A new species of the genus *Thinobius* from the Russian Far East (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae)

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Thinobius (Platyderothinophilus) zerchei sp. n. is described. The new species closely resembles *Th. procerus* Epp., *Th. major* Kr. and *Th. franzi* Scheerp., but is easily distinguishable by the structure of the aedeagus and body shape.

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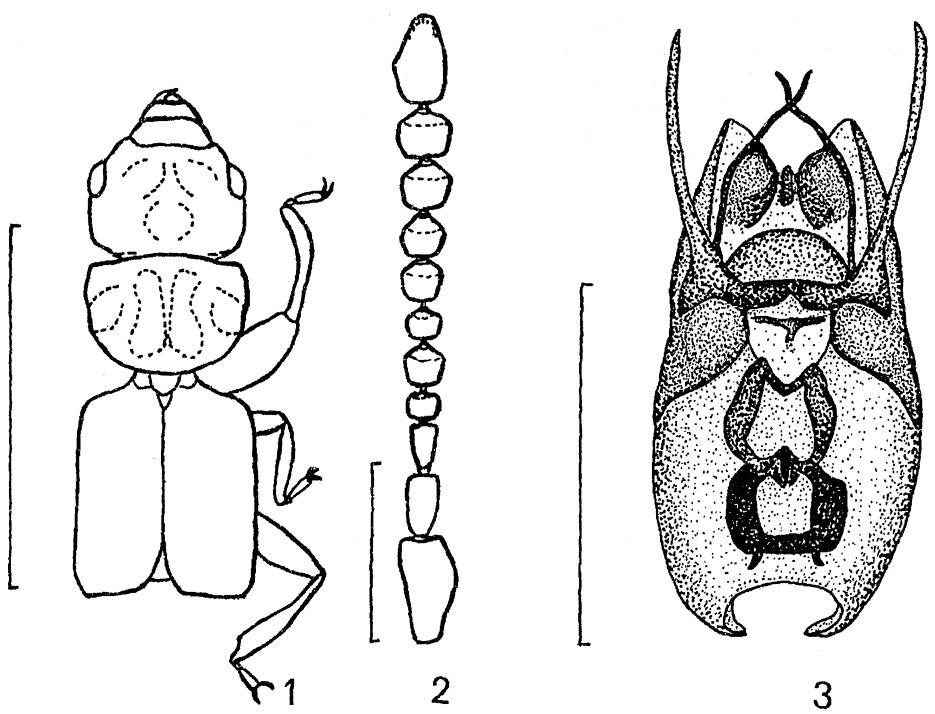
Thinobius (Platyderothinophilus) zerchei sp. n. (Figs 1-3)

Holotype. ♂, **Russia**, *Primorsk Terr.*, Sikhote-Alin, Biol. Station, 30 km SE of Chuguevka, 44° 05′ N - 134° 12′ E, 30.V.1993 (L. Zerche).

Paratypes. **Russia**, *Primorsk Terr.*: 1 ♂, 2 ♀, labelled as the holotype; 1 ♂, Ussurijsk Distr., Kamenushka village, 1.VIII.1980 (A.B. Ryvkin); 1 ♂, Khasan Distr., "Kedrovaya Pad'" Nature Reserve, in forest litter, near river, 5.VI.1991 (S.A. Kurbatov).



Figs 1-3. *Thinobius (Platyderothinophilus) zerchei* sp. n., holotype: **1**, body; **2**, antenna; **3**, aedeagus. Scales: 1 mm (Fig. 1), 0.25 mm (Figs 2, 3).

The holotype and 6 paratypes are deposited in the Zoological Museum of the German Entomological Institute (DEI, Eberswalde, BRD), 1 paratype in the Zoological Institute, St. Petersburg, 2 paratypes in the Smolensk State Teachers Training Institute.

Description. Male. Body length 2.3-2.5 mm, width at level of shoulders 0.5 mm. One of the largest species among *Thinobius,* closely resembling representatives of the genus *Carpelimus*. Body entirely dark brown, femora and tarsi paler. Body flattened, wide, covered with rather dense, short, light hairs. Surface of head, pronotum and elytra similar, unusually densely and finely punctured, with shagreen microsculpture. Punctation of abdomen much finer and sparser.

Head large, quadrate, flat, angles at base rectangular; vertex with a rounded impression. Eyes small, not projecting. Eye length (seen from above) half that of temples. Facets large, 6 facets along upper margin of eye. Antennae (Fig. 2) entirely dark brown; 1st segment the largest, triangular, convex apically; 2nd segment elongate, cylindrical; 3rd segment triangular; 4th-10th segments almost quadrate, 4th and 6th segments the smallest; 11th segment tapering apically.

Pronotum flat, transverse, slightly wider than head; pronotum width : head width ratio 32 : 30; pronotum width : pronotum length ratio 32 : 23. Pronotum broadly rounded at base (Fig. 1). Lateral margin of pronotum with emargination centrally. Disc with two longitudinal impressions centrally and two impressions near lateral emarginations.

Elytra flat, widening apically; elytra maximum width : pronotum width ratio approximately 37 : 32; elytra maximum width : pronotum length ratio approximately 37 : 39. Shape of elytra characteristic of the genus.

The new species differs in the structure of the male fore legs: femora greatly thickened and curved, tibiae strongly curved (Fig. 1).

Aedeagus distinctive.

Female. Smaller (2.0–2.3 mm). Head smaller; fore femora less thickened. Similar to male in colour and other characters. Spermatheca slender, curved.

Remarks. The new species is most similar to *Thinobius procerus* Epp., easily distinguished by the structure of pronotum, male fore femora and aedeagus. Among the species of the subgenus *Platyderothinophilus, Th. zerchei* sp. n. closely resembles the commonest species *Th. major* Kr. and *Th. franzi* Scheerp. but is distinguishable by the body structure and distinctive aedeagus.

Etymology. The species is named in honour of Dr. Lothar Zerche, specialist on Staphylinidae.

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