

Disjunct distribution across the equator—a new riffle beetle from Kyushu, Japan

June 9 2020



Adult of *Podonychus gyobu* sp. nov.: Living individual in laboratory. Credit: Jun Nakajima/Pensoft publishing

Podonychus gyobu sp. nov., a second species of the genus *Podonychus* Jäch & Kodada, 1997, hitherto known only to inhabit Indonesia, is reported to have been found in Kyushu, Japan. The endophallic structures and the larva of *P. gyobu* sp. nov. are described.

The family Elmidae (riffle beetles) is well studied and the existence of 17 genera with 57 [species](#) have been reported in Japan so far.

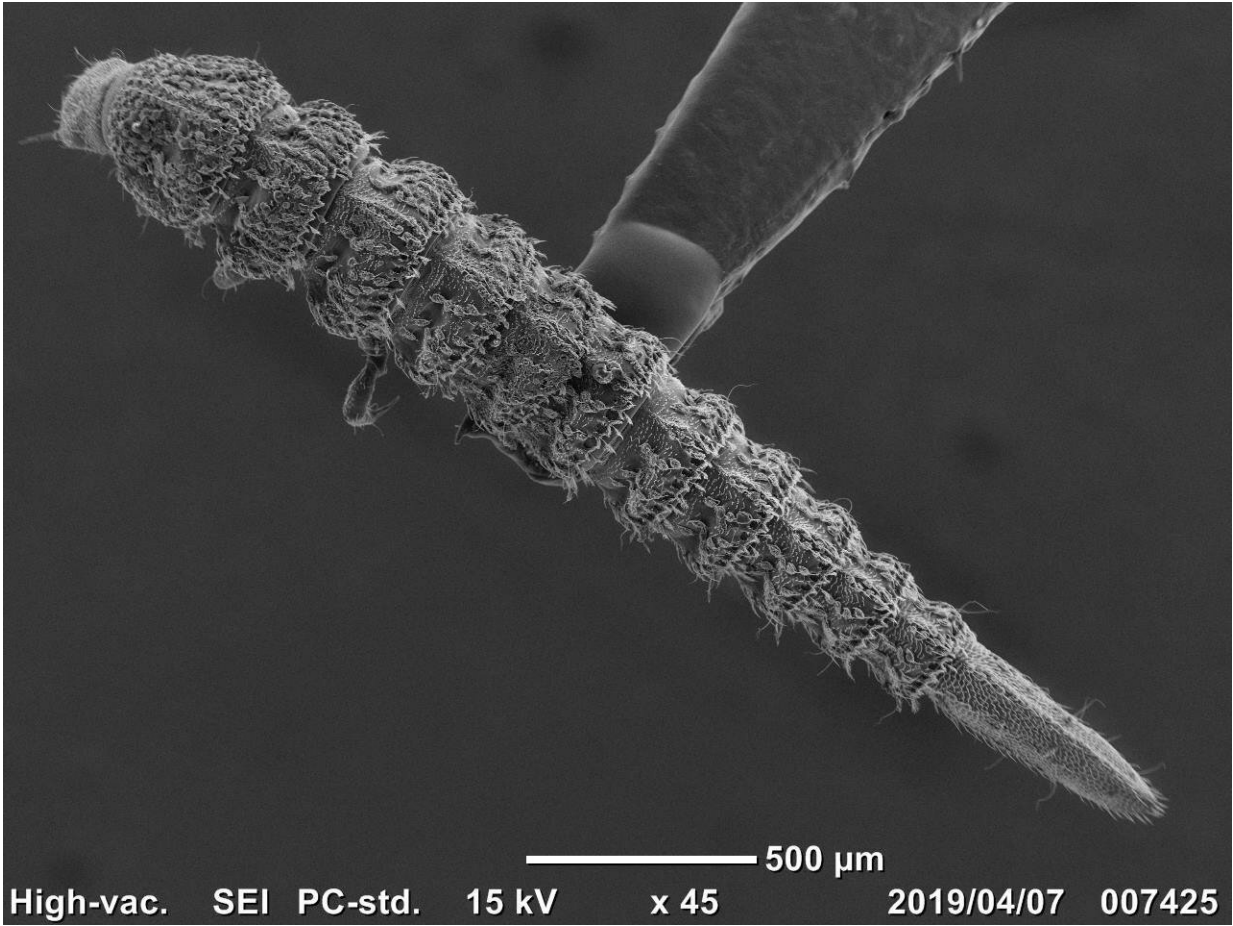
The genus *Podonychus* Jäch & Kodada, 1997 (Elminae, Macronychini) was hitherto known only to inhabit Siberut Island, Indonesia, and had been regarded as monotypic. This genus is unique in having 6-segmented antennae, which is the smallest number of antennomeres within the family Elmidae. Unexpectedly in 2018, some specimens of this genus were collected by the NPO Kitakyushu Gyobu in Kyushu, Japan. After repeated [field investigation](#) and closer examination, it was clear that the specimens represent a [new species](#), closely related to the species *P. sagittarius* Jäch & Kodada, 1997. In the present paper, this new species, including the endophallic structures and the larva, is described as *Podonychus gyobu* sp. nov.. The name "gyobu" is in honor of NPO Kitakyushu Gyobu.

The genus *Podonychus* is currently known to inhabit only Indonesia and Kyushu, Japan, representing a disjunct distribution across the equator. The reason for this disjunctive distribution is unknown at the present time, but it is expected that additional species of this genus will be discovered in east and southeast Asia.



Adult of *Podonychus gyobu* sp. nov.: Holotype specimen. Credit: Pensoft

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Larva of *Podonychus gyobu* sp. nov. Credit: SEM/ Masakazu Hayashi

More information: Hiroyuki Yoshitomi et al. Unexpected discovery of a new *Podonychus* species in Kyushu, Japan (Coleoptera, Elmidae, Elminae, Macronychini), *ZooKeys* (2020). [DOI: 10.3897/zookeys.933.48771](https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.933.48771)

Provided by Ehime University

Citation: Disjunct distribution across the equator—a new riffle beetle from Kyushu, Japan (2020, June 9) retrieved 24 April 2024 from

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