なお、種小名の意味は「サルイ村の住人」。

Selected References

- NIISATO, T., 1998. New species and distribution records of the tribe Obriini (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae) from Myanmar. *Elytra, Tokyo*, **26**: 461–472.
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* For other references, see NIISATO (1998) and NIISATO and HUA (1998).