



Description of a second species in the enigmatic Southeast Asian genus *Platygeniops* (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Cetoniinae)

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Abstract

A second species of *Platygeniops* Krikken, 1978 (Scarabaeidae: Cetoniinae: Trichiini: Osmodermatina) is described from the Myanmar–Thai–Malay isthmus and peninsula. The description of *Platygeniops elongatus* **new species** is based on two males and a female. The new species is compared with *P. expectans* Krikken, 1978 from the Malay Peninsula and Borneo. The genus is re-diagnosed and its enigmatic status is briefly discussed.

Key words: Coleoptera, Scarabaeoidea, Trichiini, *Platygeniops*, new species, Southeast Asia

Introduction

Right from its creation, the monotypic Southeast Asian genus *Platygeniops* Krikken, 1978 has been considered an odd element in the Trichiini. At the time, for the lack of alternatives, it seemed most similar to the well known, Holarctic, saproxylic hermit beetle genus *Osmoderma* LePeletier & Serville, 1828. As a consequence, *Platygeniops* was classified and remains in the Osmodermatina—irrespective of subsequent assertions on group ranking, hierarchy, and composition (Krikken 1984, 2009). In spite of recent studies, including synoptic work such as Scholtz & Grebennikov (2005) and Hunt *et al.* (2007), the position of *Platygeniops* in the classification system has remained fuzzy—one reason being that rare oddities like this are not usually taken into account. We hypothesize that very few, if any, of the morphological character states of *Platygeniops* are derived, and therefore these character states are unlikely to be synapomorphic with *Osmoderma* (or other genera for that matter). One point, however, appears certain: *Platygeniops* must represent a basal group in or near a trichiine phylogeny – maybe even in the total system of Cetoniinae (*sensu* Smith in Bouchard *et al.* 2011). The general statement that we know little about the complex evolutionary history of the tribe Trichiini was recently illustrated by the discovery of *Paleotrichius* Poinar, 2010, a remarkable fossil from Dominican amber (see Poinar 2010). Until this discovery, there were no Trichiini known from the Caribbean islands.

Platygeniops expectans Krikken, 1978 was based on two females from the Malay Peninsula and Borneo and, irrespective of conclusions about their taxonomic position, they needed a description. One previous owner of the material (O.E. Janson, a respected late 19th century specialist in the group) had labeled his specimen as being close to *Platygenia* MacLeay, 1819, a different, remarkably complanate, and in various ways derived Afrotropical genus comprising species associated with oil palm (*Elaeis*). *Platygeniops* remained monotypic and no new material surfaced until very recently, when our Japanese colleague Masayuki Fujioka found two males and a female, which represent a second species described below. These specimens were collected on the Myanmar–Thai isthmus of Southeast Asia, and apparently also further South on the peninsula, in the Cameron Highlands.

Although perfectly agreeing in general structure with *P. expectans*, the new specimens, both male and female, are different in a number of characters. The elongate, compressed body and rufous coloration of the new species being the most obvious (see Figs. 1–4)—for more details see the comparative notes and the description further below. However, even with the discovery of male specimens, there is almost nothing apomorphic that sheds light