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A new bizarre species of *Cephennodes* from the Malay Peninsula (Coleoptera: Scydmaenidae)

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Abstract. *Cephennodes* (s. str.) *brinchangensis* n. sp. (Scydmaeninae, Cephenniini) is described. The new species, known from the Malay Peninsula (Cameron Highlands, Brinchang), is unique in having highly modified apices of elytra and an unusual shape of the aedeagus. Habitus of the holotype and its aedeagus are illustrated. This is the first known species of *Cephennodes* (and Cephenniini) reported to occur in West Malaysia.

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, new species, Coleoptera, Scydmaenidae, Cephenniini, *Cephennodes*, Oriental, Malaysia.

INTRODUCTION

Despite a relative abundance and diversity of the Cephenniini in the Malay Peninsula (Jałoszyński, unpublished observations), so far only two species have been recorded from this large area. Both of them are known from Singapore, and nearly 120 years have passed since their description. These are *Cephennium festivum* and *Cephennium raffrayi*, and these species in fact do not belong to the genus, in which they were placed by Schaufuss (1889) (Jałoszyński 2007a, 2008). Most of the undescribed species from the peninsular part of Malaysia known to the author belong to *Cephennodes*. Their external morphology is very uniform, usually representing the most typical, generalized body shape, rarely with various modifications of the head in males. Species with modified elytra were known only from China (Jałoszyński 2007a, 2007b), they also occur in Vietnam (Jałoszyński & Nomura, in preparation). In the present paper the first record of *Cephennodes* from West Malaysia is given, and the species described below as *Cephennodes brinchangensis* is also the first one from the Malay Peninsula with highly modified elytra in males. Though this bizarre modification is similar to

structures known in some Chinese species (the *excavatus*-group), the body shape, and especially the aedeagus of the new species are clearly different.

***Cephennodes brinchangensis* n. sp.**

(Figs.1-4)

Name derivation

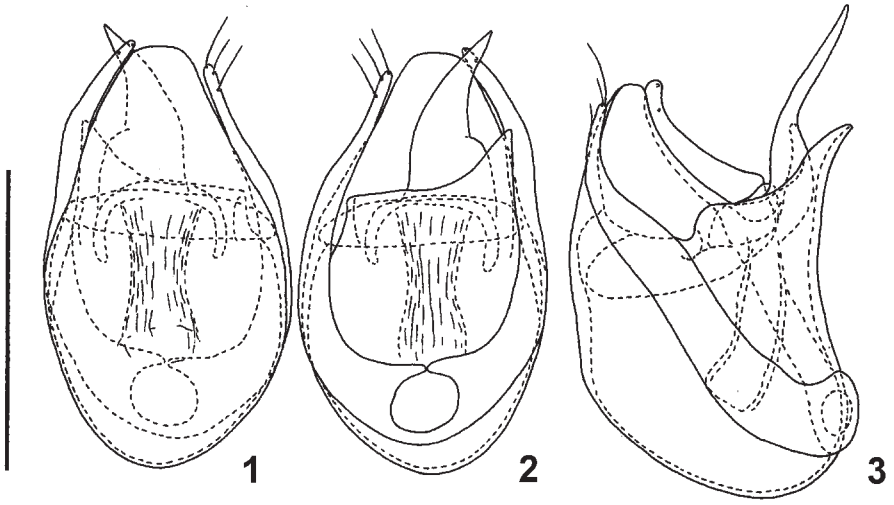
The specific epithet is locotypical, after Mt. Brinchang (Gunung Brinchang, a mountain in Cameron Highlands, W Malaysia), where the type material has been collected.

Diagnosis

Males of this species can be distinguished from all other congeners on the basis of elytra with only slightly narrowing sides, apex truncated and deeply impressed, apical margin of each elytron strongly recurved, sides of elytra in apical region are raised to form keels bordering median impression, short and nearly recumbent setae covering posterior half of each elytron are directed posteriorly and toward suture. Females and their diagnostic characters remain unknown.

Description

Male (Fig. 4). Body very stout, moderately convex, with indistinct constriction between pronotum and elytra, length 1.22 mm; pigmentation moderately dark brown, setation yellowish. Head relatively small, length 0.15 mm, width 0.29 mm; vertex slightly convex, nearly flat; frontoclypeal region more distinctly convex; supraantennal tubercles moderately large and distinct; eyes large, coarsely faceted, strongly convex.



1-3. *Cephennodes brinchangensis* n. sp. Aedeagus in dorsal (1), ventral (2) and lateral (3) views (scale bar: 0.1 mm)

Punctation on vertex and frons distinct, composed of sharply marked, small punctures separated by spaces about twice as long as puncture diameters; setation moderately long, sparse, suberect. Antennae relatively short and slender, with 5-segmented club, length 0.60 mm; antennomere I about 1.2x as long as broad; II distinctly narrower but similar in length, about 1.5x as long as broad; III-VI equal in width, nearly as broad as II, gradually increasing in length from II, which is slightly shorter than long to VI, which is minimally longer than broad; VII slightly broader and distinctly longer than VI, about 1.7x as long as broad; VIII broader but slightly shorter than VII, about as long as broad; IX broader and longer than VIII, slightly broader than long; X broader and longer than IX, slightly broader than long; XI about as broad as X and as long as IX-X together.

Pronotum much broader than long, broadest near base, length 0.37 mm, width 0.62 mm; anterior and lateral margins in anterior half broadly rounded, sides in posterior half slightly rounded; hind angles nearly straight; posterior margin deeply biemarginate; lateral carinae narrow and not separated from margins, each carina is broadest at base and gradually narrowing anteriorly; lateral ante-basal pits very shallow and each is located slightly closer to posterior than to lateral margin. Punctation in central part of pronotum is composed of very small, but distinct and sharply marked punctures

4. *Cephennodes brinchangensis* n. sp. Habitus of the holotype male (actual length 1.22 mm)

separated by distances 1-1.5x as long as puncture diameters, punctures are gradually smaller and shallower toward margins of pronotum, narrow area along posterior margin remains almost impunctate, punctures along sides are indistinct. Setation moderately long and dense, suberect.

Elytra very stout, only slightly longer than broad and nearly subrectangular in general shape, broadest at anterior third, length 0.70 mm, width 0.65 mm, EI 1.08. Subhumeral lines distinctly carinate and extremely short, as long as about 1/5-1/6x length of elytra, each line is nearly straight and very slant; apex of elytra truncated and deeply impressed, apical margin of each elytron strongly recurved, sides of elytra in apical region are raised to form keels bordering median impression. Punctation on median part of each elytron is composed of punctures much smaller than those on pronotum, but similarly dense; setation on anterior half of elytra similar to that on pronotum but more erect, setae near middle of elytra are gradually shortening and posterior half of each elytron, occupied by impression, is covered with short and nearly recumbent setae directed posteriorly and toward suture. Hind wings not studied.

Legs moderately slender and long, without peculiar characters.

Metasternum with fine punctation.

Aedeagus (Figs. 1-3) very small and stout, 0.15 mm in length, median lobe only slightly asymmetrical, with subtriangular, rounded apex, and two subtriangular apical projections; parameres broad, with three setae.

Female. Unknown.

Type material

Holotype (male): two white printed labels: "Malaysia CH, BRINCHANG, 1550 möh, 17.4.1987, T-E. Leiler", "Swedish Museum of Natural History Stockholm", and printed red label "*CEPHENNODES* (s. str.) *brinchangensis* m., det. P. JAŁOSZYŃSKI, 2007, HOLOTYPUS" (Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm).

Distribution

Malay Peninsula, Cameron Highlands.

Remarks

Although the shape of the aedeagus in this species is remarkably different from copulatory organs in all other species of the genus, it is similar to the *simonis*-type (types of aedeagi in *Cephennodes* were discussed in Jałoszyński 2007a), and may be regarded as its highly modified variant. In dorsal view the apex of the median lobe is strongly projected and it conceals the membranous area, which is nearly horizontal (in relation to the long axis of the aedeagus). The latter condition is more typical for the *latus*-type of the aedeagus, but in *C. brinchangensis* the median lobe is much more similar to that known in the *simonis*-type – in dorsal view it is drop-shaped, with its subtriangular apex shifted to the left. Also parameres, though nearly symmetrical and running along sides of the median lobe (as in the *latus*-type), bear three setae located in a way typical for the *simonis*-type. The foramen at base of the parameres is located near base, and the parameres are free, so the species must be placed in *Cephennodes*

s. str. However, the general shape of the aedeagus, and especially the ventral apical projections in lateral view, may reflect a condition similar to an initial stage toward transformation into the aedeagus found in *Fusionodes*. As such, *C. brinchangensis* may be important for reconstructing phylogeny of *Cephennodes*.

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