

Discovery of *Meligethinus tschungseni* KIREJTSHUK from Japan, the Most Eastward Record of the Genus *Meligethinus* GROUVELLE (Coleoptera, Nitidulidae, Meligethinae)

Sadatomo HISAMATSU

Biodiversity Center, Ehime Prefectural Institute of Public Health and Environmental Science, 8–234, Sanban-chô, Matsuyama City, Ehime Prefecture, 790–0003 Japan.

E-mail: sthisamatsu@gmail.com

Meligethinus GROUVELLE is a genus of the subfamily Meligethinae and represented by 17 species known from the Oriental, Palearctic, and Afrotropical Regions. Most species of the genus are distributed in tropical Africa and southeastern Asia, with a couple of relictual species known from western Mediterranean and Irano-Arabic areas (AUDISIO *et al.*, 2009). Any species of the genus have hitherto been unrecorded from Japan.

In April 2018, the author had received several specimens of unknown nitidulid species for identification. After a close examination, they were identified as *Meligethinus tschungseni* KIREJTSHUK, 1987, which was originally described from China. In the following lines, it will be reported as a new distributional record of the species from Japan. This discovery extends the distributional range of both the species *M. tschungseni* and genus *Meligethinus* eastwardly.

Before going further, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Mr. Jun ITO and Mr. Kazuo MAEHARA for providing me important information and material, and to Dr. Masahiro SAKAI for his advice and critical reading of the manuscript. Specimens examined are deposited in the author's collection.

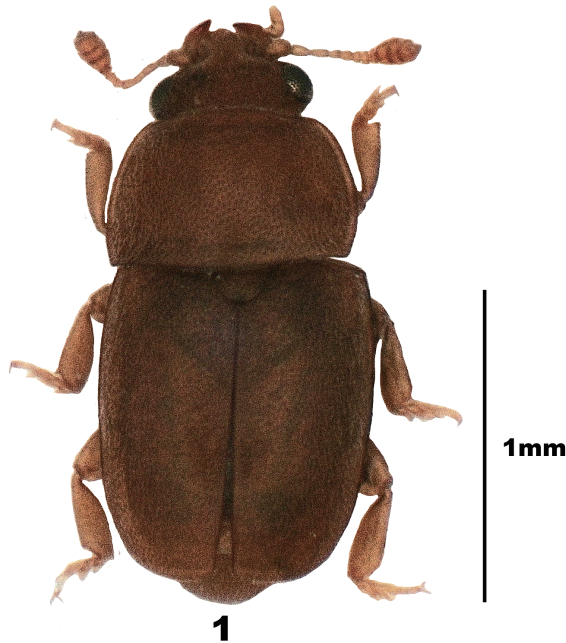
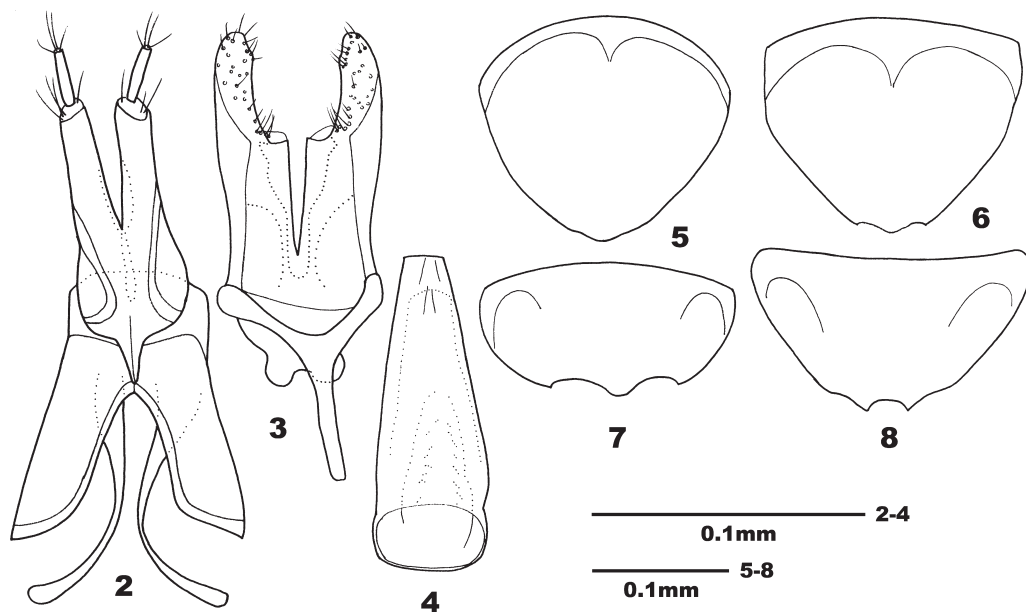


Fig. 1. Dorsal habitus of *Meligethinus tschungseni* (♂, Saijô-chô, Hiroshima, Honshu, Japan).



Figs. 2–8. *Meligethinus tschungseni* (Shitami, Saijō-chō, Hiroshima, Japan). — 2, Ovipositor; 3, tegmen, ventral view; 4, median lobe, ventral view; 5, male abdominal tergite VII; 6, female abdominal tergite VII; 7, male abdominal sternite VII; 8, female abdominal sternite VII.

Meligethinus tschungseni KIREJTSHUK, 1987

[Japanese name: Akachibi-keshikisui]

Meligethinus tschungseni KIREJTSHUK, 1987: 85. Type locality. “Kuatun, Fukien” (= Fujian), China.

Meligethinus tschungseni: JELÍNEK & AUDISIO, 2007: 488 (catalogue); AUDISIO *et al.*, 2009: 456 (list).

Material examined. China. [Fujian] 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Wuyishan City, SW env. 27.7N, 117.95E, 6.V.2005, Jaroslav TURNA leg. Japan. [Hiroshima] 14 ♂♂, 9 ♀♀, Shitami, Saijō-chō, 18.IV.2018, on the flower of *Acer palmatum*, K. MAEHARA leg.; 4 ♂♂, 6 ♀♀, same locality and collector as the preceding, 28.V.2018, on the flower of *Deutzia crenata*.

Diagnosis. Body (Fig. 1) small, 1.85–2.05 mm (n = 10), reddish brown; dorsal surface finely and closely punctate; interspaces between dorsal punctures finely reticulate; apical margins of abdominal sternite VII with a projection in males (Fig. 7), with a pair of projection in females (Fig. 8); male and female genitalia (Figs. 2–4) as figured.

Distribution. Japan (Honshu) — new record; China (Fujian, Sichuan, and Yunnan).

Bionomy. Although the adults show a flower-visiting habit and have been collected from the flowers of *Acer palmatum* THUNB. (Sapindaceae) and *Deutzia crenata* SIEBOLD et ZUCC. (Hydrangeaceae), the larval hosts are unknown yet.

References

- AUDISIO, P., A. R. CLINE, A. DE BIASE, G. ANTONINI, E. MANCINI, M. TRIZZINO, L. COSTANTINI, S. STRIKA, F. LAMANNA & P. CERRETTI, 2009. Preliminary re-examination of genus-level taxonomy of the pollen beetle subfamily Meligethinae (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae). *Acta Entomologica Musei Nationalis Pragae*, **49** (2): 341–504.

- JELÍNEK, J., & P. AUDISIO, 2007. Family Nitidulidae. Pp. 114–209. In LÖBL, I., & A. SMETANA (eds.), *Catalogue of Palearctic Coleoptera*, **4**. *Elateroidea – Derodontoidea – Bostrichoidea – Lymexyloidea – Cleroidea – Cucujoidea*. 935 pp. Apollo Books, Stenstrup.
- KIREJTSHUK, A. G., 1987. New taxa of the nitidulid beetles (Coleoptera, Nitidulidae) of East Hemisphere (Part 1). *Omosita neartica* sp. n. vicariate with the Palearctic *O. colon* (L.). *Trudy Zoologicheskogo Instituta. Akademiia nauk SSSR, Leningrad*, **164**: 63–94. (In Russian, with English title.)

Manuscript received 9 January 2019;
revised and accepted 4 March 2019.