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Specimen-based records of the rarely collected weevil *Cyamobolus sturmii* Boheman, 1837 (Coleoptera, Curculionidae, Molytinae) from the Yaeyama Islands, southwestern Japan, with the first record from Iriomote Island and notes on adult microhabitat

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Abstract. We report recent specimen-based records of the rarely collected weevil *Cyamobolus sturmii* Boheman, 1837 from Ishigaki Island, together with the first record from Iriomote Island, in the Yaeyama Islands, southwestern Japan. Adults were found during the daytime inside presumed emergence holes in dead wood of *Diospyros maritima* Blume on Ishigaki Island, providing new information on adult microhabitat. These records update the known distribution of *C. sturmii* in Japan and illustrate the value of documenting specimen-based occurrence data for species poorly represented in public biodiversity databases.

Keywords. Biodiversity documentation, coastal forest, data mobilisation, dead wood, *Diospyros maritima*, occurrence data, Ryukyu Islands

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Introduction

The cryptorhynchine weevil genus *Cyamobolus* Schoenherr, 1837 comprises 31 species distributed mainly in the Oriental and Australian regions (Hustache 1936; Alonso-Zarazaga and Lyal 1999; Alonso-Zarazaga et al. 2023; Bánki et al. 2025; Tsuji and Yoshitake 2025). Phylogenetic analyses place *Cyamobolus* within Cryptorhynchinae (Letsch et al. 2020). In Japan, the genus is represented only by *Cyamobolus sturmii* Boheman, 1837 (Morimoto 1984; Yoshitake 2022; Alonso-Zarazaga et al. 2023). This species, whose type locality is Java (Boheman 1837), has been recorded from the Philippines and Ishigaki Island in the Ryukyu Islands, southwestern Japan (Morimoto 1984; Yoshitake 2022; Tsuji 2023).

Although *C. sturmii* is known from Japan, it has been considered a rarely collected species (Morimoto 1984; Yoshitake 2022). In the Japanese Weevil Database (Japanese Weevil Information Network 2007), four records are listed from Japan, all from Ishigaki Island, based on specimens collected in the 1970s. These records show that the species has long been known from Ishigaki Island, but recent specimen-based records and associated natural history information remain limited.

In addition, *C. sturmii* appears to be poorly represented in publicly accessible biodiversity databases. Although at least one GBIF-mediated record (Creuwels 2017) referable to this species is available, it is derived from museum collection data aggregated at the storage-unit level and lacks detailed information, such as collection date and precise locality. In our search, we found no iNaturalist observations that could be independently verified as *C. sturmii* (accessed 24 June 2026). Thus, although the species is taxonomically recognised, much of its distributional information remains confined to the literature and domestic databases, rather than being available as reusable occurrence data through global biodiversity platforms.

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In the present study, we examined multiple specimens collected from Ishigaki Island in 2013 and 2021 and identified a specimen collected from Iriomote Island in 2024 as *Cyamobolus sturmii*. The Iriomote specimen represents the first record of *C. sturmii* from Iriomote Island. We also provide natural history notes based on field observations at Yoshihara, Ishigaki Island, where adults were found inside presumed emergence holes in dead wood of *Diospyros maritima* Blume, and one adult was observed entering such a hole.

Here, we report these specimen-based records, document the first occurrence of *C. sturmii* on Iriomote Island, and provide new information on its adult microhabitat. The study further illustrates the value of publishing specimen records with detailed collection data for species that are poorly represented in publicly accessible occurrence datasets.

Methods

Specimens of *Cyamobolus sturmii* from Ishigaki Island and Iriomote Island in the Yaeyama Islands, Okinawa Prefecture, Japan, were examined. Specimen data were compiled from specimen labels and field information provided by the authors, including locality, collection date, collector, number of individuals, and collection circumstances. The examined material comprised: one specimen collected from Mt. Omoto, Ishigaki Island, in 2013; 15 specimens collected from Yoshihara, Ishigaki Island, in 2021; and one specimen collected from Iriomote Island in 2024 during a light-trap survey. All 15 specimens collected at Yoshihara in 2021 were found during the daytime inside presumed emergence holes in dead wood of *Diospyros maritima* Blume. The 2024 Iriomote specimen was collected by beating dead branches approximately 8–10 m from the light source during a light-trapping survey in the experimental forest of the University of the Ryukyus.

External morphology was examined under a stereomicroscope (Stemi 305; Zeiss, Jena, Germany) and documented using a digital microscope system (VHX-X1 series; Keyence, Osaka, Japan). Species identification was based on comparison with published descriptions, illustrations, and faunistic treatments of *Cyamobolus* and Japanese weevils (Boheman 1837; Heller 1921; Morimoto 1984; Yoshitake 2022; Tsuji 2023). The examined specimens are deposited at the Laboratory of Entomology, Tokyo University of Agriculture (TUA), and Iriomote Station, Tropical Biosphere Research Center, University of the Ryukyus (TBRCI).

Previous Japanese records were checked using the Japanese Weevil Database (Japanese Weevil Information Network 2007), an image-based database of Japanese weevil specimens deposited at Kyushu University (Kojima et al. 2013). Four records from Ishigaki Island, based on specimens collected in the 1970s, were found in this database under the name *Cyamobolus sturmi*. This name is an incorrect subsequent spelling of *C. sturmii*. Because we did not re-examine the specimens on which these records were based, they were treated as previous database records and distinguished from the material examined in the present study.

To assess the availability of public occurrence data, we searched S-Net, GBIF, and iNaturalist (iNaturalist 2005; GBIF 2026; S-Net 2026) for *Cyamobolus sturmii* and the incorrect subsequent spelling *Cyamobolus sturmi* on 24 June 2026. We also examined iNaturalist observations identified only to the genus *Cyamobolus*. These searches were not intended to provide an exhaustive review of all published records, but rather to assess the visibility of the species in publicly accessible biodiversity databases. Photograph-based iNaturalist observations that could not be independently verified as *C. sturmii* from the available images were not included in the distributional account.

A distribution map was prepared to show previous database records from Ishigaki Island and the specimen-based records reported in this study from Ishigaki Island and Iriomote Island. Because precise locality information was unavailable for previous records from the Philippines and Java, these records were represented at the regional level as shaded areas in the upper map in Figure 3A rather than as point occurrences. Spatial data for the base map were obtained from DIVA-GIS v. 1.4 (Hijmans et al. 2001), with the Java Island polygon derived from the GSHHG shoreline database (Wessel and Smith 1996). The map was prepared using QGIS v. 3.8 (QGIS Development Team 2019).

Parts of this manuscript were prepared with the assistance of ChatGPT (OpenAI). ChatGPT was used to support the development of an English draft based on an original Japanese manuscript and author-provided information, including translation support, restructuring of the manuscript for an English-language journal, and improvement of clarity and fluency. The authors checked the English text and revised it as necessary. All taxonomic identifications, specimen data, field observations, interpretations, and references were checked and finalised by the authors.

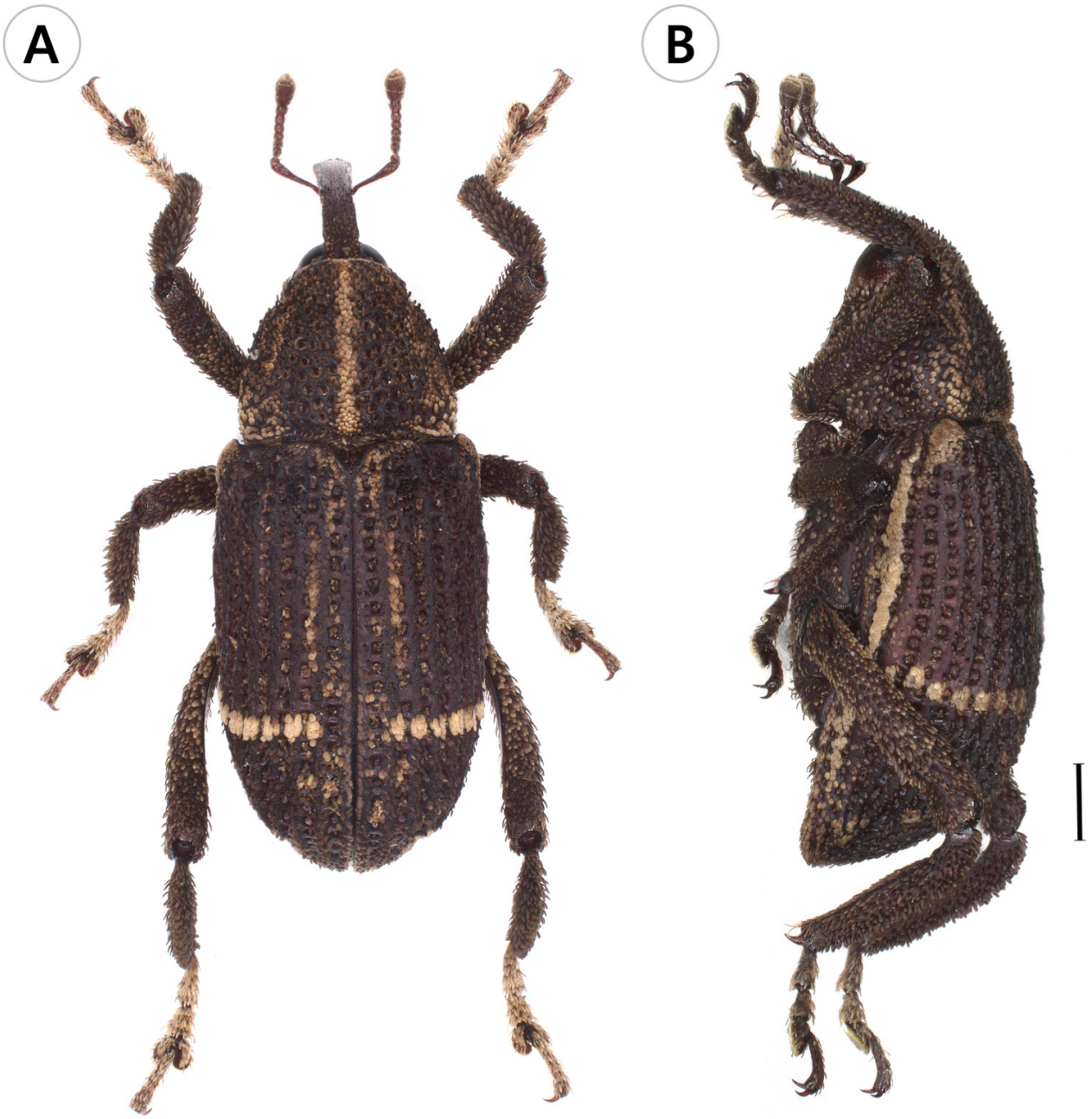

Figure 1. Specimen of *Cyamobolus sturmii* collected from Iriomote Island. **A.** Dorsal habitus; **B.** Lateral habitus. Scale bar = 1 mm.

Results

***Cyamobolus sturmii* Boheman, 1837**

Japanese name: シロオビクチカクシゾウムシ, shiro-obi-kuchi-kakushi-zômushi

Cyamobolus Sturmii Boheman 1837: 181 (type locality: Java).

Cyamobolus sturmi—Heller 1915: 233 (Philippines); Heller 1921: 596 (comparison with *C. definitus*); Morimoto 1984: 340, pl. 67, fig. 3 (habitus photo; Japan: Ryukyus (Ishigaki-jima I.), Philippines, Java); Kojima and Morimoto 2004: 113 (checklist).

Cyamobolus Sturmi—Hustache 1936: 238 (catalogue).

Cyamobolus sturmii—Stüben and Alonso-Zarazaga 2013: 231 (catalogue); Yoshitake 2022: 262, pl. 92, fig. 6 (habitus photo); Alonso-Zarazaga et al. 2023: 478 (catalogue).

Figures 1, 2A–C

New records. JAPAN — Ryukyu Islands • Okinawa Prefecture, Ishigaki-jima Island, Mt. Omoto [石垣島, 於茂登岳]; 24°25′37″N, 124°10′58″E; 16.IV.2013; T. Nakata leg.; collected from the surface of

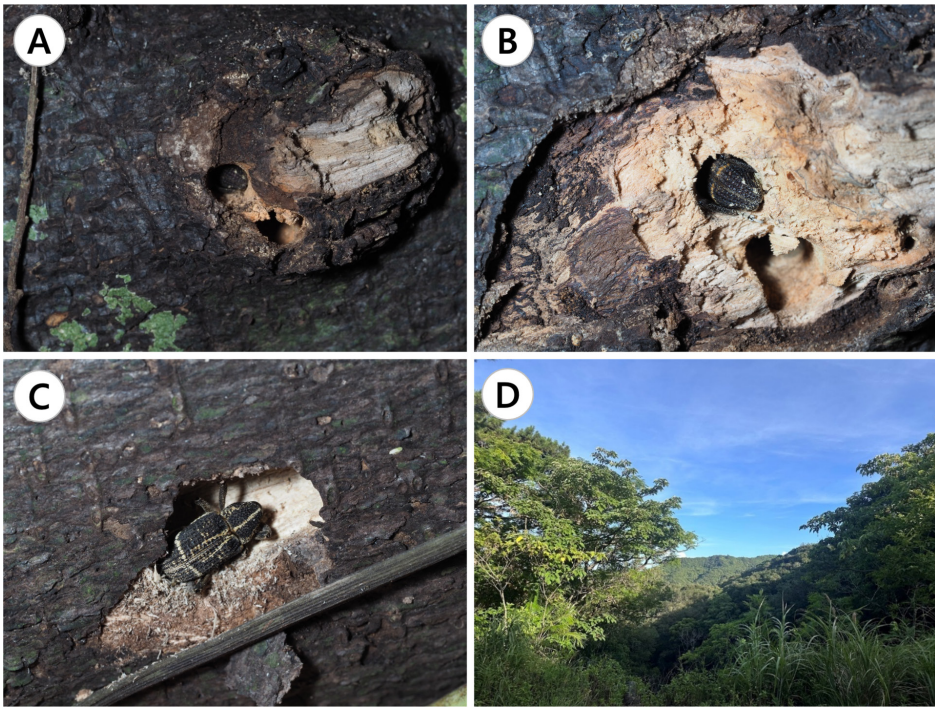

Figure 2. Microhabitat and collection site of *Cyamobolus sturmii*. **A.** Adult in a presumed emergence hole in dead wood of *Diospyros maritima*. **B.** Close-up of the same. **C.** Adult exposed from the wood. **D.** Collection site on Iriomote Island.

standing dead wood of an unidentified tree; 1 sex indet.; TBRCI, Cya-stu-01 • Okinawa Prefecture, Ishigaki-jima Island, Yoshihara [石垣島, 石垣市吉原]; 24°27′04″N, 124°09′34″E; 14.V.2021; H. Kojima leg.; associated with holes in dead wood of *Diospyros maritima* Blume; 7 sex indet.; TUA, LETUA_IC2026-00001–00007 • same locality and date; K. Matsumoto leg.; 7 sex indet.; TUA, LETUA_IC2026-00008–00014 • same locality; 19.V.2021; H. Kojima leg.; associated with presumed emergence holes in dead wood of *Diospyros maritima* Blume; 1 sex indet.; TUA, LETUA_IC2026-00015 • Okinawa Prefecture, Iriomote-jima Island, Funaura [西表島, 竹富町上原, 船浦, 琉球大学熱帯生物圏研究センター観察林]; 24°23′55″N, 123°48′03″E; 35 m alt.; 27.VI.2024; K. Hirai leg.; beating dead branches approximately 8–10 m from the light source during a light-trap; 1 sex indet.; TBRCI, Cya-stu-02.

Identification. The examined specimens were identified as *C. sturmii* based on comparisons with published descriptions and diagnostic information (Boheman 1837: 181–182; Heller 1921: 596; Morimoto 1984: 340, pl. 67; Yoshitake 2022: 101, 262). *Cyamobolus sturmii* resembles *C. definitus* Heller, 1921, described from the Philippines, but *C. definitus* was described as having an oblong, black-scaled callosity at the base of the second elytral interval (Heller 1921: 596). Heller (1921: 596) referred to this interval as the first interval. The examined specimens lack this callosity on the second elytral interval, although dark-scaled callosity is present on the third elytral interval. They were therefore identified as *C. sturmii*.

Distribution in Japan. Yaeyama Islands: Ishigaki Island and Iriomote Island. In Japan, *C. sturmii* was previously known from Ishigaki Island in the Yaeyama Islands, Okinawa Prefecture (Morimoto 1984; Japanese Weevil Information Network 2007; Yoshitake 2022; Tsuji 2023; Figure 3). The present study confirms recent records from Ishigaki Island and provides the first record of this species from Iriomote Island.

Associated plant and natural history notes. At Yoshihara, Ishigaki Island, adults of *C. sturmii* were found in association with dead wood of *Diospyros maritima* Blume in a coastal forest. During the daytime, one adult was observed entering a presumed emergence hole on the surface of the dead wood (Kenji Matsumoto pers. comm.), and several adults were found inside other holes in the same and nearby dead wood. Immature stages, larval feeding traces, adult emergence, and oviposition were not observed.

The specimen collected from Mt. Omoto, Ishigaki Island, in 2013 was found on the surface of an unidentified standing dead tree along a mountain trail. Together, the Mt. Omoto and Yoshihara records show that all new Ishigaki Island records reported in this study were associated with dead wood, although the associated plant was identified only at Yoshihara.

The Iriomote specimen was collected during a light-trap survey in the experimental forest of the University of the Ryukyus. The surrounding habitat consisted of relatively dry forest, with a steep valley to the north, toward which a 400 W mercury-vapour lamp was directed. The specimen was obtained by beating dead branches approximately 8–10 m from the light source. Although *C. sturmii* has been

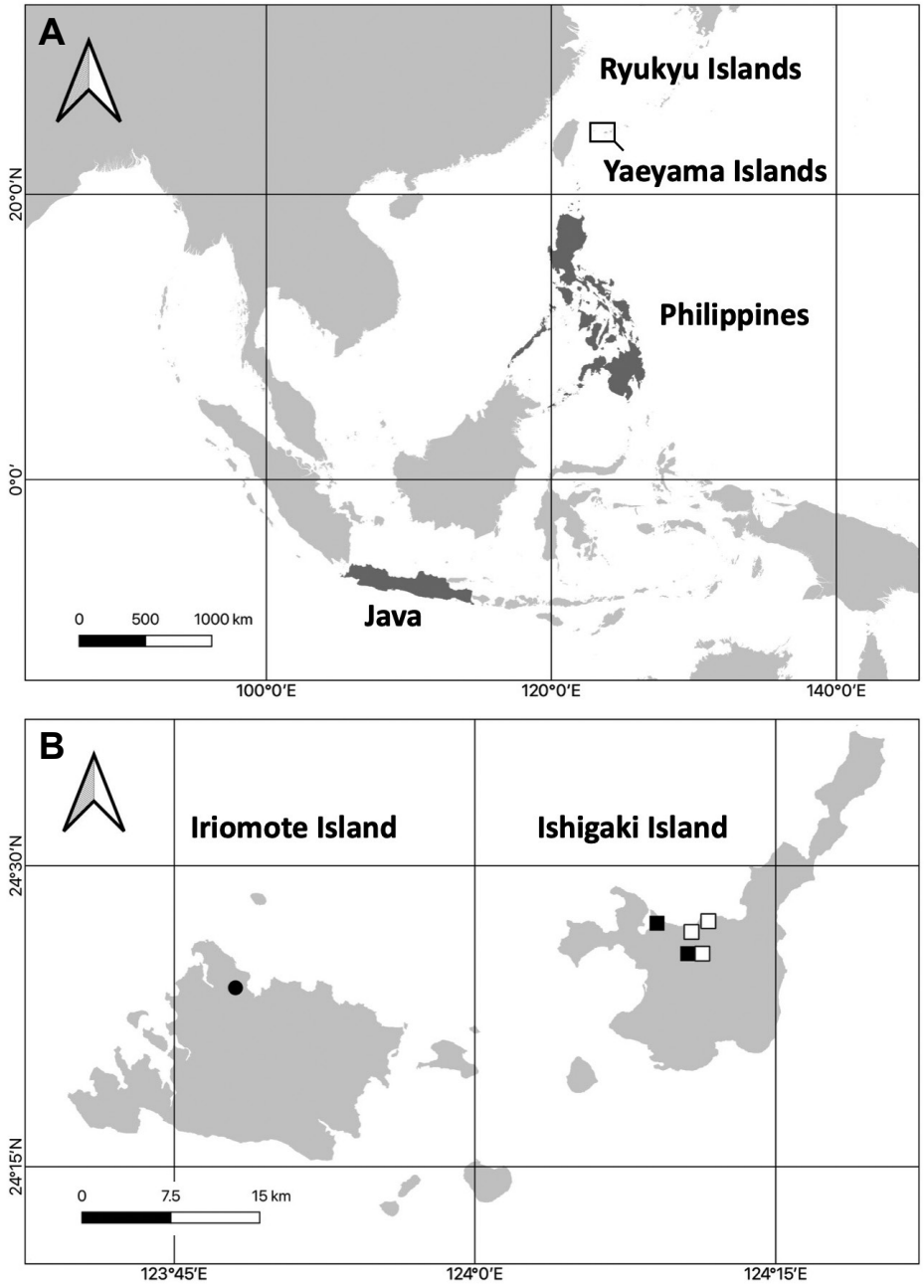

Figure 3. Distribution of *Cyamobolus sturmii*. **A.** Previously reported regions outside Japan are shown in dark grey. **B.** Distribution in the Yaeyama Islands, Japan: ● = first record from Iriomote Island; Ishigaki Island records: ■ = new records; □ = previously known records.

reported to be attracted to light (Yoshitake 2022), it is unclear whether the Iriomote specimen was attracted to the light source.

Previous database records. The Japanese Weevil Database (Japanese Weevil Information Network 2007) lists four records, as *C. sturmi*, from Ishigaki Island, based on specimens collected in the 1970s. These records are from Mt. Omoto, Yonehara, and Yoshihara–Yonehara (Figure 3). All four database records date from April to June, the same period as the new records reported here. Because the specimens on which these database records were based were not re-examined, they were not included in the material examined.

A GBIF-mediated record referable to *C. sturmii* was found, but it lacked detailed collection information, including collection date and precise locality, and was therefore excluded from the distribution map or the distributional account. On iNaturalist, we found an observation from Makiling Trail, Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines, identified as *C. definitus* (iNaturalist 2026). We also found an observation from Kabupaten Bogor, West Java, Indonesia, identified only as *Cyamobolus*, for which an identification of *C. sturmii* had been suggested (iNaturalist 2025). Because their species-level identifications could not be independently verified from the available photographs, these observations were not included in the distributional account of *C. sturmii*.

Discussion

The present records update the known distribution of *Cyamobolus sturmii* in Japan. The specimen from Iriomote Island represents the first record from that island, while the additional specimens collected on Ishigaki Island in 2013 and 2021 confirm the continued occurrence of the species there.

The age of the original descriptions, the subtle morphological differences between *C. sturmii* and *C. definitus*, and the geographically separated known localities of *C. sturmii* highlight the need for taxonomic revision of *Cyamobolus*. In particular, further investigation is needed to determine whether records attributed to *C. sturmii* from the Ryukyus, the Philippines, and Java all refer to the same species.

The observations at Yoshihara suggest that *Diospyros maritima* is a probable host plant of *C. sturmii*. However, because larval development, oviposition, larval feeding traces, and adult emergence were not directly confirmed, *D. maritima* cannot yet be regarded as a confirmed developmental host. The holes may also serve as daytime shelters or another adult microhabitat for this species.

The scarcity of previous records may partly reflect the cryptic habits of adults. If adults frequently remain inside presumed emergence holes in dead wood during the day, the species may be overlooked by routine collecting methods. Furthermore, its known attraction to light (Yoshitake 2022) suggests that adults may be active at night. The 2013 specimen from standing dead wood and the 2021 specimens associated with holes in dead wood suggest an association with dead-wood substrates. In contrast, whether the 2024 specimen collected by beating dead branches was associated with dead-wood substrates remains unclear, because it was obtained near a light source. All available Japanese records with collection dates, including the previous database records from Ishigaki Island and the new records reported here, fall between April and June. Although the number of records is limited, targeted searches of dead wood and its holes from late spring to early summer, together with light-based collecting, may increase the likelihood of detecting this species. These records suggest that it may be more widely distributed within the Yaeyama Islands than previously documented. Comparable gaps in the documented distribution of *Cyamobolus* may also remain in Taiwan and other parts of the Oriental region.

Our searches of public biodiversity platforms found a small number of records or observations relevant to *Cyamobolus*, but none was incorporated into the distributional account of *C. sturmii* in this study. In contrast, the Japanese Weevil Database was an important source of specimen-based occurrence information in the present study. We found no corresponding standardised occurrence records for the four Ishigaki Island records listed in this taxon-specific database in S-Net, GBIF, or iNaturalist. This finding points to the value of domestic taxon-specific databases as gateways to regional specimen information that has not yet been mobilised through international biodiversity data infrastructures. Taxon-specific databases and global aggregators therefore have complementary roles: the databases organise and make accessible detailed regional and taxonomic knowledge, whereas the aggregators improve interoperability, discoverability, and reuse through standardised data formats.

The present case demonstrates that biodiversity data mobilisation need not begin with a global aggregator. Taxon-specific databases can make domestic specimen information discoverable to specialists and provide a basis for its subsequent publication, standardisation, and wider reuse through occurrence-data infrastructures such as GBIF. Publishing specimen-based records together with detailed collection data and natural history observations can thus help connect regional taxonomic knowledge with broader biodiversity data infrastructures.

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Additional information

Conflict of interest
The authors declare that no competing interests exist.

Ethical statement
No ethical statement is reported.

Use of artificial intelligence (AI)
The authors accept full responsibility for the content of the manuscript, including the disclosure of any use of AI. Parts of this manuscript were prepared with the assistance of ChatGPT (OpenAI), used to support the development of an English draft based on an original Japanese manuscript and author-provided information, including translation support, restructuring of the manuscript for an English-language journal, and improvement of clarity and fluency. The authors checked the English text and revised it as necessary.

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Author contributions
Kyôgo Hosaka and Nakatada Wachi contributed equally to this work.
Conceptualisation: KHo, NW, HK. Data curation: KHo, NW, HK. Funding acquisition: SA, HK. Investigation: KHo, NW, KHi, SA, HK. Methodology: KHo, NW, HK. Resources: KHo, NW, KHi, SA, HK. Supervision: HK. Visualisation: NW. Project administration: KHo, NW. Software: NW. Validation: KHo, NW, HK. Writing – original draft: NW (Lead), KHo. Writing – review and editing: KHo, NW, KHi, SA, HK.

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Data availability
All data that support the findings of this study are available in the main text. Data of specimens obtained in this study have been deposited in GBIF via the Pensoft IPT and are available at https://doi.org/10.15468/e4ewhs

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