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Synonymical notes on the genus *Micropodabrus* Pic, 1920 and related genera (Coleoptera, Cantharidae)

by Yang Yu-Xia, Michel Brancucci & Yang Xing-Ke

Abstract. *Mimopodabrus* Wittmer, 1997 is considered to be a junior synonym of *Micropodabrus* Pic, 1920, and *Fissocantharis* Pic, 1921 is reinstated as the valid genus name to replace the latter. Two species are transferred to *Micropodabrus*, *M. elongaticeps* (Pic, 1916) comb.nov. from *Cantharis* Linnaeus, 1758 and *M. malthionides* (Pic, 1921) comb.nov. from *Rhagonycha* Eschscholtz, 1830. *Cantharis elongaticeps* var. *lacana* Pic, 1923 is considered to be a synonym of *M. elongaticeps*. The aedeagi of *M. malthionides* and *M. sikkimensis* (Wittmer, 1989) are illustrated.

Key words. Cantharidae – *Micropodabrus* – new synonym – reinstatement – new combination – Oriental Region

Introduction

PIC (1920) described *Micropodabrus* for *M. obscurus* Pic, 1920 and based the genus on its peculiar antennae. The genus fell into oblivion during the following decades. WITTMER (1982, 1983, 1988, 1989, 1993, 1995ab, 1997ab) initiated its recognition and greatly increased the number of species and synonymied the genera *Cephalomalthinus* Pic, 1921a, *Fissocantharis* Pic, 1921b, *Fissopodabrus* Pic, 1927 and *Kandyosilis* Pic, 1929. WITTMER (1997a) separated several species from *Micropodabrus* (*sensu lato*) and proposed *Mimopodabrus* for the species which has an aedeagus presenting with laterophyses. He designated *Podabrus obscurior* Wittmer, 1954 as the type species. Later, ŠVIHLA (2004, 2005), KOPETZ (2009) and YANG & YANG (2009) added some more species to *Mimopodabrus*.

Recently, we located the type specimen of the type species of *Micropodabrus*, *M. obscurus* Pic, 1920, in the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris (MNHN). Our examination of the type revealed the presence of laterophyses in the aedeagus, similar to those of the *bicoloripes* species-group of *Mimopodabrus* (YANG & YANG 2009). WITTMER (1988) already provided an illustration of aedeagus for *M. obscurus*, but maybe forgot this particularity when he (WITTMER 1997a) proposed *Mimopodabrus*. Therefore, we consider *Mimopodabrus* to be a junior synonym of *Micropodabrus* (*sensu stricto*). One of the genera *Fissocantharis* or *Cephalomalthinus* should be reinstated as a valid genus for the species without laterophyses in aedeagus. Unfortunately, both were published in the same year (PIC 1921ab). The description of *Fissocantharis* was published in May but the publication date of *Cephalomalthinus* remains uncertain. In this case, *Fissocantharis* should be the valid genus name, according to the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 1999: Article 21.1.3).

This means that all species of *Mimopodabrus* will have to be transferred to *Micropodabrus* (*sensu stricto*). Hundreds of species hitherto placed in *Micropodabrus* (*sensu lato*) will then be transferred to *Fissocantharis*, except for *M. obscurus*, *M. inaequalicornis* (Pic, 1929) and *M. sikkimensis* (Wittmer, 1989). Besides this,

M. elongaticeps (Pic, 1916) comb.nov. is transferred from *Cantharis* Linnaeus, 1758 to this genus because of the bifid tarsal claws, and *M. malthionides* (Pic, 1921) comb.nov. from *Rhagonycha* Eschscholtz, 1830 because of the presence of laterophyses in aedeagus.

Material

The materials examined in this study are deposited in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France (MNHN) and the Naturhistorisches Museum Basel, Switzerland (NHMB).

Taxonomy

Micropodabrus Pic, 1920

Micropodabrus Pic, 1920: 6. Type species: *Micropodabrus obscurus* Pic, 1920 (monotypic).

Mimopodabrus Wittmer, 1997a: 320. Type species: *Podabrus obscurior* Wittmer, 1954 (by original designation) **syn.nov.**

Remarks. YANG & YANG (2009) included a diagnosis of the genus and a key to species. Short comments are presented on the following species.

Micropodabrus obscurus Pic, 1920

Micropodabrus obscurus Pic, 1920: 6. – WITTMER (1988): 350.

Type material examined. Holotype ♂: “Tonkin, Chapa”(MNHN).

Distribution. Vietnam.

Remarks. WITTMER (1988) illustrated the antenna and the aedeagus of this species. Based on the aedeagus, it is related to the *bicoloripes* species-group, but distinguished by its antenna, with the antennomere VI widened apically and excavated dorsally, while V–XI each with a longitudinal furrow near to the inner margin.

Micropodabrus elongaticeps (Pic, 1916) comb.nov.

Cantharis elongaticeps Pic, 1916: 9.

Cantharis elongaticeps var. *lacana* Pic, 1923: 37, 39. **syn.nov.**

Type material examined. Holotype ♂ of *Cantharis elongaticeps*: “Tonkin, Bao-Lac”(MNHN). Holotype ♀ of *Cantharis elongaticeps* var. *lacana*: “Hoa Binh” (MNHN).

Distribution. Vietnam.

Remarks. The bifid tarsal claws and the aedeagus presenting with laterophyses indicated that this species belongs to *Micropodabrus*. It is related to the *bicoloripes* species-group, but differs from other species in having simple antennae.



Figs 1–6. Aedeagi of *Micropodabrus*: 1–3, *M. malthinoides* (Pic, 1921); 4–6, *M. sikkimensis* (Wittmer, 1989). (1, 4 – ventral view; 2, 5 – dorsal view; 3, 6 – lateral view. Scale bars: 0.5 mm.)

***Micropodabrus inaequalicornis* (Pic, 1929)**

Rhagonycha inaequalicornis Pic, 1929: 70.

Kandyosilis inaequalicornis: WITTMER (1972): 77.

Type material examined. Holotype ♂: “Hoa Binh” (MNHN).

Additional material examined. 1 ♂: “Hoa Binh”(MNHN).

Distribution. Vietnam.

Remarks. Although *Kandyosilis* was synonymized with *Micropodabrus* by WITTMER (1997a), this species has not been reported anywhere else since WITTMER (1972). The aedeagus is similar to that of the *bicoloripes* species-group, while the antennomeres IV–VIII are distinctly widened apically.

***Micropodabrus malthinoides* (Pic, 1921) comb.nov.**

(Figs 1–3)

Rhagonycha malthinoides Pic, 1921b: 4. – KAZANSTEV & BRANCUCCI (2007): 258.

Type material examined. Holotype ♂: “Ind. Or, Trichinopoli” (MNHN); 2 ♂♂: “S. India, Kodai Kanal, T. V. Campbell, Ex coll. E. A. Butler” (NHMB).

Distribution. India.

Remarks. This species undoubtedly belongs to *Micropodabrus* as the aedeagus has laterophyses.

***Micropodabrus sikkimensis* (Wittmer, 1989)**

(Figs 4–6)

Kandyosilis sikkimensis Wittmer, 1989: 225.

Micropodabrus sikkimensis: KAZANSTEV & BRANCUCCI (2007): 258.

Type material examined. Holotype ♂: “India, Darjeeling D., Karponang, 2700m, 8–10.XI.1984, C. J. Rai” (NHMB). Paratype, 1 ♂: “N Sikkim, Slape, 2100m, 22–27.X.1984, C. J. Rai” (NHMB).

Distribution. India.

Remarks. WITTMER (1989) included an illustration of its peculiar antenna, but did not mention the aedeagus. Our examination showed that this species should remain in *Micropodabrus* because its aedeagus has laterophyses.

Discussion

There is little difference in morphology between *Micropodabrus* and *Fissocantharis*, except for the laterophyses of aedeagus which presents in *Micropodabrus* but absent in *Fissocantharis*. *Pseudopodabrus* Pic, 1906 is related to these genera, but can be distinguished by the foveae on the head of the male.

It is obvious that the present system, based mostly on sexual characters, is not entirely satisfactory. Female specimens at disposal are difficult to be placed into a genus. However, more work is needed to establish a robust classification system for Cantharini. In this paper we have not changed the present concept, because more information about this large group of genera (over 200 species in total) is needed.

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