

**Two New Species of the Genus *Thesilea*  
(Tenebrionidae: Cnodalonini)  
found in the Collection of the late Mr. Taichi SHIBATA**

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**Abstract** Two new species of the genus *Thesilea* are described from the Malay Peninsula and North Borneo under the names of *T. shibatai* sp. nov., and *T. aeneipennis* sp. nov., respectively.

### **Introduction**

This paper is dedicated to the late Mr. Taichi SHIBATA, who was one of the distinguished coleopterologists in Japan, and continually imparted a great deal of knowledge about entomology as a longtime leader of us.

Since the catalogue of GEBIEN (1942) which included nine species of the genus *Thesilea*, 16 species were added by KASZAB (4 species and 2 subspecies), KULZER (11 species and 1 subspecies) and MASUMOTO (1 species). In addition, one species was transferred from other genus, and one known species was transferred to other genus. Now, as the result, the genus *Thesilea* consists of 25 species and 3 subspecies. In the Shibata collection, two new species belonging to this genus were found, and we are going to describe them in the following lines.

The holotypes designated in this study are deposited in the collection of the Entomological Laboratory, Faculty of Agriculture, Ehime University.

*Thesilea shibatai* sp. nov.

(Figs. 1–3)

*Measurements.* Length: 10.4–11.9 mm; width: 3.6–4.6 mm.

*Type series.* Holotype: ♂, Headquarter, North Borneo, Malaysia, 20. V. 1981, M. YAMAMOTO leg. Paratypes: 2♂♂, Borneo: Sabah, Kinabalu N. P. Headquarters, 1,500–1,600 m, 11–15. X. 1996, W. SCHAWALLER leg. (SMNS).

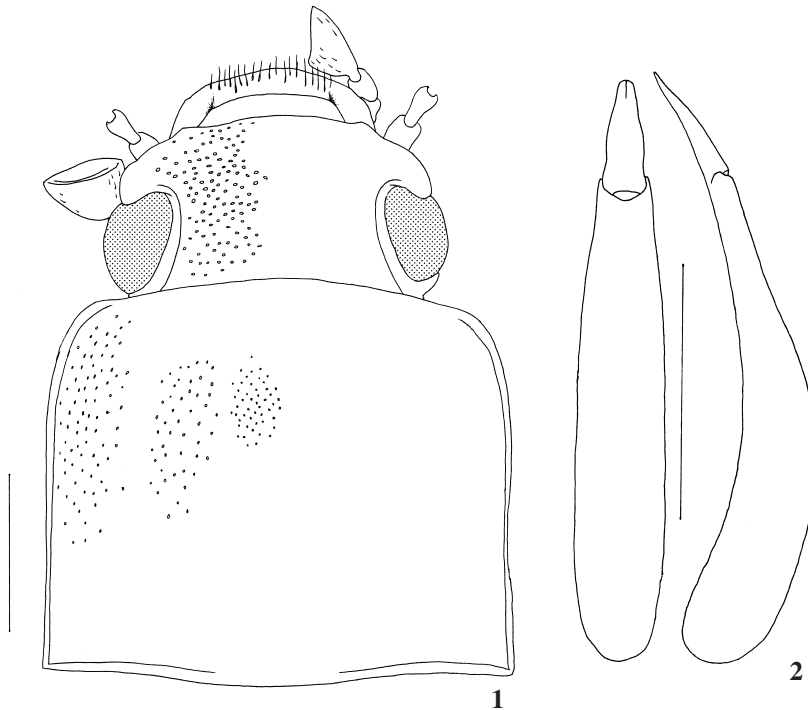
*Etymology.* This new species is named in honour of the late Mr. Taichi SHIBATA, who was an excellent coleopterologist in Japan.

Body reddish brown, more or less darker dorsally with metallic green luster; head and pronotum with strong aeneous luster in a paratype; elytra more or less dull owing to the presence of microsculpture; sutural intervals of elytra in a paratype tinged with distinct metallic green; each elytron with a pair of oblong metallic green-aeneous fasciae under the fluorescent lamp, one of which is situated on humerus occupying between 6th and 9th intervals, strongly tapering posteriad, and another fascia in contact with elytral apex and faintly dentate anteriorly at 6th and 7th intervals; both fasciae bordered by obscure reddish purple tinge, the reddish purple borders of the both fasciae linked with each other at 6th interval; four distal segments of antennae infusate; legs brown, with apical portions of femora and tarsi darkened.

Head shortened, distinctly inclined forward, rather densely covered with hair-bearing punctures; anterior margin weakly constricted between clypeus and genae; clypeus almost flat, raised medially, with apical margin shallowly emarginate, triangularly produced at sides; frontoclypeal suture vestigial; genae rather large, 0.7 times as long as an eye, strongly tapering forward at sides; frons broadened, distance between eyes about 4.0 times as wide as their diameter; inner ocular sulci deeply and distinctly impressed; antennae medium-sized, distal six segments weakly clubbed; mentum hexagonal, strongly convex, with a pair of large setigerous punctures at middle, and also with two long setae behind middle along each lateral margin.

Pronotum quadrate, 1.2 times as broad as long, broadest at apical 2/5 and at base; lateral margins finely margined, almost parallel to each other between two broadest points; disc moderately convex, steeply falling in each lateral fourth, rather densely punctate, each puncture provided with a very fine short hairs; front margin feebly and arcuately emarginate, not margined; anterior angles roundly and weakly produced; posterior angles rectangular. Scutellum rounded posteriorly, with a few microscopic punctures.

Elytra elongate, convex, widest at apical 3/7, 2.06 times as long as wide, thickest at basal 1/3, rather acute at apices; each elytron with nine punctate striae which are weakly impressed and sometimes partly obliterated; the strial punctures rather dense and somewhat oblong, becoming more or less minute but distinct even in apical portions; intervals nearly flat, minutely and rather densely punctate, covered with very fine isodiametric microsculpture.



Figs.1–2. *Thesilea shibatai* sp. nov.; ? , Head and pronotum in dorsal view; ? , male genitalia, left: dorsal view, right: lateral view. Scales: 1.0 mm.

Prosternum with very rugged surface owing to the strongly roughened punctures, distinctly raised medially; prosternal process more or less horizontal, cuneate, weakly depressed along middle and narrowly acuminate at apex. Mesosternum roughly punctate in anterior area; anterior angles of mesosternal ridge pointed forwards. Metasternum sparsely punctate, depressed in middle; derm more or less dull owing to microsculpture. Abdominal sternites densely and coarsely punctate; the punctures of each sternite denser in middle area than lateral sides.

Male genitalia with parameres weakly sinuous at sides in basal 1/3, almost truncate at apices (Fig. 2).

Legs slender and simple; inner margins of tibiae moderately pubescent in each apical half.

Female. Unknown.

*Diagnosis.* The new species is similar to New Guinean *Thesilea laevis* KULZER, but readily separable from the latter in the following points: head longer; punctures on pronotum

tum finer and denser; pronotum with anterior margin shallowly emarginate; prosternum between coxae raised; elytra distinctly wider than pronotum at base; the punctures on 8th elytral striae feeble and shallow. The new species also resembles *T. kinabaluensis* KULZER from North Borneo by possessing six-segmented club of antennae, but different from the latter in having the emarginate anterior margin of clypeus and smaller eyes (the width about 1/4 instead of 1/3 of frons), inner ocular sulci not reaching anterior margins of eye, anterior margin of head weakly constricted between clypeus and genae; pronotum not strongly convex, devoid of fasciae, finely and densely punctate, with anterior margin not produced but emarginate.

*Thesilea aeneipennis* sp. nov.

(Figs. 4–6)

*Measurements.* Length: 7.8 mm; width: 2.8 mm.

Holotype: ♂, 14 mile, Cameron Highlands, Malaysia, 23. II. 1974, Y. KIYOYAMA leg.

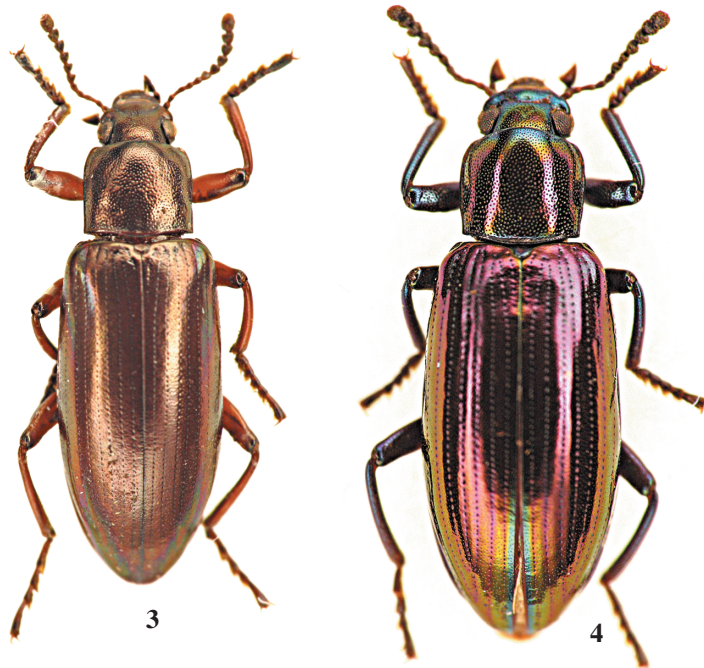
*Etymology.* The specific name is derived from the elytral color of this species.

Body elongate, rather strongly convex in posterior part, shiny. Color dark reddish brown; head greenish brassy with clypeus and genae metallic blue; pronotum reddish purple, faintly metallic blue along anterior margin; elytra strong reddish purple with sutural intervals and lateral margins greenish brassy; femora and basal part of tarsi metallic blue, the rest of legs and six distal segments of antennae infuscate.

Head short, strongly raised posteriad, finely and rather closely punctate; clypeus weakly convex, very weakly emarginate at apical margin with each produced lateral corner; frontoclypeal suture hardly impressed; genae transverse, weakly convex, feebly rounded at outer margin; frons moderately convex, distinctly inclined forward, roundly depressed in middle, with punctures larger than those in clypeus, distance between eyes about 2.2 times as wide as their diameter; eyes coarsely faceted, roundly and weakly produced laterad, inner ocular sulci moderate in width, deeply impressed; antennae medium-sized, distal six segments weakly clubbed; mentum obtriangular, moderately convex, extremely produced forward at each anterior angle, with large setigerous punctures behind apex. Terminal segment of maxillary palpus right-angled triangular.

Pronotum almost quadrate, strongly convex forward, broadest before middle, 1.13 times as broad as long, closely and strongly punctate; front margin moderately and arcuately produced, not margined; lateral margins distinct, almost straight except in anterior 1/5, narrowly margined; the margins becoming tenuous posteriorly; anterior angles obtuse, rounded; posterior angles obtuse right-angle. Scutellum rounded posteriorly, with a few microscopic punctures.

Elytra fusiform, strongly convex, broadest at apical 3/5, 1.86 times as long as broad, weakly depressed behind scutellum; lateral margins narrow, visible from above; striae hardly impressed, and feebly so in lateral ones; striae punctures almost oblong, large and



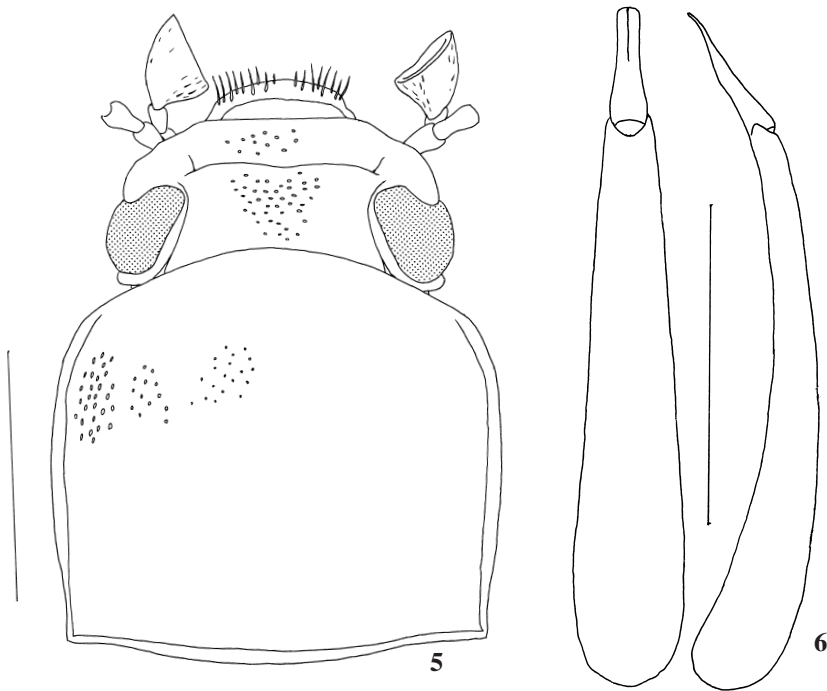
Figs. 3–4. *Thesilea* spp., habitus. — 3, *Thesilea shibatai* sp. nov.; 4, *Thesilea aeneipennis* sp. nov.

dense but irregular in density, those in 6th to 9th striae sparser than in the rest; intervals nearly flat, finely and rather densely punctate; humeral calli well swollen.

Prosternum steeply inclined forward, densely and coarsely punctate, with very coarsened derm; prosternal process cuneate, very coarsely sculptured, strongly convex between coxae, and steeply sloping inward behind them, pointed at apex. Mesosternum coarsely and irregularly punctate, devoid of posterior ridge. Metasternum moderately convex with weak depression in the middle, finely and sparsely punctate in middle, becoming coarser laterally. Abdominal sternites rather densely punctate, covered with fine isodiametric microsculpture. Male genitalia with parameres short and more or less spatulate, 0.2 times as long as basal piece. Legs simple and slender.

Female. Unknown.

*Diagnosis.* This new species resembles *T. ariharai* MASUMOTO from Sumatra in body shape, but is easily distinguished from the latter by having the following points: body color entirely different as mentioned above; clypeus shallowly emarginate at apex instead of truncate in the latter; frons between eyes about 2.2 times instead of 2.6 times as wide as an



Figs. 5–6. *Thestilea aeneipennis* sp. nov. — 5, Head and pronotum in dorsal view; 6, male genitalia, left: dorsal view, right: lateral view. Scales: 1.0 mm.

eye; elytral intervals almost flat, and very slightly convex in 7th and 8th intervals, densely and minutely punctate, without microreticulation; mentum subhexagonal, emarginate at apex.

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## 要 約

宮田 博史・安藤 清志： 芝田コレクション中に見出された東南アジア産 *Thesilea* 属の2新種。 —— 芝田太一氏が残されたゴミムシダマシ科の標本中に *Thesilea* 属の2新種を発見し、記載した。ボルネオから *T. shibatai* sp. nov., マレー半島から *T. aeneipennis* sp. nov. の同属2新種であるが、外見が付図で確認できるようにかなり異なった姿、色彩をしている。筆者らは故芝田太一氏より甲虫学の手ほどぎを受け、また公私にわたり多くのことを学ばせていただいた。この小文を氏に献じ、謹んでご冥福をお祈りする次第である。

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