

A Second Species of *Masuzonoblemus* (Coleoptera, Trechinae) from Northern Taiwan¹⁾

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Abstract A second species of the trechine genus *Masuzonoblemus* is described from the Nan-hu Mountains in northern Taiwan. It is upper hypogean, readily distinguished from *M. tristis* by its larger size, darker coloration, more parallel-sided and more depressed elytra with square shoulders and superficial striae, longer and slenderer antennae, and so on. The new name given is *M. humeratus*.

The second party of the 1990 zoological expedition to the high mountains of Taiwan made by the National Science Museum, Tokyo, visited three mountain groups, one in the southern, another in the central, and the other in the northern parts of the island. The main object of this party, which consisted of three experienced zoologists, was to investigate the ground-living fauna, including muscicolous, humicolous, endogean, and upper hypogean animals. Its activities were often hindered by the extremely steep topography of the mountain groups visited, but the results obtained were always interesting if not satisfactory, since those mountain groups, with the exception of the western part of the Yü-shan Mountains, have seldom been investigated by zoologists.

In the present paper, a second species of *Masuzonoblemus* will be described. This genus, so far monotypic, was erected for an endogean species of trechine beetle occurring in the subalpine zone of Mt. Hsüeh Shan (UÉNO, 1989). Though apparently belonging to the same genus, the new species to be described herein is upper hypogean, living in a scree on the Nan-hu Mountains opposite to the Hsüeh-shans. Its collecting site is much lower in altitude than the habitat of the type species, which may be the reason why this new trechine became upper hypogean rather than endogean.

The abbreviations employed are the same as those explained in previous papers of mine.

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Masuzonoblemus humeratus S. UÉNO, sp. nov.

(Fig. 1)

Length: 3.65 mm (from apical margin of clypeus to apices of elytra).

Closely allied to *M. tristis* S. UÉNO (1989, p. 139, figs. 1–3), but slightly larger than the largest known specimen of the latter species, darker in coloration, and readily recognized on the configuration of its elytra, which are more parallel-sided, more depressed, especially on the disc, and with square shoulders and superficial striae, as well as on the longer and slenderer antennae.

Colour light reddish brown, shiny, with darker mandibles; palpi, apical parts of antennae, ventral surface of hind body, and legs yellowish brown.

Head a little less transverse than that in *M. tristis* though similar to the latter in most details; trace of eyes vestigial and bare; antennae longer and slenderer, reaching basal four-ninths of elytra even in ♀, segments 8–10 each subcylindrical and fully 2.5 times as long as wide.

Pronotum less transverse and more regularly cordate than in most specimens of *M. tristis*, widest at five-sevenths from base, and much more gradually narrowed towards base than towards apex, though the two margins are of equal width; PW/HW 1.25, PW/PL 1.19, PW/PA 1.38, PW/PB 1.38, PB/PA 1.00; sides moderately and rather narrowly rounded in front, very slightly arcuate behind, rather deeply sinuate at about basal sixth, and then distinctly divergent towards sharp hind angles, which are posterolaterally produced; surface less convex, particularly at the lateral parts, than in *M. tristis*, sparsely covered with extremely minute pubescence, and provided with two pair of very short discal setae, which may be readily overlooked unless specially looked for; median line evidently widening in basal area and reaching base; other sculptures as in *M. tristis*.

Elytra elongate, more parallel-sided than in *M. tristis* though widest at about middle, with square shoulders and wide basal areas; EW/PW 1.56, EL/EW 1.59; prehumeral borders perpendicular to the mid-line; sides very slightly emarginate behind shoulders, then very feebly curved to the level of the apicalmost pore of the marginal umbilicate series, and separately rounded at apices which form a narrow re-entrant angle at suture, with preapical emargination very slight; surface obviously less convex than in *M. tristis*, longitudinally depressed on the disc inside interval 4, and not steeply declivous in apical area; striae much shallower than in *M. tristis* though similarly formed, only indistinctly punctate especially at the side, scutellar striole shorter but apical striole longer than in the latter species; intervals flat, bearing short suberect pubescence as in *M. tristis*; stria 3 with two setiferous dorsal pores at basal two-ninths and slightly behind middle.

Legs somewhat slenderer than those in *M. tristis*, though structurally identical with the latter.

Male unknown.

Type specimen. Holotype: ♀, 3–XI–1990, Y. NISHIKAWA leg. Deposited in the

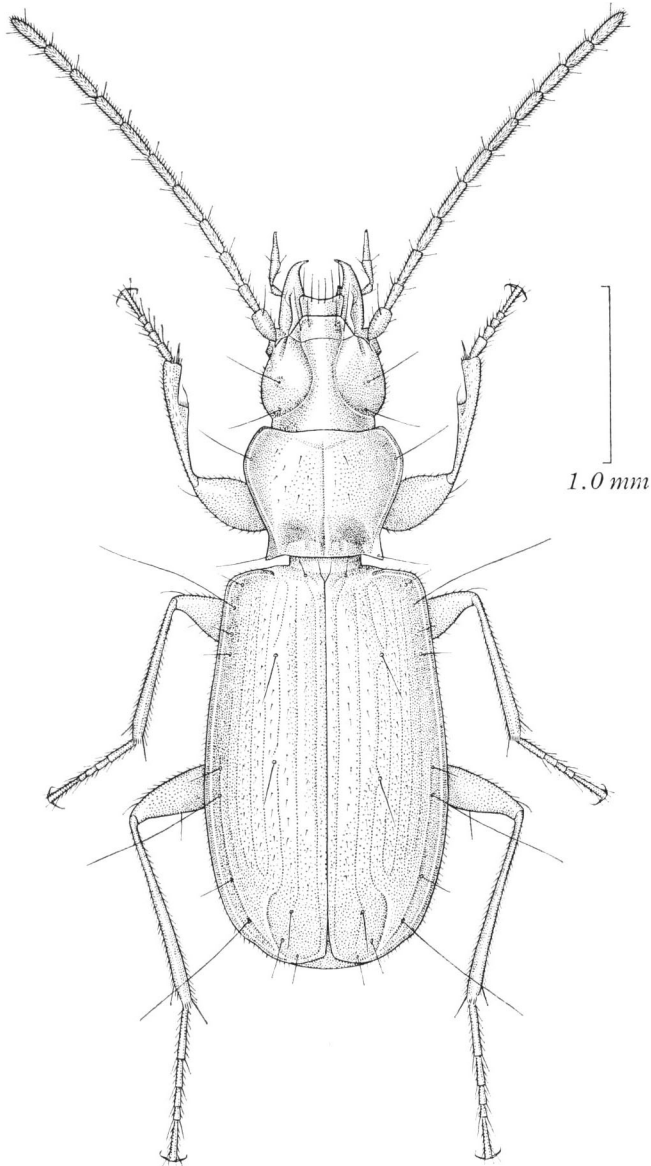


Fig. 1. *Masuzonoblemus humeratus* S. UÉNO, sp. nov., ♀, from the Mu-kan Ch'i on the Nan-hu Mountains.

collection of the Department of Zoology, National Science Museum (Nat. Hist.), Tokyo.

Type locality. Mu-kan Ch'i, 2,230 m in altitude, on the Nan-hu Mountains, in Ho-p'ing Hsiang of T'ai-chung Hsien, northern Taiwan.

Notes. Though males have been unknown, the new species described above is readily discriminated from *M. tristis* by its body form and higher modification adaptive to the hypogean environment.

The single female specimen known was dug out from the bottom of a fairly large scree at the lower part of the Mu-kan branch of the Nan-hu Ch'i Valley. Since this was the only favourable site that we were able to locate on the Nan-hu Mountains for looking for upper hypogean animals, we devoted more than half a day to the excavation and removed a large quantity of soil and rock debris from the scree. However, no additional specimens of *Masuzonoblemus* were found out in spite of our painstaking efforts. All we came across was a female specimen of *Trechiana alatus* S. UÉNO, which was dug out from a wet portion of the scree (cf. UÉNO, 1990, p. 220). The new eyeless trechine beetle seems extremely rare, and will not be readily re-obtained because of the unfavourable ground condition of the Nan-hu Mountains.

References

- UÉNO, S.-I., 1989. Discovery of an eyeless trechine beetle (Coleoptera, Trechinae) in Taiwan. *Elytra, Tokyo*, **17**: 135–142.
- 1990. Occurrence of *Trechiana alatus* (Coleoptera, Trechinae) on the Nan-hu Mountains in northern Taiwan. *Ibid.*, **18**: 220.