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A New Species of Brachypterous *Lathrobium* (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae) from Hokkaido, Japan

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Abstract A new staphylinid species belonging to the group of brachypterous *Lathrobium* is described under the name of *L. ezoense*. It was obtained from southern Hokkaido, Japan.

The members of the group of brachypterous *Lathrobium* are usually found in dead leaves or from under stones in mountain areas. Many species of this species-group have hitherto been reported from various localities of Japan, except Hokkaido.

Through the courtesy of Dr. T. Kishimoto, I had an opportunity to examine an interesting species of this species-group obtained from southern Hokkaido, Japan. After a close examination, it has become clear that this species is new to science on account of disagreement in configuration of the secondary sexual characters of abdominal sternites and genital organ in the male with those of previously known species. I am therefore going to describe it as a new species in the present paper.

Before going further, I wish to express my hearty thanks to Dr. Shun-Ichi Uéno, Visiting Professor at Tokyo University of Agriculture, for his kind advice on the present study. Deep gratitude is also due to Dr. Toshio Kishimoto, Japan Wildlife Research Center, for his kindness in providing me with the specimens used in the present study, and due to Dr. Toshiharu Mita, Laboratory of Entomology, Tokyo University of Agriculture, for taking the photographs inserted in this paper.

Lathrobium (*Lathrobium*) *ezoense* Y. Watanabe, sp. nov.

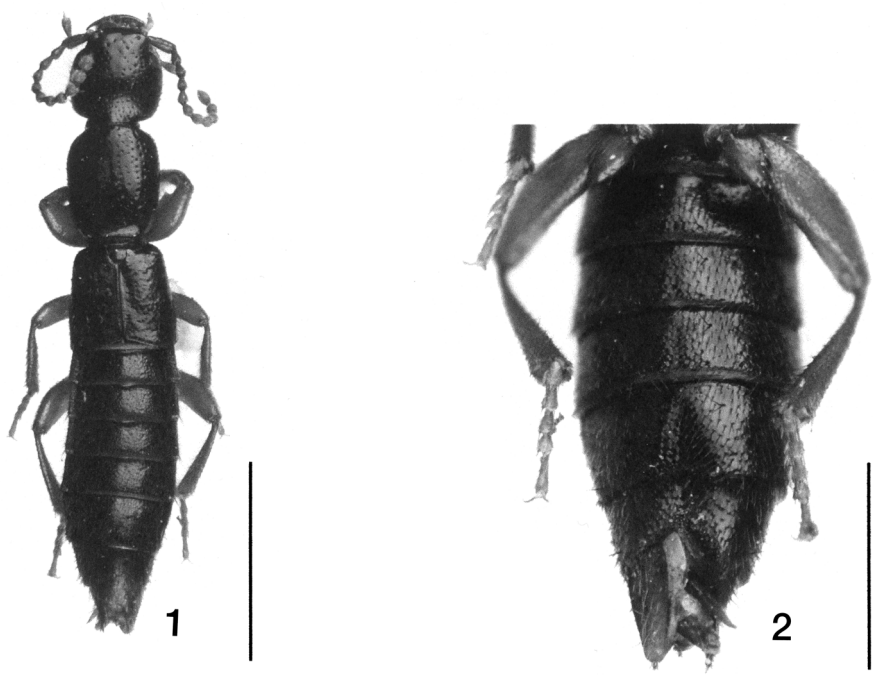
[Japanese name: Ezo-kobane-nagahanekakushi]

(Figs. 1–5)

Body length: 5.7–5.8 mm (from front margin of head to anal end); 3.0–3.1 mm (from front margin of head to elytral apices).

Body elongate, nearly parallel-sided and somewhat convex. Colour brownish black and moderately shining, with mouth-parts, antennae and legs yellow, apical two abdominal segments yellowish brown, and sutural and apical parts of elytra brownish red.

M a l e. Head subquadrate, nearly parallel-sided and somewhat elevated medially, almost as long as wide; postocular part feebly arcuate and about three times as long as the longitudinal diameter of each eye which is nearly flat; surface sparsely and coarsely punctured, the punctures becoming somewhat closer in the latero-basal areas than in the medio-frontal area, covered with microscopic ground sculpture all over. Antennae moderately long, extending to the middle of pronotum, 4th to 10th segments moniliform, first two segments polished and the remainings opaque, 1st segment robust, dilated apicad, more than twice as long as wide, 2nd 1.5 times as long as wide, half times as long as and slightly narrower than 1st (2nd/1st=0.80), 3rd apparently longer than wide (length/width=1.75), a little longer (3rd/2nd=1.17) than though as wide as 2nd, 4th to 7th equal in both length and width, each distinctly longer than wide (length/width=1.25), distinctly shorter than 3rd (each of 4th to 7th/3rd=0.71), 8th and 9th equal in both length and width, each slightly transverse

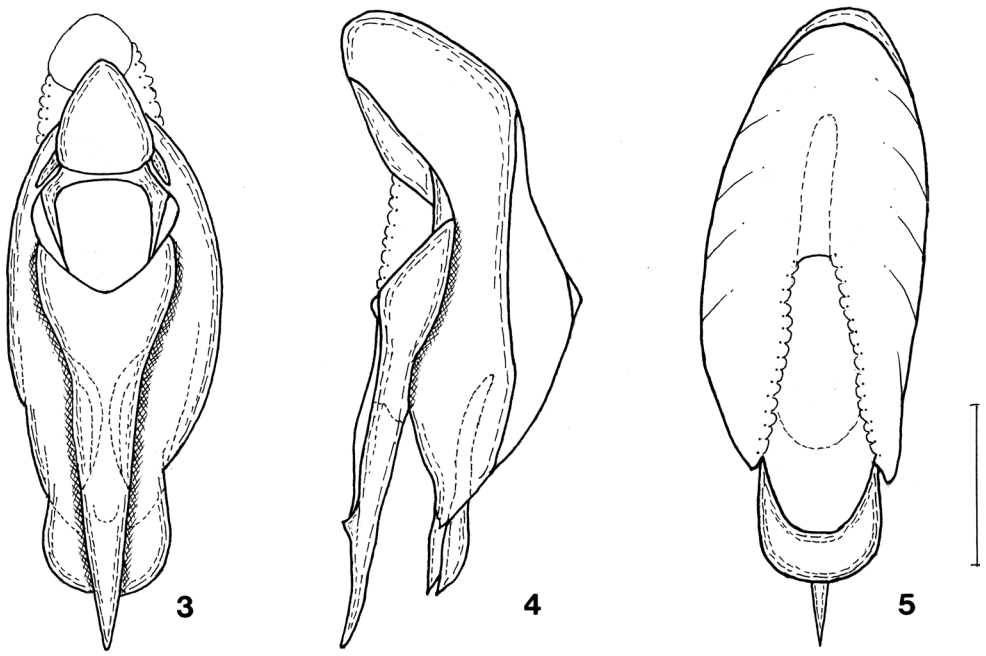


Figs. 1–2. *Lathrobium* (*Lathrobium*) *ezoense* sp. nov., ♂, from Shiribeshi, southern Hokkaido, Japan. —— 1, Habitus; 2, secondary sexual characters of abdominal sternites in the male. Scale: 2.0 mm (1), 1.0 mm (2).

(width/length=1.13) and slightly shorter than 7th (each of 8th and 9th/7th=0.89), 10th as long as wide, distinctly longer (10th/9th=1.25) and slightly wider (10th/9th=1.11) than 9th, 11th fusiform, apparently longer than wide (length/width=1.80), evidently longer (11th/10th=1.89) than though as wide as 10th, subacuminate at the apex.

Pronotum elevated medially and a little longer than wide (length/width=1.17), a little longer (pronotum/head=1.17) than though as wide as head, widest at anterior fourth and more strongly narrowed posteriad than anteriad; lateral sides almost straight except near anterior and posterior angles, anterior margin arcuate, posterior margin slightly emarginate at the middle, anterior angles narrowly rounded though invisible from dorsal side, posterior ones rounded; surface more closely and more coarsely punctured than in the median part of head except for impunctate smooth median space throughout the length of pronotum. Scutellum subtriangular, surface almost impunctate, though covered with microscopic ground sculpture. Elytra subtrapezoidal, slightly dilated apicad and subdepressed above, slightly longer than wide (length/width=1.05), as long as though somewhat wider than pronotum (elytra/pronotum=1.11); lateral sides almost straight, posterior margin broadly emarginate at the middle, posterior angles broadly rounded; surface sparsely and superficially punctured and somewhat sparsely covered with fine brownish pubescence; epipleura without longitudinal keel. Hind wings degenerated to short lobes which are about one-third as long as elytra. Legs moderately long, profemora, protibiae and protarsi similar in structure to those of other members of the brachypterous group of *Lathrobium*.

Abdomen elongate, gradually dilated from 3rd to 7th segments and then abruptly narrowed towards the anal end; 3rd to 7th tergites each somewhat closely, coarsely superficially punctured, 8th and 9th tergites each more sparingly and more finely punctured than in the preceding tergites, all the



Figs. 3–5. Male genital organ of *Lathrobium* (*Lathrobium*) *ezoense* sp. nov. —— 3, Dorsal view; 4, lateral view; 5, ventral view. Scale: 0.25 mm.

tergites more closely covered with fine brownish pubescence than in elytra; 8th sternite largely, subtriangularly excised at the middle of posterior margin and narrowly longitudinally depressed at the middle before the excision, surface of the depression somewhat sparingly, coarsely and setiferously punctured, the punctures becoming much sparser and finer in the lateral part than in the median part; 7th sternite much more shallowly excised at the middle of posterior margin than in 8th sternite and linguiformly depressed in front of the excision, surface of the depression covered with slightly coarser setiferous punctures than those in other part; 6th sternite obscurely depressed at the middle before posterior margin.

Genital organ spindle-shaped and nearly symmetrical. Median lobe elliptical and remarkably wider than fused paramere, widest near the middle, somewhat more strongly narrowed basad than apicad, ventral sclerite widest before the apex which is broadly rounded. Fused paramere distinctly extending beyond the apex of median lobe, constricted at about basal third and clearly more strongly narrowed apicad than basad, apical fourth strongly narrowed towards the bluntly pointed apex; surface finely and arcuately carinate at the middle in apical third, the carina forming a small subtriangular tooth as seen from lateral side.

F e m a l e. Similar in facies to male, but different from it in the following points: abdomen with 8th sternite narrowed towards the gently rounded apex, and 7th sternite simple.

Type series. Holotype: ♂, allotype: ♀, Shiribeshi, Kyôwa-chô, near Naganuma, Hokkaido, Japan, 20–VII–2000, T. KISHIMOTO leg. Patatypes: 2 ♂♂, 6 ♀♀, same data as for the holotype.

Type depository. All the type specimens are deposited in the collection of the Laboratory of Entomology, Tokyo University of Agriculture.

Distribution. Japan (Southern Hokkaido).

Remarks. The present new species is similar in facies to *L.* (*L.*) *japonicum japonicum* BERN-

HAUER, 1907, *L.* (*L.*) *japonicum kunashiriense* Y. WATANABE, 2004, and *L.* (*L.*) *kanoi* Y. WATANABE, 2004, from the Kuril Islands, but can be distinguished from them in the following points: body smaller and narrower, head and pronotum less coarsely punctured, elytra more sparingly and more finely and superficially punctured, abdomen somewhat more sparingly and slightly more coarsely superficially punctured, and clearly different configuration of secondary sexual characters of abdominal sternites and genital organ in the male.

Bionomics. All the specimens of the type series were taken by sifting dead leaves accumulated near Naganuma at an altitude of 720 m.

Etymology. The specific name of this new species is given after "Ezo", an old name of Hokkaido, in which lies the type locality.

要　　約

渡辺泰明：北海道から採集されたコバネナガハネカクシ類（コウチュウ目ハネカクシ科）の 1 新種の記載．── これまで北海道からはコバネナガハネカクシ類に含まれる種の記録はなかった．最近，私は岸本年郎博士によって南部北海道から採集されたこの類に含まれる 1 種を検討する機会を得た．この種は千島列島から記載された *Lathrobium* (*L.*) *japonicum japonicum*, *L.* (*L.*) *japonicum kunashiriense* 及び *L.* (*L.*) *japonicum kanoi* に近縁の種と判断されたが，体表の点刻と雄の腹部第二次性徴および交尾器の形状が，それらの種と異なることによって未記載種と認め *Lathrobium* (*Lathrobium*) *ezoense* と命名・記載した．

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