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Three new Scaphidiidae (Coleoptera) from Queensland

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Three new Australian scaphidiids are described: *Scaphisoma endroedyi* sp. n., *Scaphobaeocera queenslandica* sp. n., and *Scaphobaeocera confusa* sp. n. A revised key to Australian species of *Scaphobaeocera* CSIKI is given.

So far 55 species of scaphidiids belonging to 6 genera are recorded from Australia (LÖBL, 1977). This number appears to be low when compared with better known faunas, as that of New Caledonia (34 species) or of Fiji (23 species). Recently I examined several new collections including an excellent one of Dr. S. ENDRÖDY-YOUNGA who found 27 species of scaphidiids during his short stay in Australia. This shows that adequate methods of collecting have to be used to obtain a more or less representative material of this group of staphylinoid beetles. The present paper describes three new species. Additional informations on other species will be published later when more data on the distribution patterns of Australian taxa are available.

Note. As in my previous papers, the length of each species is measured from middle of the apical pronotal margin to the inner apical angle of elytra. The measurements of the mesepimera and of the metepisterna refer to their exposed portions.

Material from following institutions was examined: CSIRO, Canberra (ANIC); Muséum d'histoire naturelle, Genève (MHNG); Transvaal Museum, Pretoria (TMP).

Scaphisoma endroedyi sp. n.

Length 0.85–0.90 mm. Body moderately convex, ochre to yellowish. Base of pronotum and humeral area of elytra more or less darkened. Each elytron with a variable wide dark transverse fascia in the middle and a narrow dark apical fascia. Antennae short, relative length of segments: III 3, IV 5, V 8, VI 8, VII 13, VIII 8, IX 12, X 14, XI 18 (holotype); each of the segments IV to VIII about 2x longer than wide; segment XI 3x longer than wide. Pronotum at base 0.50–0.57 mm broad, with lateral margins distinctly convex only near anterior angles; lateral carinae in dorsal view not visible; punctuation almost obsolete, barely visible at x 50 magnification. Scutellum covered by pronotal lobe. Elytra combined 0.57–0.65 mm broad, widest just behind basal fourth, from there on distinctly narrowed; contours rounded in basal third; lateral carinae visible from base to apex in dorsal view; apical margin slightly convex; inner apical angle behind level of external angle; sutural margin not elevated; sutural striae shallow, parallel, short, starting distinctly behind level of pronotal lobe; discal punctuation sparse

and very fine, similar to that of pronotum. Mesepimera about as long as their distance from mesocoxae. Metasternum without microsculpture and without impressions; median portion vaulted, except near apical process; metasternal punctation extremely fine, distinct only just before medio-apical process. Mesocoxal plates very small, about 0.02 mm long, their margin convex and finely punctate. Metepisterna flat, apical portion 0.06 mm broad, narrowed anteriorly, with straight internal margin. Punctation of abdominal segments sparse and extremely fine. First visible sternite without microsculpture; basal plates 0.04–0.05 mm long, convex, with fine marginal punctures. Following sternites with microsculpture consisting of punctures. Tibiae slender and straight, metatibiae 0.24–0.26 mm long.

Male: Segments 1–3 of protarsi slightly enlarged. Aedeagus (Fig. 1, 2) 0.23–0.25 mm long.

Type Data: Holotype ♂: Australia, Queensland, Fraser Is., forest litter, 8 Nov. 1982, leg. S. Endrödy-Younga (sample AU-56) (ANIC). Paratypes: 3 ♂, 4 ♀, same data as holotype (TMP, MHNG); 1 ♂, Queensland, Brisbane, March 1981, leg. Wachtel (MHNG).

Remarks: Unlike other Australian species, *teres* LÖBL excepted, *endroedyi* is characterized by the short sutural striae of elytra. The new species differs from *teres* in its smaller size and the colour pattern. Several small-sized species of the genus *Scaphisoma* LEACH occurring in New Caledonia (*diaphanum* LÖBL, *concolor* LÖBL, *aemulum* LÖBL, *transparentes* LÖBL, *confrater* LÖBL, and one undescribed species) and in Fiji (*kuscheli* LÖBL) share the short sutural striae (a derived character) and the symmetrical aedeagus. *S. endroedyi* is distinguished from all of them by the shape of the parameres.

Scaphobaeocera confusa sp. n.

Length 1.0–1.1 mm, dorsoventral diameter 0.57–0.62 mm, pronotum 0.52–0.60 mm broad at base, elytra combined 0.55–0.63 mm broad. Body not opalescent. Head, pronotum and ventral surface of pterothorax blackish-brown. Elytra dark reddish brown, usually darker at apex. Abdomen, legs and antennae reddish to ochreous. Antennae moderately long, relative length of segments: III 7, IV 8, V 11, VI 8, VII 14, VIII 7, IX 15, X 15, XI 21 (holotype); segments V and VI slightly wider than III or IV, V about 3x, VI 2x longer than wide; VIII 3x, VIII 2x, IX to XI each about 3x longer than wide. Pronotum, elytra, metasternum and 1st visible abdominal sternite without microsculpture, their punctation very fine, except for coarser setiferous punctures around middle of metasternum. Point of scutellum exposed. Sutural striae of elytra deep, curved at base but not extended along basal margin laterally of pronotal lobe; space between sutural margin and striae flat; parasutural striae very short and extremely fine, barely visible at magnification x 100. Metasternum without median depression or groove. Mesocoxal plates 0.03 mm long, their margin distinctly punctate. Metepisterna flat, 0.04–0.06 mm wide, not or weakly narrowed anteriorly. Apical abdominal segments with microsculpture consisting of points. Tibiae slender and straight, metatibiae 0.30–0.34 mm long.

Male: Segments 1–3 of protarsi barely enlarged. Aedeagus (Fig. 3 and 4) 0.36–0.40 mm long.

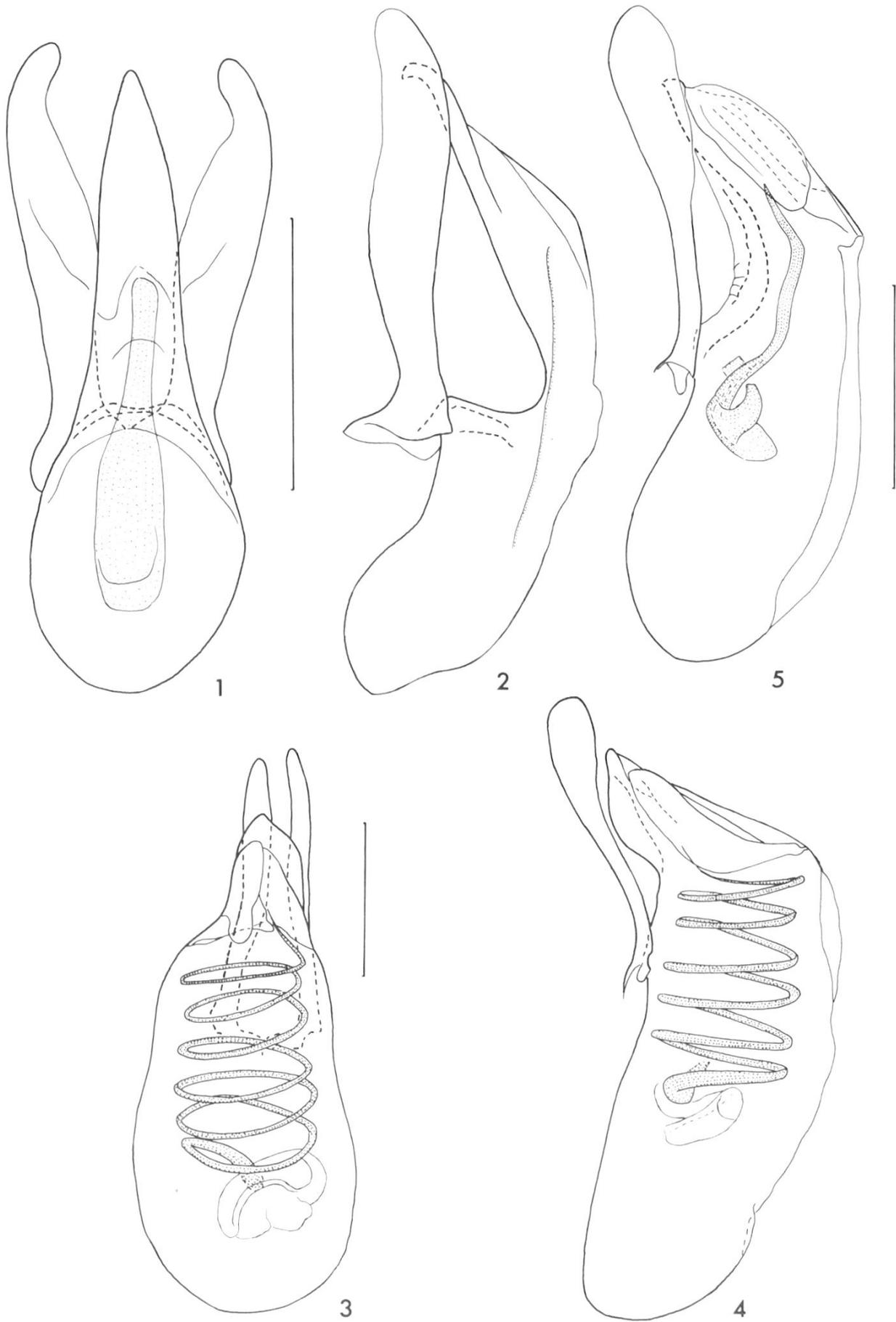


Fig. 1–5. Aedeagi: 1 and 2, *Scaphisoma endroedyi* sp. n.; 3 and 4, *Scaphobaeocera confusa* sp. n.; 5, *Scaphobaeocera queenslandica* sp. n. Scale = 0.1 mm.

Type Data: Holotype ♂: Australia, Queensland, Fraser Is., forest litter, 8 Nov. 1982, leg. S. Endrödy-Younga (sample AU-56) (ANIC). Paratypes: 2♂, 2♀, same data as holotype, 1♀ as holotype but on fungi on log (sample AU-55) (TMP, MHNG).

Remarks: This species is similar to *franzi* LÖBL from which it may be easily distinguished by the sutural striae of elytra which do not extended along elytral base. The aedeagi of both species are quite distinct, *confusa* seems closer related to species with slender flagellum of internal sac (in the Australian *australiensis* LÖBL, *piceopicalis* LÖBL and *curvipes* LÖBL, and in many other Asian or Melanesian members of the genus). However, *confusa* differs from all known species by its spiral flagellum forming six complete circles.

Scaphobaeocera queenslandica sp. n.

Length 1.05–1.20 mm, dorsoventral diameter 0.60–0.70 mm, pronotum 0.54–0.62 mm wide at base, elytra combined 0.56–0.65 mm wide. Dorsal surface of pronotum and elytra opalescent. Body dark brown to blackish brown. Apical portion of elytra, apex of abdomen, legs and antennae paler, reddish brown to yellowish. Antennae moderately long, relative length of segments: III 7, IV 10, V 12, VI 10, VII 12, VIII 9, IX 14, X 15, XI 19 (holotype); segments III to VI of similar width, V 4x, VI 3x longer than wide; VII not quite 3x longer than wide; VIII about as wide as VII, 2x longer than wide; XI not quite 3x longer than wide, distinctly wider than VII. Pronotum, elytra, mesepisterna, metasternum and visible abdominal segments with microsculpture consisting of transverse striae. Propleura without longitudinal groove. Punctuation of pronotum very fine, distinct at 50x magnification. Point of scutellum exposed. Elytra with well developed, long parasutural striae; space between sutural margin and sutural striae slightly raised apically; sutural striae rather deep, curved at pronotal lobe, not extended along basal margin of elytra; discal punctuation as on pronotum in basal third, coarser posteriorly, much coarser in apical third than at base. Punctuation of visible abdominal segments (except for basal row of 1st sternite) and of lateral portions of metasternum very fine. Median portion of metasternum without depression or groove; glabrous central part surrounded by dense and relatively coarse punctuation. Mesocoxal plates 0.02 mm long, their margin distinctly punctate. Metepisterna flat, 0.04–0.05 mm wide, not narrowed anteriorly, their internal margin straight. Basal punctures of 1st visible abdominal tergite not elongate. Tibiae slender and straight, metatibiae 0.34–0.38 mm long.

Male: Segments 1 to 3 of protarsi weekly enlarged. Aedeagus (Fig. 5) 0.32–0.36 mm long.

Type Data: Holotype ♂: Australia, Queensland, Palm Park, forest litter, 10 Nov. 1982, leg. S. Endrödy-Younga (sample AU-65) (ANIC). Paratypes: 2♂, 1♀, same data as holotype (TMP, MHNG).

Remarks: *S. queenslandica* is distinguished from other Australian members of the genus according the key below. This species shares with *stipes* LÖBL, *nobilis* LÖBL and *schouteni* LÖBL the apically strongly enlarged parameres and slender, relatively simple flagellum of internal sac. The new species is separated from *stipes* and *nobilis* in the moderately concave ventral side of median lobe (apically of the parameral condyli which are not protruding) and differs from *schouteni* by

the shape of parameres and internal sac (the latter lacking a basal hook in *schouteni*).

Key to the Australian species of *Scaphobaeocera* CSIKI

- 1 Sutural striae of elytra not extended along elytral base 2
- Sutural striae extended along elytral base towards middle of basal width
. *franzi* LÖBL
- 2 Tibiae straight. Smaller species (length 1.0–1.3 mm) 3
- Mesotibiae slightly, metatibiae distinctly curved. Larger species (length 1.55 mm)
. *curvipes* LÖBL
- 3 Apical and medium portion of elytra with similar punctation. Dorsal surface of body not or feebly opalescent 4
- Apical portion of elytra with coarser punctation than medium one. Dorsal surface opalescent *queenslandica* sp. n.
- 4 Metasternum with a median depression or groove 5
- Metasternum without median depression or groove *confusa* sp. n.
- 5 Body brown, elytra slightly darker in the middle and at apex
. *australiensis* LÖBL
- Body reddish, elytra dark brown in front of the pale apical margin
. *piceoapicalis* LÖBL

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