

## A New Silphid Genus and Species (Coleoptera, Silphidae) from Nepal<sup>1)</sup>

By

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**Abstract** A new genus and species, *Eonecrophorus tenuicornis*, of the family Silphidae is described. The new species evidently belongs to the tribe Nicrophorini and stands closely by the genus *Nicrophorus* FABRICIUS, 1775, but the structure of its head, antennae and legs is sufficiently peculiar to separate it from any other taxa of the family Silphidae as an independent genus.

Mr. Yoshiaki NISHIKAWA, a member of the third Himalayan entomological expedition made by the National Science Museum, Tokyo, obtained a strange silphid specimen belonging to the tribe Nicrophorini on the Singalila Dara on the borders between East Nepal and West Bengal. A close examination of this specimen has made the author convinced that it belongs to a new genus closely standing by the genus *Nicrophorus* FABRICIUS, 1775.

### *Eonecrophorus* gen. nov.

Type species: *Eonecrophorus tenuicornis* Y. KUROSAWA, sp. nov.

Body similar to that of the genus *Nicrophorus* FABRICIUS, 1775, but slenderer and hairless.

Head moderate; eyes small, occupying only a half of the lateral sides of head, with the interior rims straight and parallel; tempora broad and distinct, slightly produced laterally beyond eyes; clypeal membrane distinct though very narrow; frontal line weak, broadly rounded posteriorly, with the part outer than the line, including tempora, more or less rugose; maxillary palpi long and slender, with three segments about equal in length; mandibles long and slender; antennae slender and lax, reaching about the middle of the sides of pronotum, with the first segment fusiform, longest, the second minute, shortest, but recognizable in all respects, the third to fifth submonili-form, gradually becoming shorter apically though each segment is always longer than width, the apical four segments subpectinate or subclavate but always lax, not overlapping one another.

Pronotum about as broad as long; sides rounded; anterior margin broadly but

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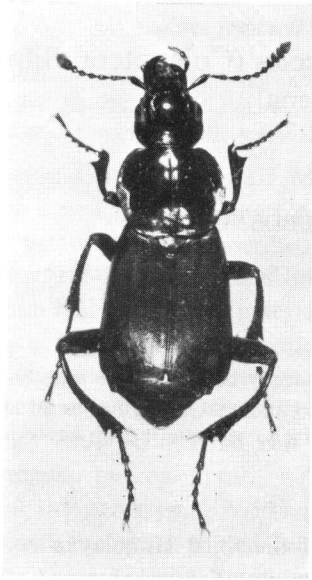
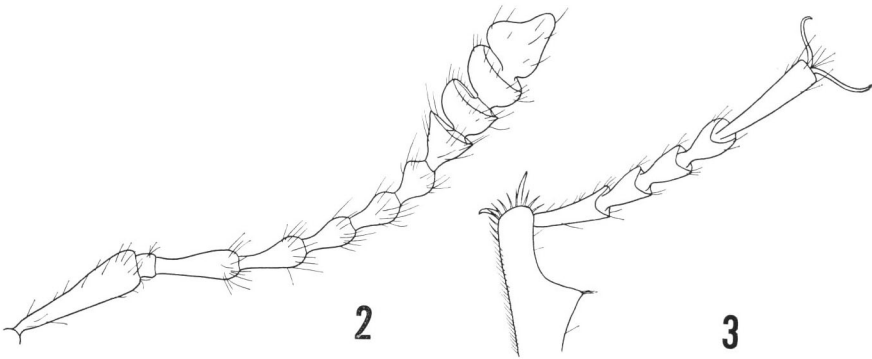


Fig. 1. *Eonecrophorus tenuicornis* Y. KUROSAWA, gen. et sp. nov.



Figs. 2-3. Right antenna (fig. 2) and right tarsus (fig. 3) of *Eonecrophorus tenuicornis* Y. KUROSAWA, gen. et sp. nov.

slightly emarginate; posterior margin slightly emarginate or sinuate just before scutellum; disc deplanate, with the central part broadly and slightly convex, and the median line impressed. Scutellum lingulate.

Elytra hairless, enlarged posteriorly; epipleura very broad, about twice as broad as the width of prosternal episternum.

Legs long and slender; anterior tibiae with the setae on the outer side very sparse and those on the inner side very short and inconspicuous; anterior tarsi subcylindrical, not dilated exteriorly, without any lamellae in the female.

Range. Himalayas.

The genus may be included in the tribe Nicrophorini by the minute second antennal segment and the habitus. In the tribe Nicrophorini, this new genus is isolated from any other genera by its long and slender antennae forming a lax club, and slender, hairless, rather cylindrical front tarsi which are neither dilated nor lamellate exteriorly.

The new species to be described in the following lines is a unique silphid representing this new genus.

*Eonecrophorus tenuicornis* sp. nov.

(Figs. 1–3)

*Female.* Body entirely black, with the exception of brownish clypeal membrane and some parts of maxillary palpi and a small orange-brownish spot at the exterior part of each elytral apex.

Head moderate, hairless, lustrous, very sparsely scattered with irregular-sized minute round punctures; frontal line weak, with the part interior to it slightly convex, interior part of each eye depressed, and the part outer than the line sparsely rugose as to surround it; labrum bilobed anteriorly, with long hairs at the anterior margin; eyes small, with the interior rim straight; tempora about as long as eye, rounded, and slightly swollen posterior to eye; antennae long, lax and slender, extending to near the middle of the sides of pronotum, with the first segment the longest, fusiform, about 1.5 times as long as the third, second the shortest, third about 6 times as long as the second and about 1.5 times as long as the fourth, fourth somewhat clavate, about 1.3 times as long as the fifth, which is slightly longer than the sixth and seventh, eighth to eleventh dilated interiorly, apical three segments mat by being densely covered with short hairs.

Pronotum hairless, subdiscoidal, slightly wider than long, and widest at about middle; anterior margin broadly, arcuately but shallowly emarginate; anterior angles rounded and blunt; sides arcuately rounded; posterior margin broadly but slightly emarginate just before scutellum; posterior angles obtuse and broadly rounded; disc laterally dilated, broadly convex centrally, with an impressed median line and a short oblique depression from the middle of each side towards the middle of the anterior margin; surface lustrous, very sparsely scattered with microscopic round punctures. Scutellum lingulate, slightly longer than wide, sparsely scattered with obscure minute variolate punctures.

Elytra slightly longer than wide, about 1.7 times as long as pronotum, and widest at the apices; sides gradually dilated towards apices, which are subtruncate, with the truncated margin sinuate interiorly, the outer angles broadly rounded, the sutural ones subrectangular; disc obscurely costate, with the first costa obscure and extending from base to near apex, the second costa vestigial, only traceable to near the posterior third, and the third exterior one nearly obsolete; surface microscopically shagreened, and sparsely and irregularly scattered with minute variolate punctures.

Body beneath almost hairless, very sparsely scattered, in close examination, with a few short, recumbent, inconspicuous hairs, each of which grows from a puncture.

Legs long and slender; posterior tibiae distinctly curved basally; tarsi long, slender, subcylindrical, with the anterior pair slightly shorter than anterior tibiae, never dilated latero-exteriorly, the middle pair longer than middle tibiae, and the posterior pair about as long as posterior tibiae.

Length: 16 mm; width (at the elytral apices): 5.3 mm.

Holotype: ♀, Kalapokhri 3,000 m, Singalila Dara, E. Nepal, 2. x. 1983, Y. NISHIKAWA lgt.

There is no other described silphids closely standing by the present new species. Besides the structure of the body, it is very peculiar in the colour pattern of its elytra.

The holotype of this species is deposited in the collection of the National Science Museum, Tokyo.

### References

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