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On the genus *Cephalocousya* LOHSE (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae)

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Abstract: *Pachycephalopisalia* SCHEERPELTZ 1976 syn.n. and its synonym *Ischnoderopisalia* SCHEERPELTZ 1976 are placed in the synonymy of *Cephalocousya* LOHSE 1971. The ten species previously attributed to *Pachycephalopisalia* are transferred to *Cephalocousya*, resulting in 10 new combinations. The genus now includes eleven species. Except for *C. nivicola* (THOMSON), all of them are confined to the Himalaya and adjacent mountain ranges. A catalogue of the species is provided.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae, *Cephalocousya*, Palaearctic region, new synonymy, new synonymy, species catalogue

Introduction

Based primarily on differences in the morphology of the ventral aspect of the thorax, LOHSE (1971) described the oxypodine genus *Cephalocousya* to accommodate the type species *C. nivicola* (THOMSON 1871), which had previously been attributed to *Cousya* MULSANT & REY 1875. In Europe, the distribution of *C. nivicola* is disjunct, with a northern range in Scandinavia and northern Russia, and a southern range in the Alps. According to HORION (1967), the species has a Holarctic distribution, but the records from the Eastern Palaearctic and the Nearctic regions require confirmation.

In the course of a revision of the Nepalese species of *Leptusa* KRAATZ described by O. Scheerpeltz, PACE (1982) discovered that two of the species belong to the Oxypodini. SCHEERPELTZ (1976) had attributed one of them, *L. janetschekiana* SCHEERPELTZ 1976, to the subgenus *Pachycephalopisalia* SCHEERPELTZ 1976 and the other, *L. raldurjiensis* SCHEERPELTZ 1976, to the subgenus *Ischnoderopisalia* SCHEERPELTZ 1976. PACE (1982) regarded *Ischnoderopisalia* as a junior synonym of *Pachycephalopisalia* and transferred the latter to the Oxypodini as a distinct genus. Since then, 8 additional species have been described and attributed to this taxon.

An examination of material of *Pachycephalopisalia kazakistanensis* PACE 2002, which was recently collected and kindly made available to me by Ludger Schmidt, Hannover, revealed that this species is doubtlessly congeneric with *Cephalocousya nivicola*. This observation drew my attention to other species previously attributed to *Pachycephalopisalia*, especially the type species *P. janetschekiana* (SCHEERPELTZ). The precise drawings of the holotype of this species provided by PACE (1982) eventually confirmed beyond doubt that *Pachycephalopisalia* is a junior synonym of *Cephalocousya*.

The genus *Cephalocousya* LOHSE 1971

Cephalocousya LOHSE 1971: 167.

Pachycephalopisalia SCHEERPELTZ 1976: 53ff. (subgenus of *Leptusa* KRAATZ); syn. n.

Ischnoderopisalia SCHEERPELTZ 1976: 58f. (subgenus of *Leptusa* KRAATZ); syn. n.

Type species: *Atheta nivicola* THOMSON 1871.

Catalogue of the species of *Cephalocousya*

C. nivicola (THOMSON 1871) [*Atheta*]; type species; Europe, E-Palaeartic?, Nearctic?

C. janetschekiana (SCHEERPELTZ 1976), comb. n. [*Leptusa*]; Nepal

C. raldurjiensis (SCHEERPELTZ 1976), comb. n. [*Leptusa*]; Nepal

= *Leptusa yaralensis* SCHEERPELTZ 1976 (synonymy by PACE 1982)

C. franzi (PACE 1984a), comb. n. [*Pachycephalopisalia*]; India: Himachal Pradesh

C. monachorum (PACE 1984a), comb. n. [*Pachycephalopisalia*]; Nepal

C. gratiosa (PACE 1984a), comb. n. [*Pachycephalopisalia*]; Nepal

C. coiffaiti (PACE 1984b), comb. n. [*Pachycephalopisalia*]; Nepal

C. raraensis (PACE 1992), comb. n. [*Pachycephalopisalia*]; Nepal

C. smetanai (PACE 1992), comb. n. [*Pachycephalopisalia*]; Nepal

C. loebli (PACE 1992), comb. n. [*Pachycephalopisalia*]; Nepal

C. kazakistanensis (PACE 2002), comb. n. [*Pachycephalopisalia*]; Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan

Distribution

The main diversity centre of the genus is evidently in the Himalaya and adjacent mountain ranges, suggesting that the genus originated in the Eastern Palaeartic region. Of the eleven *Cephalocousya* species currently known, eight occur in Nepal alone. One species each has become known from the Himachal Pradesh in Northern India and from Middle Asia. The only species present in the Western Palaeartic region west of the Caspian Sea is the type species *C. nivicola*. *Cephalocousya kazakistanensis* is here recorded from Kyrgyzstan for the first time: Talass, Ala-Bel pass, 42°15N, 73°03E, 3175 m, 15.VII.2003, leg. L. Schmidt (author's collection).

Zusammenfassung

Pachycephalopisalia SCHEERPELTZ 1976 syn.n. und *Ischnoderopisalia* SCHEERPELTZ 1976 syn.n. werden mit *Cephalocousya* LOHSE 1971 synonymisiert. Die zehn bisher *Pachycephalopisalia* zugeordneten Arten werden in die Gattung *Cephalocousya* gestellt, die nunmehr insgesamt elf Arten umfasst. Abgesehen von *C. nivicola* (THOMSON) sind alle im Himalaya-Gebiet und angrenzenden Massiven endemisch. Für die Gattung wird ein Katalog der Arten erstellt.

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