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A new species and synonymy in *Elacatophora* (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae)

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Abstract

A new species of the Oriental genus *Elacatophora*, *E. euconnoides* **sp. n.**, is described from the Cameron Highlands, West Malaysia. Diagnostic characters, including the male genitalia, are illustrated and discussed. A new case of subjective synonymy was discovered: *Elacatophora minae* (Makhan & Ezzatpanah, 2011) is placed as **syn. n.** of *E. soesilae* (Makhan & Ezzatpanah, 2011).

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae, Cyrtoscydmini, *Elacatophora*, new species, Oriental, West Malaysia.

Introduction

Elacatophora Schaufuss, 1884 is a small Oriental genus with a particularly complicated taxonomic history. Its type species, *E. robusta* Schaufuss (from Java), was described without any discussion of the suprageneric placement of the new genus. Csiki (1919) for unknown reasons listed *Elacatophora* within Cephenniini, and this placement was maintained by Newton & Franz (1998). Only after 124 years from the taxon description was the holotype re-examined and *Elacatophora* was transferred to Cyrtoscydmini (Jałoszyński 2008). In the same study it was found that the name *Borneosabahia* Franz, 1992 was a junior synonym of *Elacatophora.*

Borneosabahia was described for a single species, *B. mirifica* Franz, from Borneo. The genus was later studied and confirmed as distinct from a similar *Euconnus* Thomson, 1859 by Jałoszyński (2004) and two surprising discoveries were made. *Borneosabahia mirifica* turned out to be identical with *Euconnus malaysiae* Franz, 1984 and these names were synonymized, resulting in a new combination *Borneosabahia malaysiae*. Another species placed in *Euconnus*, *E. malaysianus* Franz, 1989 from Malay Peninsula, was found to belong in *Borneosabahia*, and since this name was unavailable (a homonym of *E. malaysianus* Franz, 1984), a replacement name *B. longipes* was proposed (Jałoszyński 2004). In the same paper two new species were described: *B. apion* (from Malay Peninsula) and *B. dissimilis* (from Borneo, Sabah), and another two shortly later from Java: *B. javanica* and *B. maxima* (Jałoszyński 2005).

The morphology and distribution of *Elacatophora* was relatively well-known after the above-mentioned series of papers. Only *E. robusta*, a species known from a single female, remained difficult to identify. However, proportions of the antennomeres in *E. robusta* are different than in all the species described later under *Borneosabahia* (Jałoszyński 2008). Unfortunately, in 2011 Makhan & Ezzatpanah described two more species from Java, and placed them in *Borneosabahia*, apparently unaware of the synonymy with *Elacatophora.* Although the specimens were collected by Makhan's brother, their collecting site was given only as central Java, without any details.

In the present paper an unusually small and distinct new species of *Elacatophora* from West Malaysia is described. Moreover, two names published by Makhan & Ezzatpanah (2011) are interpreted as synonyms.

Material and methods

Ethanol-preserved specimens were dissected and the aedeagus was mounted in Canada balsam. Habitus images were taken by a Nikon Coolpix 4500 camera mounted on a Nikon Eclipse 1500 stereoscopic microscope; image stacks were

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These two names were published in one paper (Makhan & Ezzatpanah 2011). The descriptions are extremely short and do not follow modern taxonomic standards, as they are not accompanied by any diagnoses. The two descriptions are identical except for two vs. four pits within the antebasal transverse pronotal groove, slightly different measurements, and the number of apical parameral setae. Such differences cannot be seen in the figures provided, and it is unclear what is indicated by an arrow in Fig. 4 as the parameral setae. When the habitus and male genitalia photos are compared (especially Fig. 3 and Fig. 8), it becomes clear that they show one species, and the names *B. soesile* Makhan & Ezzatpanah and *B. minae* Makhan & Ezzatpanah are subjective synonyms. The body shape and proportions of antennomeres do not differ in any way. The general shape of the aedeagus, its subapical structures, the length and shape of parameres, and above all clearly identical structures of the endophallus strongly support this interpretation. Differences in genital structures in all other species of *Elacatophora* are profound and if the aedeagus of *E. soesile* was different from that of *E. minae*, differences would be noticeable even in such poor-quality photos as those provided by Makhan & Ezzatpanah. With accordance to the ICZN 24.2, the name *Elacatophora minae* is here selected as a junior subjective synonym of *E. soesilae*.

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