



Osakatheta yasukoae, a new intertidal genus and species of athetine rove beetles (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae) from Japan

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Abstract

Osakatheta yasukoae Maruyama, Klimaszewski & Gusarov gen. et sp. nov. (Aleocharinae) is described based on specimens collected from the intertidal zones in Ōsaka-wan, Ōsaka-fu and Ise-wan, Mie-ken, Honshū, Japan. This is the first record of true intertidal species of Athetini from the West Pacific coast (East Palearctic). *Osakatheta* may be readily distinguished from other genera of Athetini by the long and erect setae covering its whole body.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae, Athetini, *Osakatheta*, taxonomy, new genus, new species, Ōsaka-fu, Mie-ken, Honshū, Japan, West Pacific coast, East Palearctic

Introduction

The majority of the coastal beetle diversity is composed of the members of the family Staphylinidae, and particularly its large subfamily Aleocharinae, and is represented by approximately 400 species throughout the world (Hammond 2000, Moore & Legner 1976).

In comparison with the other aleocharines, the true intertidal species are specialized to live in low to high tide zones. Intertidal aleocharines of the northern Pacific coasts are relatively well studied (Sawada 1955, 1971; Moore 1956a, 1956b; Ahn & Ashe 1995; Ahn 1996, 1997; Ahn *et al.* 1999, 2003; Ahn & Maruyama 2000; Maruyama & Ahn 2000a, 2000b; Assing & Maruyama 2002; Maruyama 2002). There are about 30 coastal aleocharine species known from Japan, of which 15 are considered as true intertidal species. These aleocharines are mostly members of the tribes Liparocephalini and Myllaenini. Recently, we had an opportunity to examine specimens of an interesting aleocharine species collected from the low tide zones of the Yodogawa, Ōsaka, Japan. We discovered that the species belongs to an undescribed genus of the tribe Athetini. Several athetines have been known as intertidal species in the World (Moore & Legner 1976, Klimaszewski *et al.* 2006). However, these are mainly recorded from the East Pacific coast, and no true intertidal athetine species has been known from the West Pacific coast (i.e., East Palearctic). The present new genus and species is the first true intertidal athetine species recorded from the West Pacific coast.