

Symbiotic Host of *Triartiger reductus* NOMURA
(Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Pselaphinae, Clavigeritae)
in the Island of Tsushima, Japan

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The clavigerine beetle *Triartiger reductus* NOMURA, 1997 (Fig. 1) was recorded from the Islands of Tsushima, western Japan, and only a few specimens have hitherto been collected (NOMURA, 1997). Though it was presumed to be a myrmecophile as most species of the supertribe Clavigeritae, no information on ant association of this species was available. Recently, T. K. visited Tsushima for investigation of myrmecophilous insects and found numerous specimens of this rare species. The beetles were collected from the nests of *Crematogaster osakensis* FOREL, 1900 (Myrmicinae). Sixteen colonies of *C. osakensis* were investigated, seven of them being parasitized by *T. reductus*. During his four days of investigation in Tsushima, T. K. investigated a total of 17 species of ants (totally 91 colonies), but beetles were found only in the nests of *C. osakensis*. Therefore, *C. osakensis* is most probably the host ant of *T. reductus*. Normally three or



Fig. 1. A living *Triartiger reductus*, dorsal view.



Fig. 2. *Triartiger reductus* in a nest *Crematogaster osakensis*.

four beetles were found per colony, though sometimes more than ten beetles were found in a single ant colony (Fig. 2). When T. K. inspected an understone colony, the beetles walked slowly in the trail of ants and escaped into the hole continuing under ground. The ants showed clear interest in the beetles and tapped their backs with their antennae for a short time. Behaviour that ant carries the beetle with its mandibles has not been observed in the symbiotic association of *C. osakensis* and *T. reductus*, though this behaviour is commonly observed in associations between beetles of the genus *Diartiger* SHARP, 1883, a close relative of *Triartiger*, and ants of the genus *Lasius* FABRICIUS, 1804 (Formicinae) (MARUYAMA, pers. obs.)

Triartiger reductus NOMURA, 1997

Specimens examined. 27 exs., Sasunaotsu, Kamiagata-machi, Tsushima-shi, Nagasaki, Japan, 27-IV-2008, T. KOMATSU leg.; 5 exs., same data but, 29-IV-2008. In the collections of the Kyushu University Museum and the National Museum of Nature and Science, Tokyo.

Symbiotic host. *Crematogaster osakensis*.

Reference

NOMURA, S., 1997. A revision of the clavigerine genus *Triartiger* KUBOTA (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Pselaphinae) from Taiwan and Japan. *Elytra, Tokyo*, **25**: 435-444.