

## Records of Two Silphid Beetles from the Foot of K2 and Papua Barat of New Guinea

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Recently, I have obtained several silphid beetle specimens from Karakorum and New Guinea through the courtesy of two coleopterists; these specimens were identified with *Thanatophilus porrectus* (SEMENOV) and *Nicrophorus heurni* PORTEVIN, respectively. *Thanatophilus porrectus* has a wide distributional range extending from Armenia to Afghanistan, Pakistan, western China and the Russian Far East via Central Asia (RŮŽIČKA & SCHNEIDER, 2004), but it seems to be no additional records from Karakorum since the original description for *Thanatophilus sillemi* PORTEVIN which later turned out to be a junior synonym of *T. porrectus*. The type locality of *T. sillemi* is the Tehrong Valley lying in the Rimo group of East Karakorum, whereas the collecting site recorded herein is located at the foot of Mt. K2 belonging to the Baltoro group of Central Karakorum, and consequently, this species is new to the fauna of Central Karakorum. *Nicrophorus heurni* is endemic to New Guinea, but the distribution of the species has poorly been known as yet in both Papua and Papua Barat, Indonesia (PECK, 2001; SIKES *et al.*, 2006). I am therefore going to record the two below.

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### *Thanatophilus porrectus* (SEMENOV, 1891)

*Silpha* (*Thanatophilus*) *porrecta* SEMENOV, 1891, 301–303; type locality: “Turkestan chinens.: ad fluv. Pachpu nec non apud urbem Polu”.

*Thanatophilus armeniacus* REITTER, 1912, 104; type locality: “Russisch-Armenien”.

*Thanatophilus Sillemi* PORTEVIN, 1935, 281; type locality: “Tehrong valley à 4125 m d’altitude, près d’un glacier”.

*Specimen examined.* 1 ♀, Gore [ca. 35° 44′ 32″ N 76° 26′ 20″ E], Baltoro Glacier, foot of Mt. K2, Karakorum, Pakistan, VI–1977, K. TSUKAMOTO leg.

*Notes.* This specimen was found under a stone in an ablation valley along Baltoro Glacier at an altitude of 4,057–4,600 m (TSUKAMOTO, 1978, and pers. comm.).

### *Nicrophorus heurni* PORTEVIN, 1926

*Necrophorus Heurni* PORTEVIN, 1926, 209; type locality: “Nouvelle Guinée” [“Campement de Doormanpad, 1410 m” of “Nord ouest de la Nouvelle-Guinée, les sources de la rivière Mamberamo” (PORTEVIN, 1926b)].

*Specimens examined.* 1 ♂, Mt. Nitoti, 1,770 m in alt. (ca. 7 km North of Kebar) [ca. 0° 44′ S 133° 04′ E], eastern end of Tamrau Mts., Manokwari, Papua [Papua Barat at present], New Guinea Is., Indonesia, 2–II–2002, H. KONISHI leg.; 1 ♂, 1 ♀, same locality, 2–III–2002, H. SHIBATA leg.; 1 ♂, same data but H. KONISHI leg.

*Notes.* The locality of these specimens is called Nitoti, according to natives, though it does not appear on maps referred to (SHIBATA pers. comm. via YAGISHITA). Although habitat data are not available for these specimens, it is surmised that their habitats are probably surrounded by forests, because the collectors of the present specimens targeted the butterfly genus *Delias* dwelling in the natural forest with mistletoe shrubs (SHIBATA, 2003).

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