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New Records of *Fabogethes circularis* (J. Sahlberg, 1903) and *F. nigrescens* (Stephens, 1830) (Coleoptera, Nitidulidae, Meligethinae) from Japan

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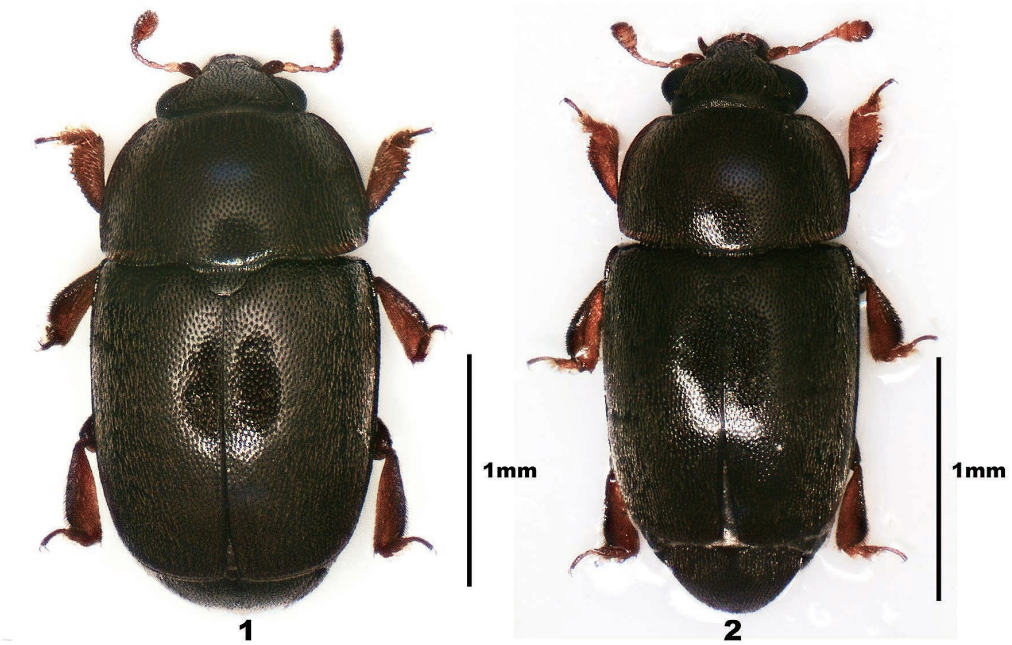
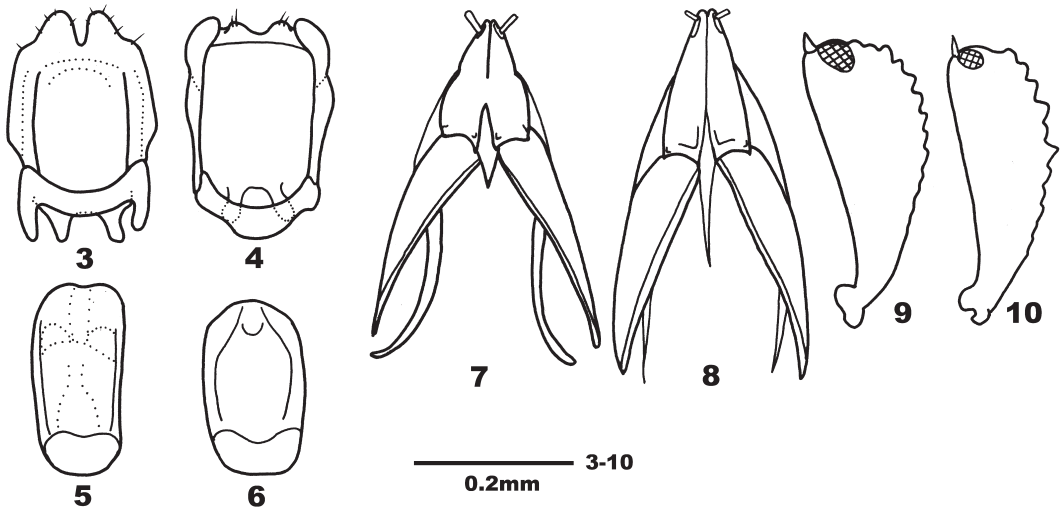
Fabogethes Audisio et Cline, 2009, which was named after Fabaceae as the host plant family, is a genus of the subfamily Meligethinae and contains species formerly attributed to two species-groups, the '*Meligethes nigrescens*' group and the '*M. opacus*' group (Audisio *et al*., 2009). At present, nine species are known from the Palearctic and Oriental Regions, except for *F. nigrescens* that was introduced from the Palearctic Region to North America. However, any species of the genus have been unrecorded from Japan until now. During my 2019 field researches in Hokkaido and Ehime, Japan, two *Fabogethes* species, *F. circularis* (J. Sahlberg, 1903) and *F. nigrescens* (Stephens, 1830), were collected. In the following lines, I report them for the first time from Japan, representing the first record of the genus from the country, with synoptic redescription and distributional record of each species.

Before going further, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Mr. L. Takechi for providing me the information on *F. nigrescens* occurring in Ehime Children's Playground, to Dr. M. Sakai for his critical reading of the manuscript, to Mr. M. Sato and Mr. A. Kashizaki for their help during the field research on Rishiri Is., and to Emeritus Prof. H. Matsui and Mr. K. Hashigoe for their identification of *Vicia japonica* (Fabaceae). Specimens



Figs. 1–2. Dorsal habitus of *Fabogethes* spp. —— 1, *F. circularis* (♂, Rishiri Is., Hokkaido, Japan); 2, *F. nigrescens* (♂, Matsuyama-shi, Ehime, Japan).



Figs. 3–10. *Fabogethes* spp. —— 3, 5, 7 & 9, *F. circularis* (Rishiri Is., Hokkaido, Japan); 4, 6, 8 & 10, *F. nigrescens* (Matsuyama-shi, Ehime, Japan). —— 3 & 4, Tegmen, ventral view; 5 & 6, median lobe, ventral view; 7 & 8, ovipositor, ventral view; 9 & 10, male right protibia.

examined are deposited in the author's collection. A part of the present work was supported by the Rishiri Research Project.

Fabogethes circularis (J. SAHLBERG, 1903)

[Japanese name: Kusafuji-chibi-keshikisui]

Material examined. Japan. [Hokkaido] 14 exs., Seaside near Otadomari-numa, Rishiri Is., Hokkaido, 3.VII.2019, on the flowers of *Vicia japonica*, S.-T. HISAMATSU leg.

Diagnosis. Body (Fig. 1) small, 2.25–2.55 mm (n = 10), fully blackish except for dark reddish-brown antennae, mouthparts and legs; dorsal disc feebly lustrous; interspaces between dorsal punctures smooth; male apical margins of abdominal sternite VII deeply arcuately emarginate; male and female genitalia (Figs. 3, 5 & 7) as figured; outer edges of protibiae (Fig. 9) finely, slightly irregularly denticulate.

Distribution. Japan (Rishiri Is., Hokkaido) —— new record; Russian Far East, East Siberia, North Korea, China, and Mongolia (JELÍNEK & AUDISIO, 2007; AUDISIO *et al*., 2009).

Bionomy. *Trifolium* spp. (Fabaceae) are known as the larval hosts of this species (KIREJTSHUK, 1992). During the field research on Rishiri Is., the adults were collected from the flowers of Japanese vetch, *V. japonica*.

Fabogethes nigrescens (STEPHENS, 1830)

[Japanese name: Mame-chibi-keshikisui]

Material examined. Japan. [Ehime] 127 exs., Ehime Children's Playground, Matsuyama-shi, 17.VI.2019, on the flowers of *Trifolium repens*, S.-T. HISAMATSU leg.

Diagnosis. Body (Fig. 2) small, 2.10–2.40 mm (n = 10), fully blackish, except mouthparts, antennae, and legs dark reddish-brown; dorsal disc with feeble luster; interspaces between dorsal punctures smooth; male apical margins of abdominal sternite VII with a shining transverse depression at apex; male and female genitalia (Figs.

4, 6 & 8) as figured; outer edge of protibiae (Fig. 10) finely, slightly irregularly denticulate.

Distribution. Japan (Shikoku) —— new record; Palearctic Region; introduced to North America (Jelínek & Audisio, 2007; Audisio *et al*., 2009).

Bionomy. The main host of *F. nigrescens* is *Trifolium repens* (Fabaceae), though the larvae of this species are able to feed on various Fabaceae plants, such as *Trifolium* spp. *Vicia* spp., *Medicago* spp., and *Lotus* spp. (Audisio, 1993). During the field research in Ehime, Japan, a large number of adults were collected from the flowers of the white clover, *T. repens*. This nitidulid beetle may have recently been introduced to Japan.

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