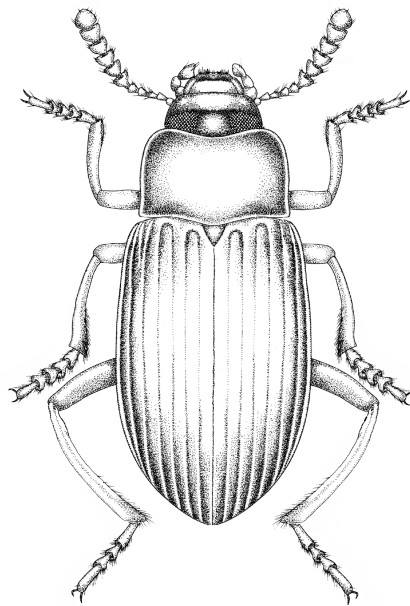


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The subtitle “*Taichius*” is derived from the first name of the late Mr. Taichi SHIBATA and
a generic name in the family Tenebrionidae erected by Dr. Kiyoshi ANDO in 1996

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Taichi SHIBATA (1927–2007), New Year of 1990
at the home of Dr. ANDO in Osaka.

Preface

Accompanied by the late Mr. Taichi SHIBATA, Hiroyuki KONISHI and I often wandered through the primeval forest of Kasuga-yama in Nara looking for beetles. I was then a junior highschool boy and KONISHI an elementary schoolchild. SHIBATA told us happily and precisely many things about beetles, showing us minute beetles taken by our beating net. Delightful memories of those days led us to the formation of the Osaka Coleopterological Society.

On December 26, 2006, SHIBATA fell down unconscious on the platform of Nishinomiya Kitaguchi Station of Hankyu Railway due to cerebral apoplexy. He was carefully nursed day after day by his pupils in a hospital. In the spring of 2007, he became much better, took short walks in the neighborhood of the hospital, and also took his favorite coffee at a coffee shop. In the middle of May, however, his condition suddenly turned down, and he passed away before dawn of May 20th, 2007 from a stroke of respiratory insufficiency caused by lung fibrosis in the hospital where Yasuhiko HAYASHI, one of his beloved pupils, was working. He died at the age of 80.

SHIBATA was born on February 9, 1927, as the 2nd son of a merchant at Semba, the business center of Osaka. He entered Osaka Municipal Semba Elementary School in 1933 and an additional Senior Course of Minami Ohye Elementary School in 1939. After gradu-



Field Work in the winter at Hatsutani Valley, Nose in Osaka Prefecture. (December 1963)

ation from Osaka Prefectural Tennôji Middle School (present High School) in 1944, he joined Shibata Soushichi & Co., a textile business firm, owned and managed by his father. Fortunately, on a recovery wave of improving business after the World War II, the company repeatedly gained good results. In 1955 the company was reorganized from a privately owned company to Shibata Industrial Co. and he was elected to a member of board of directors.

Traditionally, Osaka has an old-fashioned spirit of so-called non-official scientist, and SHIBATA might be affected by this subconscious spirit. He seemed to have started to realize his wish to collect and study beetles, while he was busy working with his business. Fortunately, in those days, Takehiko NAKANE was in Kyoto and Isamu HIURA here in Osaka, and besides, young and promising Shun-Ichi UÉNO and others were actively performing researches in this field. In addition, many noted amateur researchers such as Kôhei SAWADA, Masafumi OHKURA, Hiroshi ISHIDA, Hiroshi KÔNO, Masahiro IGA, Masao HAYASHI and others were carrying on active researches. SHIBATA developed his genius and knowledge in entomology by means of exchanging information among them and receiving guidance from them. Apart from this, it was by his beetle hunting trips to Amami Ôshima Island from 1960 through 1961 that he came to be noted as an amateur coleopterologist.

By his inborn careful hunting technique, he achieved an unparalleled success, and as the result it was said among entomologists that there was SHIBATA in Osaka. At that time, he was frequently visiting a hunting tool shop (Tyuh Dan Ken) run by Osamu MIZOGUCHI at Abeno in Osaka. Many persons having the same interest often visited the same shop and



At the dinner party for celebrating the 61st anniversary of Taichi SHIBATA.
(Japanese Restaurant Shin-Asakusa at the south district of Osaka City, 15 February 1987)

from among those clients a group of young coleopterists appeared who dearly loved him and liked to follow him. Further, he frequently kept company with insect-loving boys whom he met on the occasion of his hunting trips. At that time, his residence was on the 4th floor of Shibata Building at Awaji-machi located in the center of Osaka City. Young people with the same interest came in and out his residence almost every day and their talks about beetles lasted unceasingly till late night and among them there were some who stayed there for one week or more.

In 1962 we founded “The Osaka Coleopterological Society” together with these young beetle lovers. In this Society he not only devoted himself to his own collection and study of beetles, but also concentrated his efforts on the guidance and training of younger people by holding meetings about hunting, investigation, research, and so on. SHIBATA taught younger pupils hunting technique, how to make specimens of insects, and how to put them in order. For those pupils who are interested in the classification, he guided them elaborately and kindly in technical terms in English from basic matters to error correction for description of new species. Considering the fact that Henry Water BATES and George LEWIS, who are quite familiar to us, were amateur entomologists, he was always of the opinion that description of new species should be left for amateur entomologists, while professional entomologist should aim at higher researches on the basis of the description obtained thereby.

The new society built up two teams; one was for hunting beetles in field works and the

other for classificatory researches as desk works. We clubbed together for the management of the Society. Many members were sent to the Ryukyu Islands, Taiwan, Malaysia and Borneo for the purpose of hunting beetles. A large number of precious beetle specimens collected abroad mentioned above were greatly helpful to the later progress of entomology in Japan. Not a few members guided by SHIBATA concentrated on their researches of beetles and the society has produced so far four members who were granted doctorates. The young pupils gathering around SHIBATA not only received his guidance in hunting technique and researching beetles, but also touched his well-educated personality and his profound knowledge of music, literature, art, and so on. They were much enlightened thereby for their outlook on life in the future.

SHIBATA himself published descriptions of various kinds of beetles such as Carabidae, Tenebrionidae, Erotylidae, Silphidae, and so on including Anthribidae in the main. He greatly dedicated himself to the development of entomology in Japan as an amateur researcher (so-called non-official scientist) for 52 years until his death in 2007. Unfortunately, the huge collection of beetle specimens in SHIBATA's custody was badly damaged by the Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995, but the remaining specimens are kept in our Society's custody for the time being. They are still useful for future studies of beetles obtained in Southeast Asian countries. According to his will, most holotypes and paratypes are deposited in the Kashihara City Insectarium, Nara, and are now open to beetle researchers.

It is greatly regretted to have lost such a great leader on our life. We sincerely hope that we could develop our Society in accordance with SHIBATA's wishes.

Ken'Ichi UÉDA
All members of
the Osaka Coleopterological Society

CONTENTS

Preface	iii
A List of the papers by Taichi SHIBATA Concerning Entomology	1
Scientific Insect Names Dedicated to Taichi SHIBATA	5

Contributed Papers

UÉNO, S.-I.: New Species and Records of Blind Trechine Beetles of the Genus <i>Ishikawatrechus</i> (Coleoptera: Trechinae) from the Ishizuchi Mountains, Southwest Japan	11
MORITA, S.: Notes on the Bembidiinae (Carabidae) of Japan XV. Two New Species of the Group of <i>Bembidion cnemidotum</i>	31
ITO, N.: Species of the Harpaline Selenophori Group (Coleoptera: Carabidae) from Asia	39
ÔHARA, M.: Notes on the Genus <i>Teretrius</i> ERICHSON, 1834 (Coleoptera: Histeridae) from Taiwan	83
SAWADA, Y.: A Revision of the Genus <i>Cissidium</i> (Coleoptera: Ptiliidae) in Japan	101
NISHIKAWA, M., & D. S. SIKES: New Records and Range Extensions of the Asian Silphidae (Coleoptera)	127
LI, L.-Z., M.-J. ZHAO, and J.-Y. HU: Two New Species of the Genus <i>Tachinus</i> (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae) from Xizang, China	145
KISHIMOTO, T.: A New Apterous Species of the Genus <i>Leptusa</i> (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Aleocharinae) from Mt. Ôdaigahara, the Kii Peninsula, Honshu, Japan	151
KIMURA, F.: Two New Species of the Genus <i>Scaphidium</i> (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae) from Japan	157
HAYASHI, Y.: Three New Species of <i>Proteinus</i> (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae) from Shikoku, Japan	165
ITO, T.: Notes on the Species of <i>Nazeris</i> from Japan, XI. Two New Species of the Genus <i>Nazeris</i> (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae) from Honshu and the Ryukyus, Japan	177
WATANABE Y.: Two New Species of <i>Lathrobium</i> (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae) from Mt. Maya-san of Hyôgo Prefecture in Western Honshu, Japan	183
OCHI, T., M. KON, and M. V.-L. BARCLAY: A Revision of the Subgenus <i>Parascatonomus</i> (<i>Onthophagus</i> : Scarabaeidae: Coleoptera) from Borneo	191
YOSHITOMI, H.: A New and Two Newly Recorded Species of the Genus <i>Sacodes</i> (Coleoptera: Scirtidae) from Yakushima, Japan	235
MATSUDA, K.: Notes on the Lycid Genus <i>Plateros</i> (Coleoptera: Lycidae: Platerodinae) from East Asia, I. Descriptions of Seven New Taxa from Japan	241
OKUSHIMA, Y.: A New Species of the Genus <i>Prothemus</i> (Coleoptera: Cantharidae) from Taiwan, with Records of Taiwanese Cantharidae in the SHIBATA Collection	273
SAKAI, M.: <i>Falsogastrallus taichii</i> , a New Anobiid Species from Southwest Japan (Coleoptera: Anobiidae: Anobiinae: Gastrallini)	301
HISAMATSU S.-T., and S. HISAMATSU: A New Species of the Genus <i>Soronia</i> ERICHSON (Nitidulidae: Coleoptera) from Taiwan	305

KIYOYAMA, Y.: A New Species of the Genus <i>Klapperichimorda</i> ERMISCH (Coleoptera: Mordellidae) from Taiwan	311
UEDA, K., H. KONISHI and K. ANDO: Three New Species of the Genus <i>Taichius</i> from SE Asia (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Cnodalonini)	317
ANDO, K.: Notes on the Genus <i>Phaedis</i> (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Cnodalonini), with Descriptions of Twelve New Species from the Malay Archipelago	327
MIYATA, H. and K. ANDO: Two New Species of the Genus <i>Thesilea</i> (Tenebrionidae: Cnodalonini) found in the Collection of the late Mr. Taichi SHIBATA	369
MASUMOTO, K., and K. AKITA: <i>Strongylium aciculatum</i> (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae) and its Relatives	377
OHbayashi, N.: A Revisional Study of the <i>Macroleptura</i> Genus-group (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae: Lepturinae)	407
NIISATO, T., and T. WAKEJIMA: <i>Xylotrechus villioni</i> (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) and its Relatives	439
MORIMOTO, K.: Micronesian Weevils. 1. Anthribidae: Key to Genera and Tribe Jordanthribini (Coleoptera: Curculionoidea)	467
MIYATAKE Y., and K. MATSUMOTO: A Revision of the Genus <i>Petalolyma</i> SCOTT in Japan, with Description of a New Species (Hemiptera: Psylloidea: Triozidae)	501