

**STERIPHODON ABDOMINALIS (PIC) COMB. NOV. (COLEOPTERA: ANTHICIDAE:
EURYGENIINAE) FROM BENGAL***

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Following the examination of the holotype of *Eurygenius abdominalis* Pic, the species from Bengal, has been transferred to the genus *Steriphodon* Abeille and a new combination (*S. abdominalis*) has been proposed. The holotype from the Paris Museum collection has been redescribed. A key to four species from India and Pakistan is given.

Introduction

Steriphodon abdominalis was originally described in the genus *Eurygenius* Ferte-Senectere and placed near the Japanese species *E. niponicus* Lewis (= *Neostereopalpus niponicus*, vide Ref. 1² but that was a mistake. *Steriphodon* Abeille is unique in the Eurygeniini in possessing appendiculate tarsal claws, this and other generic characters are present in *S. abdominalis*. Similarly, *Neostereopalpus* Abdullah is unique in the tribe in having short and compact ovipositor in the female¹ and this important character is not found in *S. abdominalis*. There are other differences too.

Dr. Guy Colas of the Paris Natural History Museum has kindly sent the holotype of *S. abdominalis* (Pic) for study. There is no abdominal appendage and, as expected, the specimen turned out to be a female. There are three previously described species of *Steriphodon* from India and Pakistan but the female of *S. doncasteri* Abdullah is not known.³ However, males of *S. doncasteri* have finely punctate elytra as compared with the holotype of *S. abdominalis*, and the fourth segment of the maxillary palp is sub-cultriform in the former and securiform in the latter. It is expected that the distinguishing characters will be found in the female of *S. doncasteri* and in the male of *S. abdominalis* when they are discovered.

KEY TO OUR SPECIES of *Steriphodon*

1. Fourth segment of maxillary palp cultriform or subcultriform; elytra finely punctate 2.

Fourth segment of maxillary palp securiform; elytra coarsely punctate, in the female, seventh abdominal sternite entire (Fig. 1), seventh tergite entire (Fig. 2)—*S. abdominalis* (Pic) Abdullah, Comb. nov.

2. Abdominal appendages present, males 3.
Abdominal appendages absent, females 5.

3. Abdominal appendage extending from first visible sternite to third—*S. indicum* Pic.

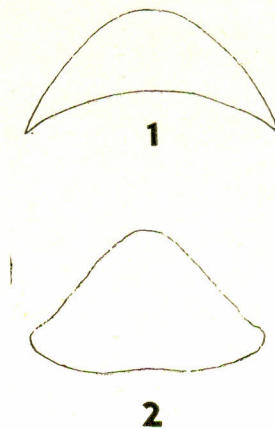
Abdominal appendage extending from first visible sternite to second 4.

4. Abdominal appendage extending to the apex of the second visible sternite—*S. scoparius* (Champion) Abdullah.

Abdominal appendage extending to less than half the length of the second visible sternite.—*S. doncasteri* Abdullah.

5. Seventh tergite weakly emarginate—*S. indicum* Pic.

Seventh tergite deeply emarginate—*S. scoparius* (Champion) Abdullah.



Figs. 1-2, *Steriphodon abdominalis* (Pic), holotype, female: 1, seventh abdominal sternite; 2, seventh tergite.

Description

Steriphodon abdominalis (Pic) Abdullah,
new combination

Eurygenius abdominalis (Ref. 2, p. 109).

Holotype. Female (author's no. 428), E. Pakistan (Bengal): Konbir (*ex. coll.* Leon Fair-

*Publication number 63 on the Coleoptera.

maire) in the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France.

Colour.—Black; first three visible abdominal sternites rufous; eyes brown with black patches.

Vestiture.—Pubescence sparse, consisting of short to long, sub-erect to decumbent, generally distributed yellowish-white hairs.

Punctures.—Coarse on vertex, pronotum and elytra.

Head.—Wider across eyes than across tempora, narrower than pronotum at its widest part. Tempora distinct, not prominent. Mandible entire at apex. Apical segment of maxillary palp securiform. Eyes large, protuberant, convex, almost entire. Antennae filiform; apical segment slightly longer than tenth segment.

Thorax.—Pronotum widest sub-apically above middle; not sulcate medially. Hind-wing with anal cell closed; cross-vein between 2d A_2 2d A_3 complete, between 3d A_1 and 3d A_2 complete.

Abdomen.—Seventh sternite entire at apex (Fig. 1). Seventh tergite entire of apex (Fig. 2).

Measurements in mm.—Total length 6. Antennal length: total 2.44; segments I-XI: 0.36, 0.20, 0.24, 0.20, 0.20, 0.20, 0.20, 0.20 0.20 0.20 and 0.24 respectively. Maxillary palp: total 0.65; segments I-IV: 0.06, 0.19, 0.16 and 0.24 respectively. Head: width across eyes 1.20; minimum dorsal interocular distance 0.60. Pronotum: length 1.32; width at apex 0.78; maximum width 1.50; width at base 1.15. Front tarsus: total 1.04; segments I-V: 0.30, 0.18, 0.15, 0.08 and 0.32 respectively. Middle tarsus: total 1.15; segments I-V: 0.36, 0.21, 0.14, 0.08 and 0.36 respectively. Hind tarsus: total?; segments I-IV: 0.42, 0.16, 0.10 and? respectively. Hind tibial spur 0.25.

References

1. M. Abdullah, Pakistan J. Sci. Ind. Res., **10**, 265 (1967).
2. M. Pic, Coleoptere Heteromere, Pedilide nouveau du Bengale, Bull. Mus. Nat. Hist. Nat., Paris, **15**, 109 (1909).
3. M. Abdullah, *Steriphodon doncasteri*, Beitr. Entomol. **17**, (3/4), 329-335, (1967 a).