Myosides seriehispidus Roelofs, an Asian weevil new to the United States
(Coleoptera, Curculionidae)

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Abstract: Myosides seriehispidus Roelofs, a small cryptic broad-nosed weevil from Japan, is reported as established in the eastern U.S. since at least 1973. This nocturnal weevil has been collected most often from leaf litter using Berlese. The genus and species are redescribed and placement in Kissinger's key to genera of North American weevils is indicated. Dorsal and lateral habitus photographs of this species are included.

Introduction

The Asian genus Myosides has been in the USA for several decades. It has languished unidentified or misidentified in collections (usually as a species of Trachyploes or Cercopes). Recently Dr. Boris Korotyaev suggested to me that my specimens might belong in the genus Myosides and I verified this identification and determined the identity of the species to be M. seriehispidus Roelofs using the revision of the genus by Morimoto and Lee (1993). The genus includes 12 species distributed from the Russian Far East, south through Korea and the Islands of Japan to Taiwan.

In Kissinger's (1964) key to genera of subfamily 2, Brachyrhininae (now Otiorhynchinae), Myosides keys to couplet 8, the tribe Ptochini. It can be distinguished from Myllocerus, which also keys to the same couplet by the following: Myllocerus has well-developed humeri, a visible scutellum, and is fully winged; Myosides lacks humeri, has a concealed scutellum, and is apterous.

Although bisexual and parthenogenetic populations of M. seriehispidus are known from Japan, no males have been found among the 54 U.S. specimens on hand. Morimoto indicated his plan to study further the four forms (based on spermathecal differences in this species), which according to him may represent species or subspecies. More specimens, including males are needed by him to complete such a revision. (Morimoto and Lee, 1993)

A careful examination of the spermatheca indicates that the U.S. specimens (all females) are morphologically the same as those from southeastern and north central Honshu Island [Mie and Niigata Prefectures respectively], see Figures 94-96 in Morimoto and Lee (1993).

The spermatheca of the U.S. specimens also were compared with 2 populations of M. seriehispidus from Japan and five other species on hand: M. formosanus Morimoto and Lee, M. kiiensis Morimoto and Lee, M. marshalli (Heller), M. okinawanus Morimoto and Lee, and M. pyrus Sharp.

Myosides Roelofs
(Figures 1,2)

Myosides Roelofs 1873:164; Type species: Myosides seriehispidus Roelofs by monotypy.

Redescription: Body clothed with dense scales concealing reddish brown to reddish black cuticle. Head and rostrum with multiple longitudinal sulci; frons between eyes slightly narrower than base of rostrum. Eyes lateral, evenly moderately convex. Rostrum not as long as wide, dorsally in same plane as frons, margins slightly narrowed to distinct pterygia, there distinctly narrowed to apex. Epistome bare, with hind margin sharply defined as V- or U-shaped carina. Antennae stout, scape reaching apical margin of prothorax; funicle 7-segmented, club oval. Prementum with 3-4 pairs of setae, external pair often indistinct. Prothorax transverse; at most with indistinct, scarcely evident ocular lobes; lateral margins weakly to strongly rounded; basal margin truncate, subequal in width to slightly wider than apical margin. Scutellum minute or lacking, concealed by scales if present. Elytra lacking humeri, broadly rounded, widest at or near apical

third, striae evident, narrower than intervals, stria 9 complete. Apterous. Prosternum with broadly contiguous coxae. Mesosternum with median process narrow and parallel-sided. Metasternum short, as long as abdominal sternite 3 between meso- and metacoxae. Metepisternum visible for entire length. Abdominal sternum 1 sinuate on posterior margin, behind coxae subequal in length to sternum 2, and as long as 3 and 4 together. Legs moderately long, stout; femora moderately to strongly clavate, each with one small to minute sharp tooth; tibiae nearly straight, mucronate; tarsi stout, segment 1 as long as 2 and 3 together, 2 transverse, 3 much wider and strongly bilobed; claws simple, free. Length, pronotum and elytron: 2.40-4.00 mm.

Infraspecific Variation: This is a relatively uniform species. Most apparent diversity is the result of the earthen coating, which changes the shape of the body, conceals the scales and punctures, and at times covers some, to most, of the suberect clavate scalelike setae.


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References
