

Two New Species of the Genus *Melanopsacus* (Coleoptera, Anthribidae) from Japan

By

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Abstract

Two new species of the anthribid genus *Melanopsacus* are described, *M. punctatus* sp. nov. from Kyushu and *M. elongatus* sp. nov. from the Ogasawara Islands. They resemble Southeast Asian species, but differ from them mainly in the conformation of antennae.

Melanopsacus is an anthribid genus predominant throughout the Oriental Region and also distributed in western Africa and the Polynesian islands. Up to the present, forty-one species have been known from these areas. In Japan, only two species, *M. makiharai* MORIMOTO from Amami-oshima Is. and *M. kinke* MORIMOTO from Iriomote-jima Is., have hitherto been recorded (cf. MORIMOTO, 1978).

In the summer of 1976, a peculiar species of this genus was found by the present author on the trunk of a dead tree lying on the ground at the western part of Mt. Hiko-san. This species is characterized by large deep punctures on the elytra like *M. nox* JORDAN from the Malay Peninsula. Through the courtesy of Professor Yasuaki WATANABE, the author also had an opportunity to examine another peculiar species of this genus, which was collected by himself on Haha-jima Is., Ogasawara Islands, and is characterized by the elongate body and the relatively long antennae. After a careful examination, both of them seem to be new to science, and will be described in the present paper.

Before going further, the author wishes to express his sincere gratitude to Dr. Yoshihiko KUROSAWA and Dr. Shun-Ichi UENO of the National Science Museum (Natural History), Tokyo, for their constant guidance and for reading through the manuscript, and to Professor Katsura MORIMOTO of the Entomological Laboratory, Kyushu University, Fukuoka, for his valuable advice and showing many photographs of the type specimens which had been taken by himself at the British Museum (Natural History). Deep appreciation is also due to Professors Hiromasa SAWADA and Yasuaki WATANABE of the Laboratory of Entomology, Tokyo University of Agriculture, for their constant guidance and encouragement.

Melanopsacus punctatus SENOH, sp. nov.

(Figs. 1, 2, 4 and 7)

Length: 2.20–3.05 mm, breadth: 1.15–1.56 mm.

Male and female. Body oval and thick, strongly convex above from head to pygidium, about 1.9 times as long as wide. Shining; entirely black except for mouth-parts and the base of antennae which are reddish brown, tarsal pads and claw lighter. Pubescence golden, fine and relatively close in density.

Head compact, densely and reticulately punctate, finely and inconspicuously pubescent; eyes somewhat approximate to each other at the upper side, the interocular area about 0.88 times as broad as the interscrobal one; rostrum subtriangular, punctate similarly to head, pubescence a little longer at the apical area. Antennae reaching the basal margin of elytra, 1st segment dilated apically and slightly bent outwardly, as long as 2nd, 3rd, 6th and 7th subequal in length to one another and a little shorter than each of 4th and 5th, 8th the shortest, club rather slender and asymmetrical, 9th and 10th similar in shape and size to each other, 11th the longest.

Pronotum trapezoidal, almost evenly convex above, about 1.6 times as wide as long, gradually narrowed anteriorly, with sides weakly sinuate before the base and slightly rounded at middle, widest at the base; disc finely, densely and reticulately punctate, the punctures being shallower on the apical area, each bearing a fine hair in the centre; basal carina weakly bisinuate, continuing onto carinula, lateral carina connected with basal carina at an acute angle; an impunctate area present in the concavity located in front of the hind angle. Scutellum triangular, densely covered with fine hairs. Elytra coarse on the surface, about 1.4 times as long as wide, parallel-sided in basal three-fourths, thence converged posteriorly; stria punctures rather large and deep on the disc, particularly in 2nd and 3rd striae; interstices slightly elevated and finely granulate, each granule bearing a fine hair. Pygidium subtriangular, convex above, about 1.1 times as broad as long, lateral margins distinctly bordered throughout and gradually convergent towards rounded apex; surface densely covered with reticulate punctures, each of which bears a fine hair in the centre; medio-subbasal area strongly depressed.

Prosternum relatively densely punctate, the punctures a little larger than those on pronotum; mesosternal process wide and subvertical; metasternum separately provided with shallow punctures. Abdominal sternites densely covered with irregularly mixed, two kinds of punctures, large and small in size, some punctures on 5th visible sternite fused with one another. Legs largely covered with obvious punctures, anterior coxae conically prominent and slightly separated; femora and tibiae finely punctate, the punctures evidently smaller than those on metasternum and sometimes fused; anterior tibiae furnished with a number of long hairs on the inner side; 1st tarsal segment a little longer than 2nd.

Tergite of male genital segment subtriangular, preapical part with two sclerites which bear many fine hairs; dorsal plate of median lobe nearly as long as the ventral

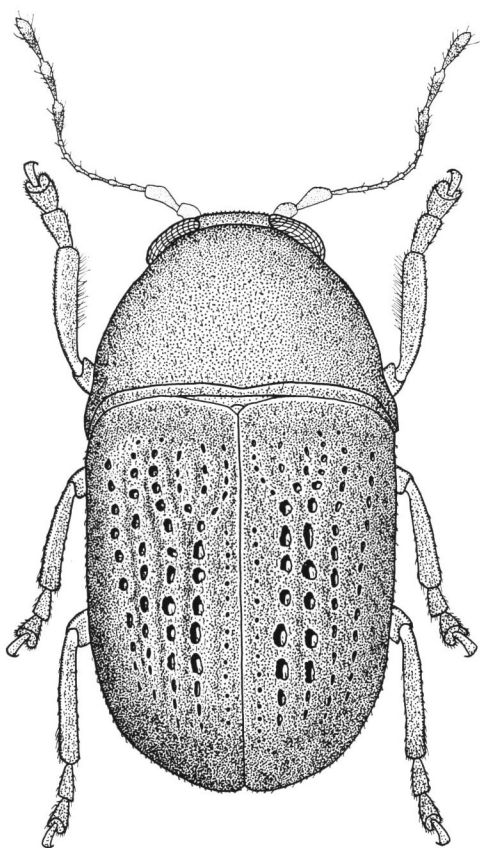


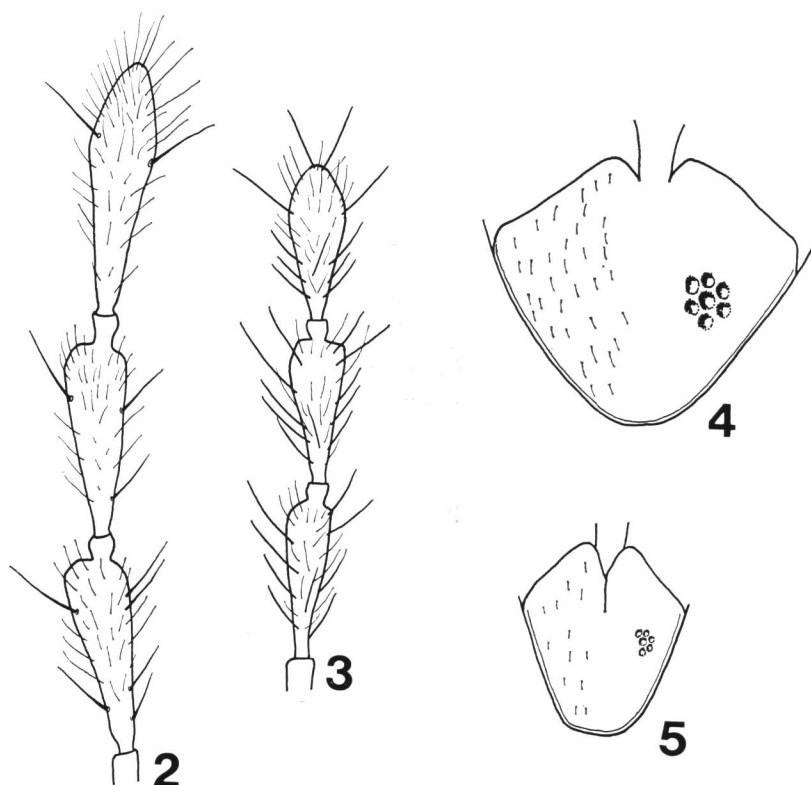
Fig. 1. *Melanopsacus punctatus* SENOH, sp. nov., male.

one.

Type series. Holotype ♂, Mt. Hiko-san (about 1,000 m alt.), Fukuoka Pref., Kyushu, Japan, 30–31. VII. 1976, T. SENOH leg. Paratypes 58 exs. in total, same data as holotype. The holo- and some paratypes are preserved in the National Science Museum (Natural History), Tokyo; the remaining paratypes are in the collection of the Laboratory of Entomology, Tokyo University of Agriculture.

Distribution. Japan (Kyushu).

Notes. In general appearance, this species resembles *M. nox* JORDAN, 1924 described from Perak, West Malaysia, but can be distinguished from the latter by the following characters: 1st segment of antennae as long as 2nd, 8th the shortest, club rather slender and asymmetrical, 9th and 10th similar in shape and size to each other, 11th the longest, and so on. It is also similar to *M. calculus* JORDAN, 1924 from northern Borneo, but differs from the latter in having the interocular area narrower than interscrobial area and the pronotum not depressed on the disc. Furthermore, it also resembles *M. makiharai* MORIMOTO, 1978 from Amami-oshima Is., Japan, but can



Figs. 2-5. Male club of Antennae and pygidium of *Melanopsacus* spp. — 2, 4, *M. punctatus* SENO, sp. nov.; 3, 5, *M. elongatus* SENO, sp. nov.

be distinguished from the latter by the 3rd segment of antennae a little shorter than each of 4th and 5th, rather slender club, anteriorly narrowed lateral sides of pronotum, and so on.

Melanopsacus elongatus SENO, sp. nov.

(Figs. 3, 5, 6 and 8)

Length: 1.93–2.35 mm, breadth: 0.80–0.99 mm.

Male. Body elongate, about 2.4 times as long as wide. Relatively shining; almost black to blackish brown except for the base and apex of elytra, mouthparts, base of antennae and legs, which are reddish brown. Pubescence golden or brown under certain light, fine, relatively close.

Head visible from above, densely punctate, the punctures on the interocular area larger than those on vertex, pubescence fine and inconspicuous; eyes relatively large and approximate to each other at the upper side, the interocular area about 0.75 times

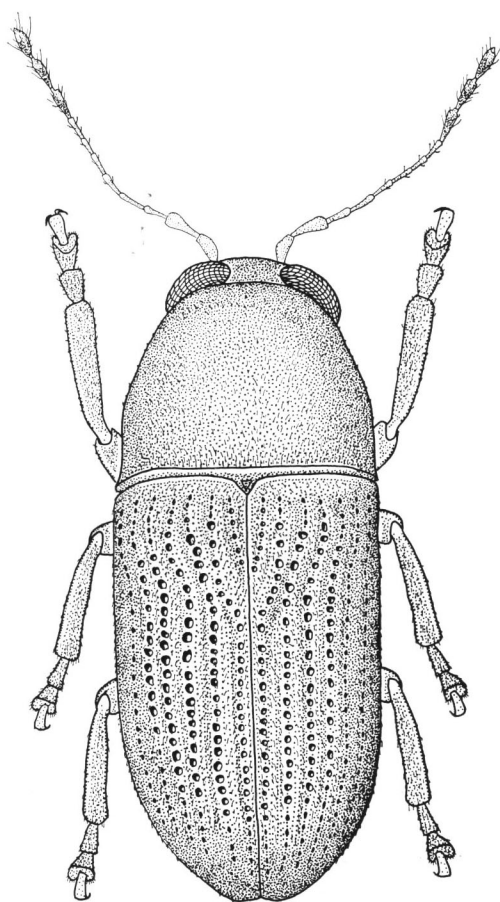
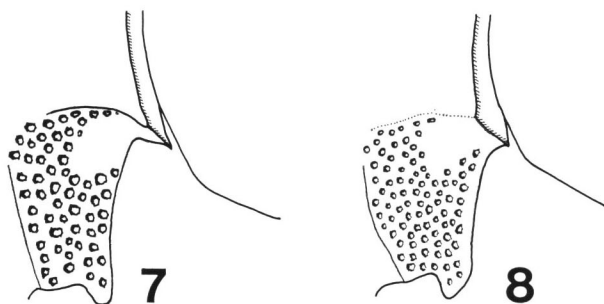


Fig. 6. *Melanopsacus elongatus* SENOH, sp. nov., male.

as broad as the interscrobal one; frons somewhat convex above; rostrum subtriangular, surface covered with distinct hairs; labrum transverse and large. Antennae relatively long, distinctly extending beyond the elytral base, 1st segment dilated medially and slightly bend outwardly, as long as 2nd, 3rd to 5th subequal in length to one another, 5th a little longer than 6th which is as long as 7th, 8th the shortest, club moderately slender and asymmetrical, 9th and 10th similar in size to each other, 11th a little shorter than 10th.

Pronotum relatively long, about 1.2 times as wide as long, gradually narrowed anteriorly, widest at the base, somewhat convex above; disc finely, densely and reticulately punctate, the punctures on the median area slightly larger than those on the circumferential area, each bearing a fine hair in the centre; basal carina almost straight, lateral carina absent, carinula distinct; an impunctate area present in the concavity located in front of the hind angle. Scutellum cordate and very small. Elytra elongate,



Figs. 7-8. Left hind angle of prothorax of *Melanopsacus* spp. — 7, *M. punctatus* SENO, sp. nov.; 8, *M. elongatus* SENO, sp. nov.

about 1.65 times as long as wide, parallel-sided in basal two-thirds, thence converged posteriorly; surface covered with fine hairs which are closer than those on pronotum; subbasal area of each elytron with a swelling which extends from 1st to 4th interstices; stria punctures distinct and regular; interstices weakly elevated and finely granulate. Pygidium subtriangular, about 1.2 times as long as broad, lateral margins distinctly bordered throughout and gradually convergent towards rounded apex; surface densely covered with setigerous punctures, and with a longitudinal weak carina on the medio-subbasal area.

Prosternum relatively densely punctate, the punctures a little larger than those on pronotum; mesosternal process subvertical; metasternum separately provided with shallow punctures. Abdominal sternites more densely covered with fine hairs than thoracic sterna, and with rather fine and obscure punctures; each sternite strongly depressed along median line. Legs relatively short, anterior coxae conically prominent and slightly separated; femora and tibiae finely haired; 1st tarsal segment nearly as long as the following two segments taken together.

Apical margin of male genital segment bilobed, the tergite rather heavily sclerotized; ventral plate of median lobe obviously longer than the dorsal, median struts rather long.

Type series. Holotype ♂, Kitamura, Haha-jima Is., Ogasawara Islands, Japan, 11. VI. 1972, Y. WATANABE leg. Paratype 1 ex., Okimura, Haha-jima Is., Ogasawara Islands, Japan, 13. VI. 1972, Y. WATANABE leg. The holotype is preserved in the National Science Museum (Natural History), Tokyo; the paratype is in the collection of the Laboratory of Entomology, Tokyo University of Agriculture.

Distribution. Japan (Ogasawara Is.).

Notes. This species somewhat resembles *M. subglaber* (JORDAN, 1895), described from Perak, West Malaysia, but differs from the latter in the relative length of antennal segments: 3rd to 5th segments subequal in length to one another and 6th as long as 7th, 5th a little longer than 6th.

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