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NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

New island record and seasonal activity of *Eucibdelus* (*Eucibdelus*) *ishigakiensis* Hayashi, 1997 (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Staphylininae) from Iriomote Island, southern Japan, including notes on behavior and long-term records by an amateur naturalist

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Abstract. *Eucibdelus* (*Eucibdelus*) *ishigakiensis* Hayashi, 1997 (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Staphylininae), previously considered endemic to Ishigaki Island, is newly recorded on Iriomote Island in the Yaeyama Islands, Okinawa, Japan. Specimens were collected using light traps during winter and spring from mid-January to late March over nearly 20 years by an experienced amateur coleopterist. These records indicate that adults are attracted to artificial light and suggest potential seasonal differences from Ishigaki populations. This study provides new insights into the distribution and phenology of the species and emphasizes the value of long-term, community-based monitoring.

Key words. Arboreal beetles, citizen science, flower-visiting beetles, light trapping, new distributional record, phototactic behavior, Ryukyu Islands

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INTRODUCTION

Two species of the genus *Eucibdelus* Kraatz, 1859 (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Staphylininae) are known to occur in Japan. *Eucibdelus* (*Pareucibdelus*) *japonicus* Sharp, 1874 occurs on Honshu, Awa-shima Island, Shikoku, Kyushu, and Shimokoshiki-shima Island, as well as in South Korea, whereas *E.* (*E.*) *ishigakiensis* Hayashi, 1997, until now was considered endemic to Ishigaki Island, in the Yaeyama Islands, Okinawa, Japan (Shibata et al. 2013). *Eucibdelus* belongs to the *Eucibdelus* lineage, which is primarily distributed in the Oriental region (Schillhammer 2023). Many species in this lineage exhibit arboreal and floricolous habits (Schillhammer 2023; Hu et al. 2025), and both Japanese species have been observed visiting flowers (Shibata 1985; Matsumura 2022). *Eucibdelus* (*E.*) *ishigakiensis* was originally described based on the specimens collected from Ishigaki Island in the Yaeyama Islands (Hayashi 1997), but no further information on its habitat has been published.

Here, we report *E.* (*E.*) *ishigakiensis* from Iriomote Island for the first time based on specimens collected using light traps. Among the 11 genera currently recognized within the *Eucibdelus* lineage, phototactic behavior toward artificial light has been confirmed in only two genera: *Eucibdelus* and *Rhymcocheilus* (Schillhammer 2012, 2023). Although *E.* (*E.*) *ishigakiensis* is previously known to visit flowers (Matsumura 2022), its response to artificial light has not been documented.

In long-term collection efforts by one of the authors, an experienced amateur coleopterist, this species was first collected from Iriomote Island in 2004, and regularly appeared in light traps from mid-January to late March. These records, accumulated over two decades through sustained individual efforts outside formal research programs, represent citizen-science-style observations, which are particularly valuable on Iriomote Island given its limited systematic monitoring.

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In this study, we provide new distributional records of *E.* (*E.*) *ishigakiensis* from Iriomote Island in the Yaeyama Islands and present supplementary observations on its habitat and behavior based on light trap collections and the above-mentioned long-term citizen-science data.

METHODS

Light trapping was performed using fluorescent light, mercury vapor lamps, and/or UV-LEDs. The specimens examined in this study were identified through morphological comparison with the original description by Hayashi (1997) and with a type series deposited at the Laboratory of Entomology, Tokyo University of Agriculture (TUA). Photographs were captured using a digital microscope system (controller unit VHX-X1, free-angle stand VHX-S750, fully integrated head VHX-7100, and lens VHX-E100; KEYENCE, Osaka, Japan). The examined specimens were deposited at the TUA, and Iriomote Station, Tropical Biosphere Research Center, University of the Ryukyus (TBRCI).

To summarize the adult emergence period of the species, we used collection dates from three sources: type series, observation records by Shoyama (the third author), and specimen records. Shoyama, an experienced amateur coleopterist, has conducted long-term monitoring of Iriomote Island, and provided valuable citizen-science-style observations. His records were mainly based on direct field observations of adults, with some individuals being collected and preserved as specimens. As no other rove beetle species resembling *E.* (*E.*) *ishigakiensis* have been identified on Iriomote Island, the risk of misidentification based on visual observations is considered low. For the number of individuals, qualitative descriptions such as "two to five individuals" were counted as 3, and "about 10 individuals" were counted as 10. Descriptions without specific numbers, such as "population decline" or "not many individuals," were recorded as 1. Data visualization was conducted using R v. 4.4.2 implemented on WebR (https://github.com/r-wasm/webr). The ggplot2 and dplyr packages were used for data processing and visualization.

To elucidate general trends within the genus, the collection periods of other species were also summarized based on specimen records of 60 species obtained through opportunistic sampling and light trapping and reported in recent reviews of the genus (Schillhammer 2023).

The initial English translation of the manuscript was performed using DeepL, and the clarity and fluency of the English text were further refined using ChatGPT (OpenAI). All content was thoroughly reviewed and finalized by the authors.

RESULTS

Subgenera and species group. The genus *Eucibdelus* was previously divided into three subgenera by Hayashi (1997, 1998a, 1998b) based on a limited number of species and highly variable morphological characteristics (Schillhammer 2023). However, a recent comprehensive revision (Schillhammer 2023) did not adopt this system and instead proposed a classification recognizing 11 species groups. The previously established subgenera were not formally synonymized in that study. Although we followed Schillhammer (2023) in treating subgenera as invalid taxonomic units, we retained the traditional subgeneric names in parentheses in species names for ease of reference to earlier literature. However, their inclusion does not imply taxonomic validity within the context of this study. Among the Japanese species, *E.* (*E.*) *ishigakiensis* belongs to the *Eucibdelus varius* species group and *E.* (*P.*) *japonicus* belongs to the *Eucibdelus japonicus* species group.

***Eucibdelus* (*Eucibdelus*) *ishigakiensis* Hayashi, 1997

Japanese name: イシガキハイイロハネカクシ, Ishigaki-haiiro-hanekakushi
Figures 1, 2

Selected references for the species. The following references cite *Eucibdelus ishigakiensis* under various treatments in previous publications; they are not intended as a comprehensive synonymic list.

Eucibdelus (*Nudeucibdelus*) *ishigakiensis* Hayashi 1997: 30—Herman 2001: 3346.

Eucibdelus (*Eucibdelus*) *ishigakiensis*—Hayashi 1998a: 103; Smetana 2004: 673; Shibata et al. 2013: 172; Schülke and Smetana 2015: 1084.

Eucibdelus ishigakiensis—Schillhammer 2023: 78.

New records. JAPAN — Ryukyu Islands • Okinawa Pref., Iriomote-jima Island, Funaura-maare; 24°23′21″N, 123°48′38″E; 10.II.2004; M. Shoyama leg.; light trap; 1 sex indet., TBRCI, Euc-ish-01 • Okinawa Pref., Iriomote-jima Island, Komi; 24°20′16″N, 123°53′48″E; 25.I.2007; same collector; light trap; 1 sex indet., TBRCI, Euc-ish-02 • Okinawa Pref., Iriomote-jima Island, Ohtomi-rindo; 24°18′05″N, 123°51′23″E; 22.II.2009; same collector; light trap; 2 sex indet., TBRCI, Euc-ish-03, 04 • same locality; 28.I.2017; same collector; light trap; 1 sex indet., TBRCI, Euc-ish-05 • same locality; 29.I.2017; same collector; light trap; 2 sex indet., TBRCI, Euc-ish-06, 07 • same locality; 21.II.2017; same collector; light trap; 2 ♂ and 2 ♀, TUA, ELTUA_IC 2025-0058–0061 • same locality; 15.II.2018;

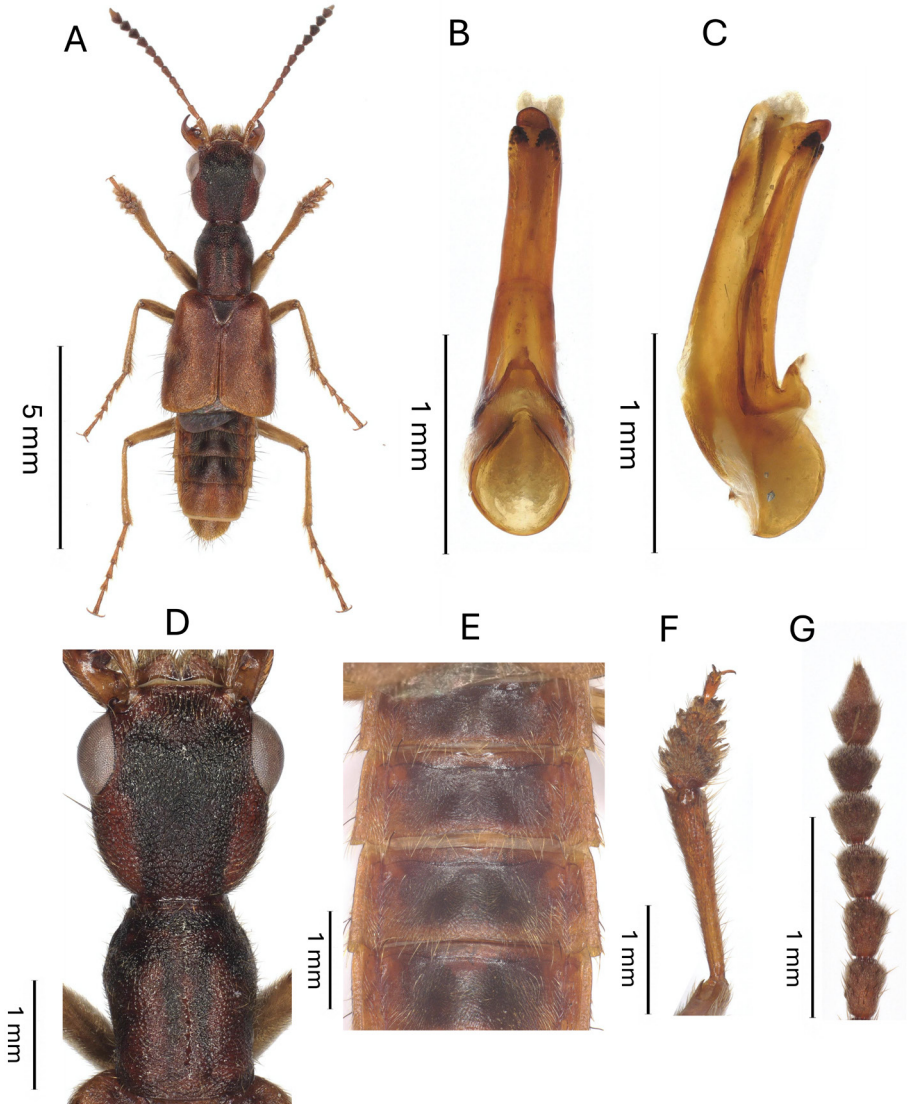

Figure 1. *Eucibdelus* (*Eucibdelus*) *ishigakiensis* from Iriomote Island, Yaeyama Islands, Japan. **A.** Habitus, dorsal view. **B.** Aedeagus, ventral view. **C.** Aedeagus, lateral view. **D.** Head and pronotum. **E.** Abdomen. **F.** Protibia and tarsus. **G.** Antennomeres 6–11.

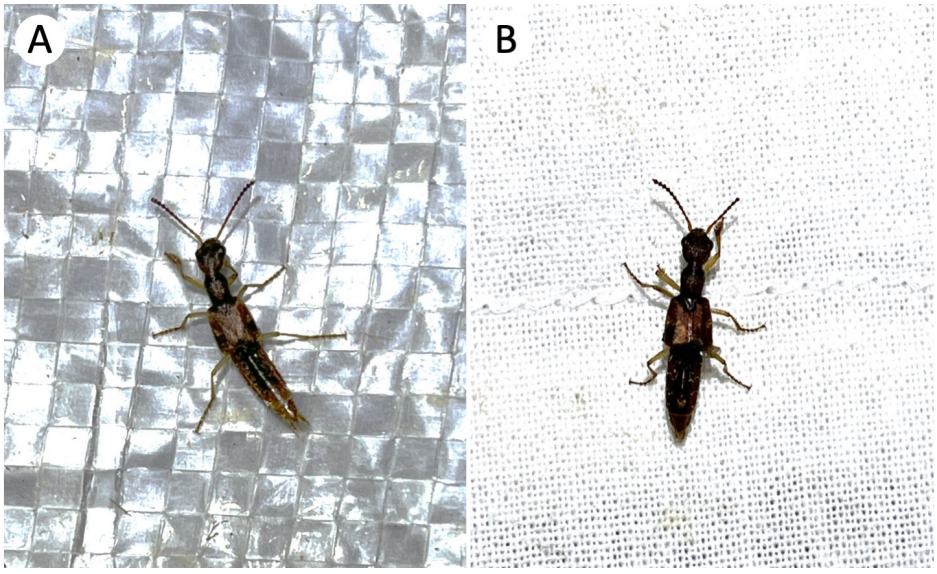

Figure 2. Individuals of *Eucibdelus* (*Eucibdelus*) *ishigakiensis* attracted to light traps (Iriomote Island, Yaeyama Islands, Japan). **A.** 4 May 2025 photo by Nakatada Wachi (@wachinakatada); https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/290557762; accessed on 18 June 2025. **B.** 24 May 2025 photo by Nakatada Wachi (@wachinakatada); https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/290557986; accessed on 18 June 2025.

same collector; light trap; 2 sex indet., TBRCI, Euc-ish-08, 09; 1 ♂ and 3 ♀, TUA, ELTUA_IC 2025-0062–0065 • Okinawa Pref., Iriomote-jima Island, Funaura; 24°23′55″N, 123°48′03″E; 03.III.2025; T. Abe & S. Arai leg.; light trap; 1 ♂, TUA, ELTUA_IC 2025-0066 • same locality; 05.III.2025; same collector; light trap; 1 ♂, TUA, ELTUA_IC 2025-0067 • same locality; 04.III.2025; N. Wachi & S. Arai leg.; light trap; iNaturalist observation ID: 290557762; 1 ♀, TBRCI, Euc-ish-10 • same locality; 24.III.2025; N. Wachi leg.; light trap; iNaturalist observation ID: 290557986; 1 ♂, TBRCI, Euc-ish-11 • Okinawa Pref., Iriomote-jima Island, Funaura; 24°23′58″N, 123°48′12″E; 03.III.2025; K. Okuda leg.; 1 ♂, TUA, ELTUA_IC 2025-0068.

Observational records. JAPAN — Ryukyu Islands • Okinawa Pref., Iriomote-jima Island, Funaura-maare; 24°23′21″N, 123°48′38″E; 30.I.2014; M. Shoyama obs.; light trap; 2–5 sex indet. • same locality; 20.III.2015; same observer; light trap; 1 sex indet. • same locality; 04.II.2024; same observer; light trap; 2–5 sex indet. • same locality; 15.II.2024; same observer; light trap; 2–5 sex indet. • same locality; 25.III.2024; same observer; light trap; 1 sex indet. • same locality; 28.II.2025; same observer; light trap; a few sex indet. • same locality; 02.III.2025; same observer; light trap; a few sex indet. • same locality; 21.III.2025; same observer; light trap; 1 sex indet. • Okinawa Pref., Iriomote-jima Island, Ohtomi-rindo; 24°18′05″N, 123°51′23″E; 21.I.2015; same observer; light trap; 2–5 sex indet. • same locality; 11.II.2015; same observer; light trap; 2–5 sex indet. • same locality; 18.II.2015; same observer; light trap; a few sex indet. • same locality; 22.II.2015; same observer; in copula, light trap; 2 ♂ and 2 ♀ • same locality; 04.III.2015; same observer; light trap; 2–5 sex indet. • same locality; 05.III.2015; same observer; light trap; Decreasing in number of sex indet. • same locality; 19.II.2018; same observer; light trap; Up to 10 sex indet. • same locality; 24.II.2018; same observer; light trap; a few sex indet. • same locality; 30.I.2019; same observer; light trap; about 10 sex indet. • same locality; 05.II.2019; same observer; light trap; 2–5 sex indet. • same locality; 23.I.2020; same observer; light trap; 2–5 sex indet. • same locality; 24.I.2020; same observer; light trap; about 10 sex indet. • same locality; 14.II.2020; same observer; light trap; 2–5 sex indet. • same locality; 26.II.2020; same observer; light trap; 2–5 sex indet. • same locality; 15.I.2021; same observer; light trap; 2–5 sex indet. • same locality; 01.II.2021; same observer; light trap; 2–5 sex indet. • same locality; 12.II.2021; same observer; light trap; more than 10 sex indet. • same locality; 14.II.2021; same observer; light trap; a few sex indet. • same locality; 11.III.2021; same observer; light trap; 1 sex indet. • same locality; 27.I.2022; same observer; light trap; 2–5 sex indet. • same locality; 9.II.2022; same observer; light trap; 2–5 sex indet. • same locality; 28.II.2022; same observer; light trap; 2–5 sex indet. • same locality; 04.III.2022; same observer; light trap; 2–5 sex indet. • same locality; 18.II.2023; same observer; light trap; 2–5 sex indet. • same locality; 01.II.2024; same observer; light trap; more than 10 sex indet. • same locality; 20.II.2024; same observer; light trap; more than 10 sex indet. • same locality; 21.II.2024; same observer; light trap; 2–5 sex indet. • same locality; 4.III.2024; same observer; light trap; 2–5 sex indet. • same locality; 22.I.2025; same observer; light trap; a few sex indet. • same locality; 27.II.2025; same observer; light trap; a few sex indet. • same locality; 09.III.2025; same observer; light trap; a few sex indet. • same locality; 25.III.2025; same observer; light trap; 1 sex indet.

Identification. The specimens were identified as *E.* (*E.*) *ishigakiensis* based on the following diagnostic characters: (1) protibiae slender in both sexes, scarcely dilated distad, markedly narrower than protarsi; (2) antennae slender, segments 8–10 as long as wide; (3) abdominal tergites lacking oblique accessory lines, with a straight basal line; (4) head and pronotum matte due to extremely dense punctation and in places fine microsculpture; and (5) pronotum with a short and narrow indication of an impunctate midline. These features were consistent with the original description (Hayashi 1997) and the identification key provided in the recent revision of the genus (Schillhammer 2023). The specimens also exhibited a conspicuous, nearly entirely reddish-brown color pattern and an oblong head, matching the illustrated individual in Schillhammer (2023) and corresponding to the distinguishing features highlighted in that revision.

Type materials examined. JAPAN — Ryukyu Islands • Okinawa Pref., Ishigaki-jima Island, Mount Omoto-dake; 29.II.1992; T. Hanatani & S. Nirasawa leg.; [holotype] 1 ♂, TUA, ELTUA_IC 2025-0048; [paratype] 4 ♂, TUA, ELTUA_IC 2025-0049–0052 • same locality; 20.III.1991; M. Owada & Y. Okushima leg.; [paratype] 1 ♂ and 3 ♀, TUA, ELTUA_IC 2025-0053–0056 • Okinawa Pref., Ishigaki-jima Island, Takeda-rindo; 19.III.1991; M. Owada & Y. Okushima leg.; [paratype] 1 ♀, TUA, ELTUA_IC 2025-0057.

Distribution (Fig. 3). Yaeyama Islands (Ishigaki Island and Iriomote Island—new record) (Hayashi 1997; Schillhammer 2023; this study).

Adult Phenology (Fig. 4). Late February to mid-April on Ishigaki Island (Hayashi 1997; this study); late January to late March on Iriomote Island (this study).

Attraction to artificial light (Table 1). All specimens and observational records from Iriomote Island were obtained by light trapping. Previously, it was noted that "some species, especially the members of the *E. gracilis* and *E. varius* groups, are attracted to light" (Schillhammer 2023). Among the 60 species examined by Schillhammer (2023), only 12 were recorded as having been collected using light traps. These included six species from the *E. varius* group and one species each from the *E. oviceps*, *E. ater*, *E. japonicus*, *E. birmanus*, *E. griseipennis*, and *E. feae* groups (Table 1). Notably, species in the *E. varius* group, which includes the species studied here, were frequently collected using light traps. Of these 12 species, 11 were represented by both

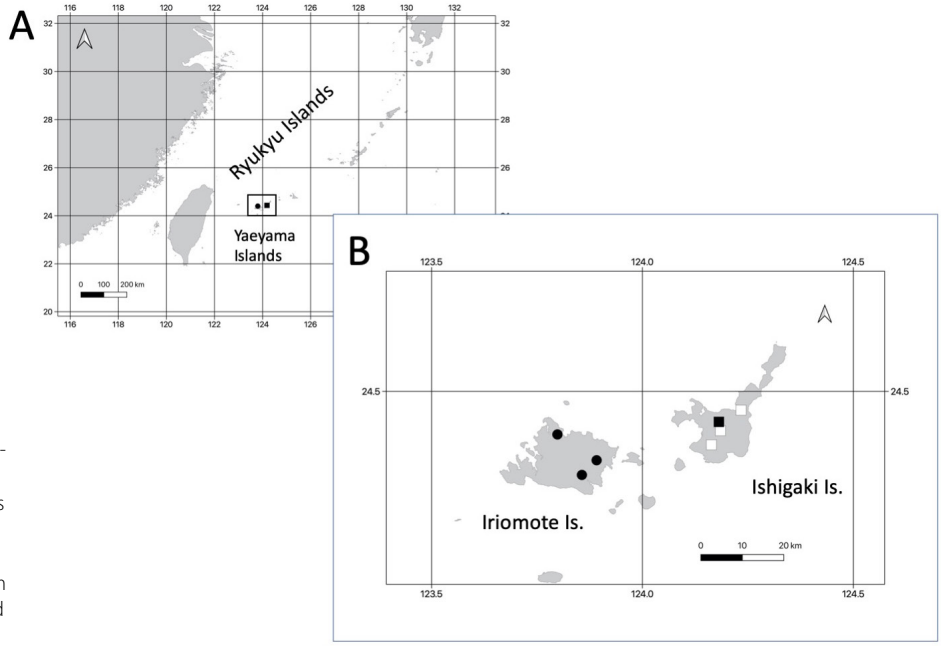

Figure 3. Distribution map of *Eucibdelus (Eucibdelus) ishigakiensis.* **A.** Ryukyu Islands and adjacent regions. **B.** Ishigaki Island and Iriomote Island. Type locality (filled squares in A and B) and additional localities in the previous studies (open squares in B). Additional localities in this present study (filled circles in A and B). The base map was downloaded from DIVA-GIS (http://www.diva-gis.org/gdata) and visualized using QGIS 3.8 (http://qgis.org).

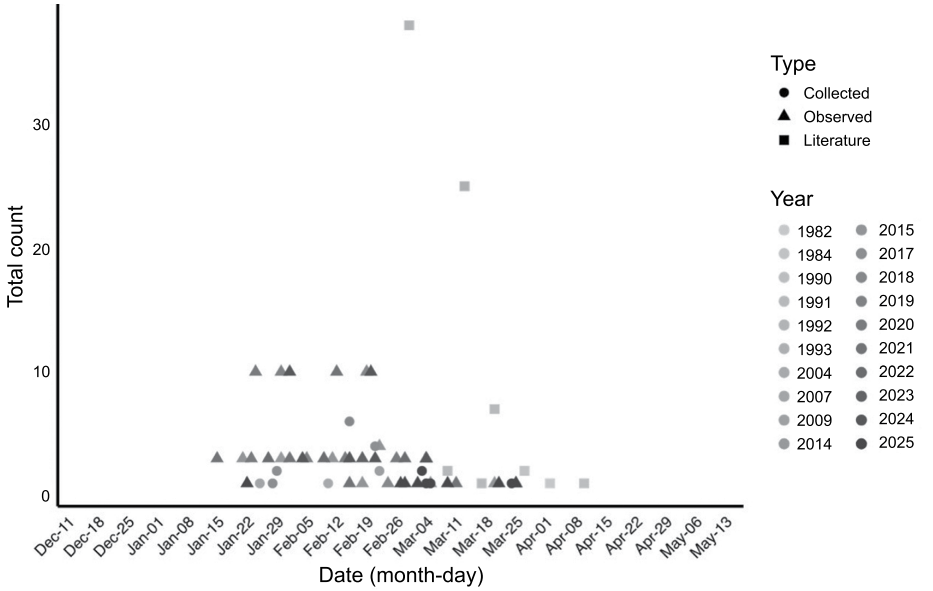

Figure 4. Scatter plot showing the total number of individuals of *Eucibdelus* (*Eucibdelus*) *ishigakiensis* recorded in examined specimen (collected), Shoyama's observation (observed), and the type specimen in Hayashi (1997) (Literature) by date. Each point is color-coded by year and shaped according to data type. Dates were aligned to a reference year (2024) to facilitate cross-year comparison. The x-axis represents the date (month–day), and the y-axis shows the total count.

opportunistic collections and light-trap samples, with *Eucibdelus uenoi* Hayashi, 2021 being the only species exclusively represented by light-trap specimens. In 10 of the 12 species, there was a clear temporal overlap between the two collection types. The exception was *E. flavipennis* He, Schillhammer & Li, 2021 (He et al. 2001), for which opportunistic specimens were collected in May and June, whereas light-trap specimens were collected in July.

DISCUSSION

The newly reported occurrence of *Eucibdelus* (*Eucibdelus*) *ishigakiensis* on Iriomote Island does not suggest a recent range expansion, as numerous past records and specimen collections from various locations on the island have confirmed that the species has long been established there. Based on collection and observational data accumulated over the past 20 years, many individuals were attracted to light traps, particularly from mid-January to late February, suggesting that adult activity peaked during this period. Although this activity pattern differs slightly from the spring flowering season reported by Matsumura (2022) and from the collection dates of the type series (Hayashi 1997), the substantial increase in individuals from late January to mid-February suggests that the species is not restricted to spring emergence and likely becomes active

Table 1. Examples of species of the genus *Eucibdelus* collected through opportunistic sampling and light trapping. Data were extracted from the label data of the examined specimens in Schillhammer (2023).

Species	Area	Collection month		Group
		Opportunistic	Artificial light	
Eucibdelus flavipennis He, Schillhammer & Li, 2021	Mainland China	V, VI	VII	*varius*
E. hamulus Schillhammer, 2023	Mainland China	V, VI, VII	VII	*varius*
E. sauteri Bernhauer, 1943	Taiwan	III, IV, V, VI, VII	VI	*varius*
E. uenoi Hayashi, 2021	Mainland China		V	*varius*
E. varius Fauvel, 1895	Mainland China	V, VI, VII	V	*varius*
	Myanmar	VI	V, VI	
	Thailand	IV, V	V	
E. zimmermannae Schillhammer, 2023	Myanmar	VI, VII	VI	*varius*
E. japonicus Sharp, 1874	Japan	V, VI, VII, VIII	VIII	*japonicus*
E. chungi Schillhammer & Hu, 2023	Taiwan	V, VI, VII	VI	*oviceps*
E. hoi Schillhammer & Hu, 2023	Taiwan	V, VI	VI	*ater*
E. shibatai Hayashi, 1998	Taiwan	IV, VI	VI	*griseipennis*
E. yunnanensis Hayashi, 1998	Mainland China	VI, VII	VI	*feae*
E. rufobasalis Schillhammer, 2023	Laos	IV, V, VI	V	*birmanus*

as early as the winter. This raises the possibility that the Iriomote population exhibits a different phenology from that of the Ishigaki population, or alternatively, that winter light trapping on Ishigaki Island might also yield a high number of individuals.

Schillhammer (2023) noted that several *Eucibdelus* species were collected using light traps, often during the same period as opportunistic sampling. The arboreal and floricolous habits observed in many species of this genus are thought to be associated with foraging behavior (Schillhammer 2023), suggesting that *E.* (*E.*) *ishigakiensis* may exhibit similar traits. Indeed, flower-visiting behavior has been reported for other species of the genus, such as *Eucibdelus griseipennis* (Fairmaire, 1889) in China, which has been observed visiting the flowers of *Castanopsis* species (Schillhammer 2023). Additionally, *E.* (*E.*) *ishigakiensis* has frequently been collected as bycatch during efforts to sample longhorn beetles and the glaphyrid beetle *Amphicoma splendens* (Yawata, 1942) from flowers of the *Meliosma* and *Castanopsis* species between February and March on Ishigaki Island (Toshio Kishimoto pers. comm.) Although multiple species of *Eucibdelus* have been effectively collected using light traps (Schillhammer 2023), the relationship between their attraction to artificial light and their flower-visiting behavior remains poorly understood. Although the functional significance of light attraction remains unclear, the observed correspondence in collection periods between opportunistic and light-trap sampling across congeners suggests that light-trapping can serve as an efficient method for monitoring seasonal activity and population dynamics.

This study benefited from the long-term field experience of third author, Shoyama, whose observations confirmed the presence of this species on Iriomote Island and provided new ecological insights. The accumulated records and specimens collected over many years serve as valuable resources, complementing the data obtained from short-term fieldwork by visiting researchers alone. These local contributions have improved our understanding of the distribution and ecology of the species, highlighting the importance of long-term, community-based knowledge often contributed by amateur naturalists. Previous studies have suggested that such approaches can effectively elucidate the predatory ecology of this group (Hu et al. 2025). These approaches are not limited to this species or taxonomic group, but are broadly applicable for understanding insect biodiversity and capturing ecosystem dynamics specific to each region, where continuous, locally based observation and monitoring are indispensable (Chowdhury et al. 2023). Our results indicate that collaborative efforts between local residents, including amateur and professional researchers, and visiting scientists are key to achieving a more comprehensive understanding of insect biodiversity and conservation.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that no competing interests exist.

Ethical statement

No ethical statement is reported.

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Author contributions

Conceptualization: NW (Lead), KH. Data curation: KH, NW. Formal analysis: KH, NW. Funding acquisition: SA, NW. Investigation: KH, NW, MS, SA. Methodology: KH, SA. Resources: KH, NW, MS. Supervision: NW. Visualization: KH, NW. Project administration: KH, NW. Software: NW. Validation: KH, NW. Writing – original draft: NW (Lead), KH. Writing – review and editing: KH, NW, MS, SA.

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Data availability

All data that support the findings of this study are available in the main text and deposited in GBIF via the Pensoft IPT and are available at the following link: https://doi.org/10.15468/t6vnfy.

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