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Ochthebius s.str. LEACH in Indonesia and Australia (Coleoptera: Hydraenidae)

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Abstract

Ochthebius (s.str.) *sumatrensis* sp.n. is described. *Ochthebius* (s.str.) *queenslandicus* HANSEN is redescribed. The subgenus *Ochthebius* s.str. is recorded from Indonesia for the first time.

Key words: Coleoptera, Hydraenidae, *Ochthebius* s.str., Indonesia, Australia.

Introduction

Ochthebius s.str. LEACH is chiefly distributed in the Holarctic and Afrotropical Regions, from where most of the app. 350 known species were described. This genus is comparatively rare in the Neotropical and the Oriental Realms, where it was so far recorded only from the northern fringes (e.g. Central America, Galápagos Islands, northeastern Brazil; Nepal, Thailand, South China, Taiwan). The discovery of a new species from the island of Sumatra is therefore quite unexpected and represents the first record of *Ochthebius* s.str. for Indonesia.

Although numerous species of *Ochthebius* s.l. were described from Australia by early authors (e.g., DEANE 1931, BLACKBURN 1898), they were all supposed to belong to other genera, e.g. *Gymnochthebius* d'ORCHYMONT, *Tympanogaster* JANSSENS, by HANSEN (1998). However, re-examination of the types of *O. queenslandicus* HANSEN proved that *Ochthebius* s.str. is indeed present in Australia.

The new species from Sumatra is described herein, and *O. queenslandicus* is redescribed.

Acknowledgements and Acronyms

I am obliged to Dr. C. McPhee for sending the holotype of *Ochthebius queenslandicus*. Dr. J. Denton is thanked for the opportunity to study the interesting material which he collected in Australia. I am also indebted to W. Zelenka for the habitus illustration.

CDA Coll. Denton, Alton
CFL Coll. Ferro, Lancenigo
DSA Dorsal Subapical Angle of aedeagal main piece (sensu JÄCH 1999)
PL Projected Length of aedeagus (sensu JÄCH 1998a)
MVM Museum Victoria, Melbourne
NMW Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien

Ochthebius (s.str.) *sumatrensis* sp.n.

TYPE LOCALITY: Seepage water on small rock, near coast, few meters above sea level, at road Padang – Bungus Beach, West Sumatra, western Indonesia.

TYPE MATERIAL: **Holotype** ♂ (NMW): "INDONESIA 1991 (17) W-Sumatra, Padang- Bungus Beach leg. Jäch 14.2.". **Paratypes** (NMW, CFL): 40 exs., same label data as holotype.

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Fig. 1: *Ochthebius sumatrensis* sp.n., habitus

DESCRIPTION: Habitus (Fig. 1). Length: 1.05 – 1.15 mm. Dark brown to black, body appendages paler brown. Dorsal surface with short whitish adpressed or semierect hairs.

Labrum sexually dimorphic; anterior margin truncate. Fronto-clypeal suture more or less straight, very deeply impressed, except at lateral ends. Frons coarsely punctate, especially laterally; ocular grooves deeply impressed; ocelli and eyes well developed; ocelli slightly more close to eyes than to middle of frons. Terminal segment of labial palpi slender, peg-like, ca. 0.6 times as long as penultimate one.

Pronotum distinctly heart-shaped, wider than long (length/width ratio: 0.61). Anterior margin gently emarginate behind eyes. Anterior angles acute; posterior angles obtuse. Lateral margin subcrenulate. Posterior margin rather evenly arched. Hyaline membrane very narrow along anterior margin; hardly noticeable along posterior margin and absent from lateral margin. Disc not strongly convex in cross section; transversely impressed at level of anterior discal foveae; median groove wide and shallow; discal foveae not deeply impressed, anterior ones moderately large, almost round, posterior ones larger, reniform, slightly oblique, basally superficially connected with each other by faint discal impression; middle of disc rather densely punctate, punctures superficially impressed, interstices smooth and glabrous, or forming narrow ridges, lateral declivity of disc and mesial part of lateral parts of pronotum (sublateral longitudinal furrow) more or less impunctate, smooth and glabrous, lateral tip of lateral parts of pronotum again coarsely punctate.

Elytra short, oval; strongly convex in cross section, with small parahumeral impression, without transverse impression. Disc with five rows of punctures between suture and shoulder; rows straight and regular; punctures comparatively large, not very deeply impressed, and not very densely arranged, their edges not sharply defined, each puncture with conspicuous semierect

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hair; intervals between rows very slightly convex, or more or less flat, smooth and glabrous. Lateral gutter narrowly explanate; gutter and elytral apices sexually dimorphic.

Hypomeral antennal grooves very deep, parallel-sided; hyaline membrane along hypomeral carina very narrow. Metasternal disc more or less entirely pubescent and microreticulate. Abdominal ventrites I - V pubescent, ventrites VI and VII glabrous. Legs comparatively short, protrochanter pubescent.

Aedeagus (Fig. 2): Main piece elongate and slender (TL: ca. 260 µm), not very strongly curved (lateral view); ventral margin medially slightly convex (lateral view); ca. 7 micropores near base of distal lobe; subapical setae short and inconspicuous; ventral margin medially slightly convex (lateral view); phallobase asymmetrical (ventral view). Distal lobe short and moderately wide, not recurved; ventral margin distinctly convex. Parameres more or less symmetrical, close to main piece, inserted ventrally near basal 0.25 of main piece; apices slightly widened ventrally, with moderately long setae; right paramere hardly noticeably longer than left one.

Secondary sexual characters: Anterior margin of labrum slightly upturned in male; elytral gutter in female very slightly more widely explanate medially; parahumeral impression slightly more strongly pronounced in female; elytral apices slightly more produced in female. Tergite X with an apical fringe of conspicuous bristles in female.

VARIABILITY: The width of the mesosternal process varies slightly.

DISCUSSION: *Ochthebius sumatrensis* cannot be placed in one of the presently acknowledged species groups with certainty. However, its general appearance and some of the pronotal characters (lateral margin subcrenulate, lacking membrane) are somewhat reminiscent of *O. jengi* JÄCH (*O. jengi* group, sensu JÄCH 1998b). It differs from the members of the *O. jengi* group by lacking a pronotal postero-lateral excision, by the pronotal median longitudinal groove being well developed, and by the abdominal ventrite IV being entirely pubescent.

HABITAT: I have collected this species in a hygropetric habitat.

DISTRIBUTION: So far known only from the type locality.

ETYMOLOGY: Named in reference to its geographical distribution.

Ochthebius (s.str.) *queenslandicus* HANSEN, 1998

Ochthebius pallidipennis DEANE 1931: 169 (primary homonym of *O. pallidipennis* VILLA & VILLA, 1835 [= *O. aeneus* STEPHENS, 1835]).
Ochthebius queenslandicus HANSEN 1998: 118 (replacement name for *O. pallidipennis* DEANE, 1931).

TYPE LOCALITY: Townsville, eastern Queensland, northeastern Australia.

TYPE MATERIAL: **Holotype** ♀ (MVM) examined; designation by monotypy: "♀ \ Townsville N.Q. G F. Hill \ 2275 TYPE \ Ochthebius pallidipennis Deane. \ A.d'OrchymontRev. Ochthebius (s.str.) Deanei nov. nom. \ F. E.Wilson Collection \ Nom Nov for Pallidipennis Deane [+ one hardly legible word: ? 'Deanei'] \ MUS. VIC ENT-967".

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EXAMINED:
A U S T R A L I A: QUEENSLAND: Townsville Town Common, 21.III.1996, leg. J. Denton, 6 exs. (CDA, NMW).

DIAGNOSIS: 1.7 – 1.9 mm long. This species agrees in many general characters with *O. masatakasatoi* JÄCH (see JÄCH 1992), with which it is obviously most closely related. Externally, *O. queenslandicus* cannot be distinguished reliably from *O. masatakasatoi*, except by its slightly larger size. The punctation of the pronotal disc is quite variable in the six specimens of *O. queenslandicus* which I have examined: the disc can be almost impunctate and thus smooth and shining or rather coarsely and densely punctate as in *O. masatakasatoi*.

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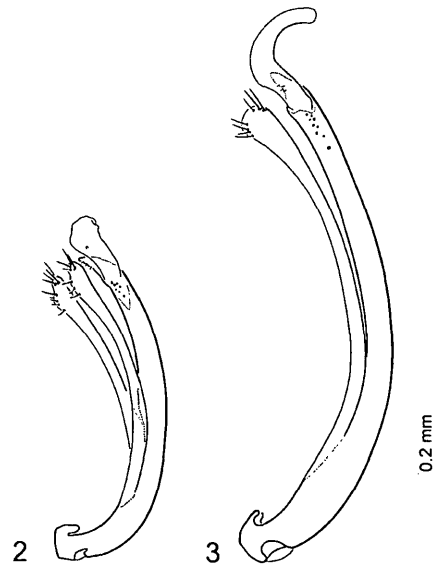
Aedeagus (Fig. 3): TL: ca. 400 µm. The aedeagus of *O. masatakasatoi* (see JÄCH 1992: Fig. 7) differs from that of *O. queenslandicus* in the following characters: TL: ca. 370 µm; apex of main piece rather straight (DSA distinctly wider); distal lobe slightly shorter.

HABITAT: Specimens collected by J. Denton were caught in shallow pools in seasonally flooded marshland.

DISCUSSION: *Ochthebius queenslandicus* and the two closely related species, *O. masatakasatoi* and *O.* sp.n. (from Hainan), were so far collected only in coastal marshes. It is obviously due to this particular ecological preference that one species of the primarily Holarctic – Afrotropical subgenus *O.* s.str. was able to penetrate into Australia.

DISTRIBUTION: So far known only from the surroundings of Townsville, Queensland, Australia.



Figs. 2 – 3: Aedeagus, lateral view, 2) *Ochthebius sumatrensis*, 3) *O. queenslandicus*.

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