Two new synonyms in the dung beetle genus Parachorius (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Scarabaeinae) from the Oriental Region

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The dung beetle genus Parachorius Harold, 1873 (= Cassolus Sharp, 1875) belongs to the monotypic tribe Parachoriini Tarasov, 2017 and includes 19 species from the Oriental and southeastern Palaearctic Regions (Tarasov 2017). Two recent studies (Ochi et al. 2017a, b) described two new species of this genus from Laos and Sumatra. The investigation of detailed descriptions and illustrations from those studies and their assessment in the light of the recent revision of Parachorius (Tarasov 2017) revealed that those new species are synonyms of earlier described ones: P. javanus (Boucomont, 1914) = P. singgalangensis Ochi, Kon & Hartini, 2017, new synonymy, and P. fukiensis (Balthasar, 1960) = C. laosensis Ochi, Kon & Higurashi, 2017, new synonymy. Unfortunately, this oversight happened because the authors of those new species did not check the type material of already described taxa.

Parachorius javanus (Boucomont, 1914)

Parachorius javanus: Tarasov 2017: 128

Parachorius singgalangensis Ochi, Kon & Hartini, 2017: 68 (type locality: Mt Singgalang, West Sumatra), new synonymy

The original description treats P. singgalangensis to be the closest relative of P. javanus. The authors of the original description did not examine the types of P. javanus and misidentified it, which caused them to conclude that P. singgalangensis is a new species. The shape of parameres (which are medially narrowed and apically acute), of what the authors consider to be the aedeagus of P. javanus (Figs. 10–12 in Ochi et al. 2017a), clearly indicates that their “P. javanus” represents another but closely related species P. pseudojavanus Tarasov, 2017. At the same time the aedeagus illustrations of P. singgalangensis (Figs. 7–8 in Ochi et al. 2017a), where parameres are notched basally and claw shaped in lateral view, belong to the true P. javanus (see Fig. 14A, E in Tarasov 2017). Besides the shape of aedeagus P. javanus differs from P. pseudojavanus by the first tooth of protibia notably modified in males and approximately twice as wide as the second tooth. This diagnostic character is also mentioned and illustrated for P. singgalangensis (Fig. 3 in Ochi et al. 2017a). Thus, based on these evidence, I can confidently conclude that P. singgalangensis is a junior synonym of P. javanus.

Parachorius javanus has been only known by one male holotype from West Java, the study of Ochi et al. (2017a) provides a new distribution record of this species, based on three specimens, for West Sumatra (Mt. Singgalang).

Parachorius fukiensis (Balthasar, 1960)

Cassolus fukiensis Balthasar, 1960: 90 (type locality: Kuatun, Fújián Province, China); Balthasar 1963: 261
Parachorius fukiensis: Tarasov 2017: 119
Cassolus laosensis Ochi, Kon & Higurashi, 2017: 73 (type locality: Nong Phet, Xieng Khouang, Laos), new synonymy

In the original description, the authors compare C. laosensis only with P. nudus (Sharp, 1875) from Cambodia [Cassolus is a junior synonym of Parachorius (Tarasov 2017)] and do not assess the species identity of C. laosensis against many other Parachorius species occurring in Indochina. However, the authors provide the detailed illustrations and description of C. laosensis that allow comparing this species to the other representatives of Parachorius. The main diagnostic characters listed for C. laosensis are: (1) first tooth notably modified in males, approximately twice as wide as second tooth (Fig. 3 in Ochi et al. 2017b), (2) metafemoral posterior margin in males not serrate, simple, or dilated in apical third
of metafemur and produced in angle (Fig. 7 in Ochi et al. 2017b), (3) metatibia slightly sinuate, inner margin not denticulate, produced in small angle apically (Fig. 6 in Ochi et al. 2017b), (4) aedeagus with symmetrical parameres which emarginate superiorly, their apex rounded (Figs. 11–12 in Ochi et al. 2017b). These characters clearly indicate that C. laosensis is conspecific with the earlier described species P. fukiensis (see Fig. 8 in Tarasov 2017) that occurs in southeast China, Laos, and Vietnam, and is also known from the similar geographic locality as that of C. laosensis (namely, Xieng Khouang prov., Laos). Thus, I can confidently conclude that C. laosensis is a junior synonym of P. fukiensis.

References
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