

On the taxonomic position of *Eriophonus* Tschitschérine (Coleoptera: Carabidae)

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The genus *Eriophonus* Tschitschérine, 1901 is treated as a member of the *Ophoniscus*-complex of the Selenophori group. A lectotype is designated for *Ophonus grandiceps* Reitter, 1900.

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Genus *Eriophonus* Tschitschérine, 1901

Eriophonus Tschitschérine, 1901: 235. Type species: *Ophonus* (*Parophonus*) *grandiceps* Reitter, 1900, by original designation.

Discussion. The monotypic taxon *Eriophonus* has been originally described as a subgenus of *Harpalus* Latreille, 1802 sensu lato, probably related to *Tachyophonus* Tschitschérine, 1901. It has been erected for a single species, *Ophonus* (*Parophonus*) *grandiceps* Reitter, 1900, from "Syria", and I am unaware on more recent records of this species. Based on the re-examination of the original specimen, Sciaky (1992) treated *Eriophonus* as a separate genus of the Selenophori genus-group, closely related or identical to the Ethiopian genus *Pseudohyparpalus* Basilewsky, 1946, as these taxa are very similar, particularly in the chaetotaxy of pronotum with additional long setae in apical and basal angles. Meanwhile, the genus *Pseudohyparpalus* was included by me (Kataev, 2005) together with the Ethiopian genus *Neohyparpalus* Clarke, 1981 and the Oriental genera *Panagrius* Andrewes, 1933 and *Ophoniscus* Bates, 1892 in a monophyletic group, the *Ophoniscus*-complex of the Selenophori group, on the basis of three apomorphic character states: dorsum punctate and pubescent, apical angle of the pronotum with at least one long marginal seta, and apical spur of the protibia dentate at margins. Although I proposed that the Palearctic *Eriophonus* should also be included into this complex, I kept it apart, since, at that time, I was unable to examine any specimens of *E. grandiceps* and could not check in this taxon all the characters listed above. It was particularly important to examine the shape of the protibial spur,

information about which was absent in the literature. Recently, I have examined a single available, Reitter's original specimen loaned from the Naturhistorische Museum (Wien): female, labelled "vielleicht *fallax* Peyr. Ann. Fr. 58, 384. Syrien." [handwritten], "Kots e" [handwritten], "*Ophonus grandiceps* m." [Reitter's handwriting], "*grandiceps* Reitt., Syria" [former collection label; handwritten], "TYPUS" [printed on red paper], "Coll. Mus. Vindob." [printed], "*Eriophonus grandiceps* Reitt., Det. R. Sciaky, 1987". As Reitter (1900) did not indicate in the original description that he had only one specimen of his *Ophonus grandiceps*, this female is designated here as the lectotype. All three apomorphies of the *Ophoniscus*-complex were found in the lectotype. Therefore *Eriophonus* also belongs to this taxonomic complex, but it is not congeneric with *Pseudohyparpalus*, because differs from the latter at least in two important characters: discal pores on elytral intervals not recognizable against backgrounds of rather coarse general punctation, and general dorsal pubescence longer (setae on pronotum laterally and basally and on elytra laterally and apically equal to or even slightly longer than width of first antennomere). On the other hand, *Eriophonus* is similar in these characters to the Oriental genus *Panagrius* and undoubtedly most related to it, since both these taxa share also most other distinctive characters, including dense setation on ventral surface of protibia in addition to the longitudinal row of spines. On the basis of only few available specimens of the both when the male characteristics of *Eriophonus* are unknown, I can indicate only the following differences between *Eriophonus* and *Panagrius*: in *Eriophonus*, the protibial apical spur is slenderer, as in *Pseudohyparpalus*, the general dor-

sal pubescence is shorter and inclined posteriad, and the apical stylomere narrower and with slightly narrower base. Although these differences are not too sufficient, now I prefer to consider the Palaearctic *Eriophonus* the fifth genus of the *Ophoniscus*-complex. In my opinion, the less specialized *Eriophonus* and the more specialized *Panagrius* are two relict sister taxa arisen in Asia after separation of their common ancestor from the main Afro-Asian phyletic stock of the *Ophoniscus*-complex (see Kataev, 2005).

The following key can be used for discrimination of *Eriophonus* within the *Ophoniscus*-complex (modified from Kataev, 2005).

1. General dorsal pubescence long: length of setae at least equal to width of basal antennomere. Discal pores on elytral intervals not recognizable against backgrounds of rather coarse general punctation . . . 2
 - General dorsal pubescence short: length of setae much less than width of basal antennomere. Discal pores on elytra clearly visible at least on 3rd and 5th intervals 3
2. Protibial apical spur stout, clearly dentate at margins. Setae of general dorsal pubescence, on average, longer. Oriental Region **Panagrius**
 - Protibial apical spur slender, slightly dentate on external margin basally. Setae of general dorsal pubescence, on average, shorter. Palaearctic Region **Eriophonus**
3. Elytral punctation sparse, concentrated along elytral striae. Discal pores on elytra present only on 3rd and 5th intervals. Scutellar striole short, never much longer than width of two inner intervals. Head with very deep clypeo-ocular prolongations. Afrotropical Region **Neohyparpalus**
 - Elytral punctation dense, more or less evenly distributed within each interval. Discal pores present on 3rd, 5th and 7th intervals. Scutellar striole longer. Head

- with shallow or moderately deep clypeo-ocular prolongations 4
- 4. Basal angles of pronotum each with a moderately long marginal seta, this seta much longer than setae of general pronotal pubescence. Dorsum often with more or less intense metallic lustre. Afrotropical Region **Pseudohyparpalus**
 - Basal angles of pronotum with only short general pubescence, without a longer seta. Dorsum without metallic lustre. Oriental Region **Ophoniscus**

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