

A New Species of the Genus *Malthinellus* (Coleoptera, Cantharidae) from Iriomote Island of the Ryukyu Islands, Southwest Japan

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Abstract A new cantharid beetle of the genus *Malthinellus* is described from Iriomote Island, Southwest Japan under the name of *M. tsuchidai* sp. nov.

Introduction

The genus *Malthinellus* is a small genus belonging to Malthiniinae, and eight species have been hitherto known from China, Taiwan and Japan. Up to the present, *M. chujoi* (WITTMER, 1961) of Amami-Ōshima Is. and *M. masatakai* TAKAHASHI & N. TAKAHASHI, 2007 of Okinawa Is. were known from the Ryukyu Islands. Recently, I had a chance to examine an unique specimen collected from Iriomote Is. of the Ryukyu Islands through the courtesy of Dr. T. TSUCHIDA who has been continuously conducting faunal survey on this island. After a careful examination, it became clear that the specimen was new to science belonging to the genus *Malthinellus*, and thereby I am going to describe it in the present paper.

Before going further, I wish to express my cordial thanks to Dr. Takashi TSUCHIDA of the Hamamatsu University School of Medicine for providing me the valuable material. I also thank Dr. Nobuo OHBAYASHI of Miura City, Kanagawa Pref. for his critical reading of the manuscript of this paper.

Material and Method

Examining method and technical terms of male genitalia follow TAKAHASHI and N. TAKAHASHI (2007), and BRANCUCCI (1980).

The abbreviations used in the description are as follows: HW — width of head; PW — width of pronotum; PL — length of pronotum; EW — width of elytra; EL — length of elytra.

Type depositories. The holotype is deposited in the collection of the Kanagawa Prefectural Museum of Natural History, Odawara, Japan.

Description

Malthinellus tsuchidai sp. nov.

(Figs. 1–2)

[Japanese name: Tsuchida-futairo-chibijōkai]

Male. Dorsal surface of body largely dark brown except for apical half of head which is testaceous; ventral side of head, pro-, meso- and metathoraces testaceous; abdomen mostly yellow; legs yellowish brown, though each apex of femur and tibia slightly darkened.



Fig. 1. Habitus of *Malthinellus tsuchidai* sp. nov. (holotype).

Head weakly convex above, densely provided with rather small punctures. Antennae filiform, reaching basal two-thirds of elytra; 1st to 3rd segments slightly dilated apically, relative lengths of segments as follows: 1.90 : 1.00 : 1.13 : 1.27 : 1.32 : 1.41 : 1.32 : 1.29 : 1.19 : 1.17 : 1.41. Eye prominent; inter-ocular distance broad, 3.87 times as wide as eye diameter. Mandible provided with a distinct inner tooth. Gular suture obscure; gula narrow and not concaved.

Pronotum nearly rectangular, distinctly broader than long, widest near the middle; anterior margin almost straight, and posterior one slightly arcuate; PW/HW 0.87, PW/PL 1.32; disk convex, densely with small punctures; both lateral sides slightly concave in anterior and posterior portions. Legs slender; each claw simple.

Elytra almost covering abdomen, densely provided with rather large punctures and six rows of obscure strial punctures observed on each elytron; EW/PW 1.44; EL/EW 2.38.

Abdomen with eighth sternite relatively short and broad, with slightly emarginate apical margin.

Male genitalia nearly oval in outline; basal piece rather elongate, gradually narrowed backward and forward with slight emargination on each apex; inner basal piece nearly circular with emarginated anterior expansion and posterior hook-like lobes. Centrophyse having complicate structure; inner lateral lobe rather slender but slightly expanded apically; outer lateral lobe very slender, distinctly shorter than the inner lateral lobe; penis divided into a pair of apparatuses (Fig. 2).

Length: 4.4 mm; breadth: 1.2 mm.

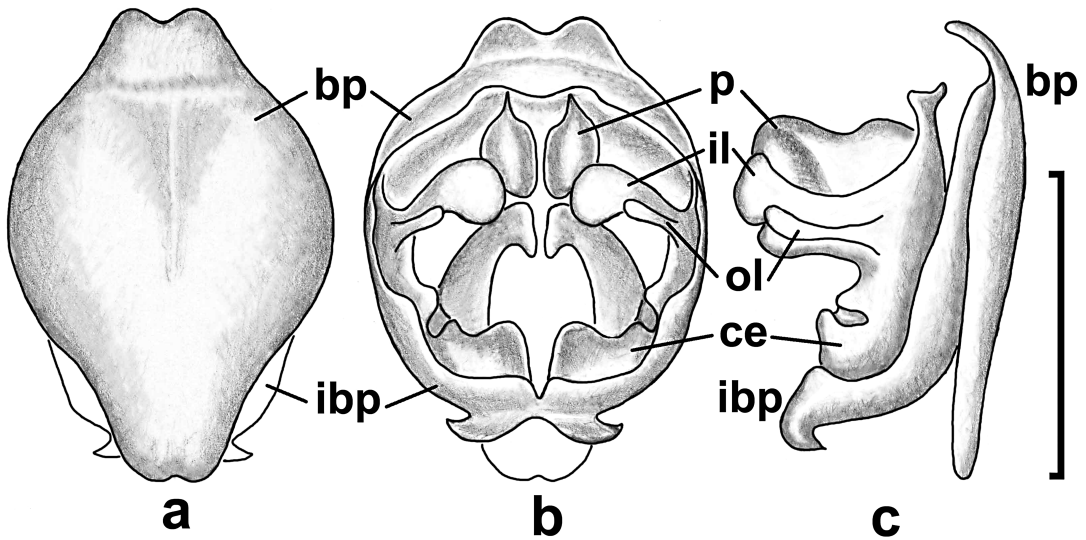


Fig. 2. Male genitalia of *Malthinellus tsuchidai* sp. nov. — a, Ventral view; b, dorsal view; c, lateral view. — bp, Basal piece; ce, centrophysis; ibp, inner basal piece; il, inner lateral lobe; ol, outer lateral lobe; p, penis. (Scale: 0.5 mm.)

F e m a l e. Unknown.

Type specimen. Holotype: ♂, Komi-rindô, Iriomote Is., Okinawa Pref., 10.IV.2015, T. TSUCHIDA leg.

Distribution. Japan (Iriomote Island).

Remarks. The present new species is relatively resembled in coloration to *M. bicolor* KIESENWETTER, 1874 distributing in mainlands of Japan compared with other species from the Ryukyu Islands, but it can be easily distinguished from other members of the genus by the structure of male genitalia. Judging from the conformation of male genitalia, the present new species seems to have a closer relation with *M. crenulatus* WITTMER, 1979 from Taiwan than with other species of the Ryukyu Islands.

要 約

高橋和弘：琉球列島西表島産の *Malthinellus* 属の1新種（鞘翅目ジョウカイボン科）。——西表島産の標本に基づき、ジョウカイボン科の1新種 *Malthinellus tsuchidai* sp. nov. を記載した。本種は、西表島から初めて記録される *Malthinellus* 属の種で、色彩は日本本土に産する *M. bicolor* KIESENWETTER, 1874 にやや似るが、交尾器の構造が異なる。交尾器の形態から、台湾に産する *M. crenulatus* WITTMER, 1979 に近縁な種と判断される。

References

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