#### 1 Lumping three nominal species into one: taxonomic revision of amphibian parasitic

### 2 leeches of *Torix* in Far East Asia (Hirudinea: Glossiphoniidae)

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Abstract. While most members of the freshwater leech family Glossiphoniidae possess 10 11 the mid-body somites divided into three annuli, the genus Torix Blanchard, 1893 is 12 distinguished by its two-annuli somites. Torix shows high species richness in Far East 13 Asia, and three nominal species have been recognised in the Japanese Archipelago and 14 adjacent regions, which can be distinguishable by a combination of both internal and 15 external morphological characteristics. However, recent studies have shown that these 16 diagnostic features are ontogenetically variable, and this has resulted in taxonomic 17 confusion among Torix species endemic to the Japanese Archipelago. In this study, we 18 revisit the taxonomic accounts of T. orientalis (Oka, 1925) and T. tagoi (Oka, 1925), in 19 addition to that of the recently redescribed T. tukubana (Oka, 1935), to clarify the 20 diagnostic characteristics for each of the three species. Our morphological and 21 molecular phylogenetic analyses demonstrated that the three *Torix* species in Japan are 22 indistinguishable. We therefore conclude here that these species should be synonymized 23 and treated as a single species. Since the specific names *orientalis* and *tagoi* were 24 simultaneously established under the genus Oligobdella Moore, 1918, we herein act as

25	First Reviser and gave precedence to the name O. tagoi, and thus the valid name for the
26	Far East Asian Torix species is T. tagoi unless T. orientalis and T. tagoi are treated as
27	distinct species. Because there are several type localities for T. tagoi and the name-
28	bearing types have been lost, we designate a neotype for this species to obviate
29	zoological and nomenclatural issues.
30	ZooBank: urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:E2DBF999-3B51-456F-AB04-A7D138E0AF2D
31	
32	Short summary. Freshwater leeches of the genus Torix Blanchard, 1893 in Japan have
33	considerable morphological variation, leading to taxonomic confusion. In this study, we
34	revisit the taxonomic accounts of T. orientalis (Oka, 1925) and T. tagoi (Oka, 1925) to
35	clarify the diagnostic characteristics for the three Torix species in Japan. Our
36	morphological and molecular phylogenetic analyses demonstrated that the Japanese
37	Torix species are indistinguishable. We therefore conclude here that the three Torix
38	species should be synonymized and treated as a single species.
39	
40	Additional keywords: "Rhynchobdellida," Glossiphoniiformes, redescription,
41	neotypification, synonymization, ectoparasite, blood sucking, Japan
42	
43	Running title: Taxonomic revision of Torix endemic to Japan

#### 45 Introduction

46 Leeches are carnivorous annelids with body segments superficially divided into annuli, 47 and they are thought to enhance the extensibility of the body (Sawyer 1986). The family 48 Glossiphoniidae is the most diverse group of freshwater leeches (Sket and Trontelj 49 2008), and most members of this family have mid-body somites divided into three 50 annuli (triannulate). Some species have reduced mid-body somites (biannulate), and 51 biannulate species have been thought to be phylogenetically closely related because of 52 their shared distinctive morphology. However, recent molecular phylogenetic analyses 53 have revealed that annular reduction has occurred independently in several glossiphoniid lineages. Specifically, the North American biannulate species Oligobdella 54 55 biannulata (Moore, 1900) has been found to be derived within the triannulate genus 56 Placobdella Blanchard, 1893 (Light and Siddall 1999). The South American O. 57 brasiliensis Cordero, 1937 is known to form a monophyletic group with the other 58 triannulate genus Haementeria De Filippi, 1849 (Oceguera-Figueroa 2012). 59 Torix Blanchard, 1893 is another glossiphoniid genus that has been established 60 on the basis of its reduced annulation pattern. Currently, Torix comprises six species 61 distributed from Southeast Asia to New Zealand, and four species have been described 62 in Far East Asia: T. cotylifer Blanchard, 1898 from China; T. orientalis (Oka, 1925) 63 from Japan; T. tagoi (Oka, 1925) from Japan and Korea; and T. tukubana (Oka, 1935) 64 from Japan. Although the original systematic accounts were unclear because of a lack of 65 information after the original descriptions, T. tukubana was recently redescribed, and 66 phylogenetic analyses have revealed that this species forms a distinct lineage from other 67 known biannulate species that is closely related to the triannulate *Hemiclepsis* 68 Vejdovsky, 1884 (Kambayashi et al. 2020).

69	In the Japanese Archipelago, three <i>Torix</i> species have been described, and these
70	have been distinguished by the combination of the following morphological traits:
71	ventral annulation pattern (biannulate or triannulate), dorsal papillae (presence or
72	absence), number of eyes (one or two pairs), width of caudal sucker (larger or smaller
73	than the body width), and morphology of crop caeca (diverticulated or not). However,
74	recent studies have shown that morphologically distinct Torix species collected at a
75	single site are genetically identical (Kambayashi et al. 2019, 2020). These studies
76	highlight the fact that the features previously used for species identification are
77	ontogenetically variable; additional investigation is thus needed to identify diagnostic
78	characteristics suitable for defining each species.
79	In this study, we revisit the taxonomic accounts of the two unresolved Torix
80	species inhabiting Japan. Both T. orientalis and T. tagoi have multiple type localities,
81	and their name-bearing type specimens are thought to have been lost or destroyed
82	according to the present survey and Nakano and Itoh (2011). Therefore, we newly
83	collected their topotypic specimens and a diverse set of samples in Japan, and employed
84	an integrative approach that combines morphological and molecular data to reassess the
85	taxonomic status of Japanese Torix species.
86	

### 87 Materials and methods

## 88 Sampling and morphological examination

89 Leech specimens were collected from 27 localities in Japan (Fig. 1 and Table 1),

- 90 including the five type localities: Akame (Mie Prefecture), Nemuro (Hokkaido), and
- 91 Yumoto (Tochigi Prefecture) for *T. orientalis*; Takayama (Gifu Prefecture) for *T. tagoi*;
- 92 and Mount Tsukubasan (Ibaraki Prefecture) for *T. tukubana*. Leeches were collected

from underneath rocks in mountain streams or from the surface of amphibians. Altitude
and coordinates for the localities were obtained using a Garmin eTrex GPS unit.

95 The collected leeches were individually kept at 16°C in the laboratory to digest 96 their blood meal. Subsequently, the specimens were relaxed by the gradual addition of 97 99% ethanol to freshwater. A quarter of the caudal sucker was taken from every 98 specimen for DNA extraction and the remaining bodies were fixed in 10% formalin and 99 preserved in 70% ethanol. The following four body measurements were taken: body 100 length from the anterior margin of the oral sucker to the posterior margin of the caudal 101 sucker (BL), maximum body width (BW), caudal sucker length from the anterior 102 margin to the posterior margin of the sucker (CL), and caudal sucker width from the 103 right to the left margins of the sucker (CW). Examination, dissection and drawing of the 104 specimens were accomplished under stereoscopic microscopes with a drawing tube 105 (Leica M125C and Olympus SZX7). Images of the specimens were captured with the 106 aid of a Leica MC170HD digital camera mounted on the Leica M125C, and assembled 107 using Leica Application Suite software (ver. 4.12, see https://www.leica-microsystems. 108 com/products/microscope-software/p/leica-application-suite/). Specimens used in this 109 study have been deposited in the Zoological Collection of Kyoto University (KUZ). 110 The leech collection at the National Museum of Nature and Science, Tsukuba, 111 Japan (NSMT), including most of Oka's leech collection (Nakano 2010), was surveyed 112 to determine whether the type series of *Torix* species still exists. Although a portion of 113 Oka's collection is kept at The University Museum, The University of Tokyo (UMUT), 114 the type series was not discovered in the UMUT zoological collection (Nakano and Itoh 115 2011).

116

The somite numbering convention is based on Moore (1927): body somites are

denoted by Roman numerals and the annuli in each somite are given alphanumericdesignations.

119

120 *Molecular analyses* 

121 Total DNA of 39 *Torix* specimens (Table 1) were extracted from the caudal suckers

122 using phenol/chloroform extraction. The partial sequence of mitochondrial cytochrome

123 c oxidase subunit I (COI), nuclear 18S rRNA (18S), and Internal Transcribed Spacer 1

and 2 flanking the 5.8S rRNA (ITS) of representative specimens were PCR amplified

125 using the primers of LCO1490–HCO2198 and LCO-inerpo2–HCO-out (Folmer *et al.* 

126 1994; Nakano 2016), A–B (Medlin et al. 1988; Apakupakul et al. 1999), and ITS5–

127 ITS4 (White *et al.* 1990), respectively. The PCR and cycle sequencing reactions were

128 performed according to Nakano (2012) for COI and 18S, and de Carle et al. (2017) for

129 ITS, except for the use of PCR reaction kit, EmeraldAmp PCR Master Mix (Takara

130 Bio). The newly determined sequences were deposited in the International Nucleotide

131 Sequence Databases (INSD) through the DNA Data Bank of Japan (DDBJ).

132 We downloaded additional *COI* sequences from INSD and Barcode of Life

133 Data System (BOLD) of *Hemiclepsis* leeches, known to be most closely related to *Torix* 

134 (Kambayashi et al. 2020), and species of Glossiphonia Johnson, 1816, which have been

135 used for delimitation analyses in Jovanović *et al.* (2021), as the outgroup taxa (Table 1).

136 The sequences obtained were aligned with MAFFT with the L-INS-i option (ver. 7.427,

137 see https://mafft.cbrc.jp/alignment/software/; Katoh and Standley 2013). After removing

138 identical sequences, phylogenetic trees were inferred with maximum likelihood (ML)

139 and Bayesian inference (BI) methods. The ML phylogeny was inferred using IQ-TREE

140 (ver. 1.6.12, see http://www.iqtree.org/; Nguyen *et al.* 2015), then nonparametric

141 bootstrapping (BS) was conducted with 1,000 replicates. BI tree and Bayesian posterior 142 probabilities (PP) were obtained using MrBayes (ver. 3.2.6, see https://github.com/ NBISweden/MrBayes/; Ronquist et al. 2012). Two independent runs of four Markov 143 144 chains were conducted for 12 million generations, and a tree was sampled every 1,000 145 generations. The parameter estimates and convergence were checked using Tracer (ver. 146 1.7.1, see https://github.com/ beast-dev/tracer/releases/tag/v1.7.1; Rambaut et al. 2018), 147 and the first 10% of trees were discarded based on the result. 148 In order to assess the genetic differentiation within our dataset of *Torix*, five 149 different methods were used for species delimitation analyses: Automatic Barcode Gap 150 Discovery (ABGD) (Puillandre et al. 2012), Assemble Species by Automatic 151 Partitioning (ASAP) (Puillandre et al. 2020), Generalized Mixed Yule Coalescent model 152 (GMYC) (Fujisawa and Barraclough 2013), Bayesian implementation of Poisson Tree 153 Processes (bPTP) (Zhang et al. 2013), and multi-rate PTP (mPTP) (Kapli et al. 2017). 154 The analyses were based on the 53 COI sequences used in phylogenetic analyses. The 155 ABGD analysis was performed in a web-based interface 156 (https://bioinfo.mnhn.fr/abi/public/abgd/abgdweb.html) with the following settings: Pmin, 0.001; Pmax, 0.1; Steps, 10; X (relative gap width), 1.5; Nb bins (for distance 157 158 distribution), 20; distance, Kimura (K80) TS/TV 2.0. The ASAP analysis was conducted 159 using the online ASAP version (https://bioinfo.mnhn.fr/abi/public/asap/asapweb.html) 160 with default settings and the K2P distance model. The GMYC analysis was executed 161 using the 'splits' package (ver. 1.0-19, T. Ezard, T. Fujisawa and T. G. Barraclough, see 162 http://R-Forge.Rproject.org/projects/splits/) in the R program. The bPTP analysis was 163 performed at the bPTP web server (https://species.h-its.org) with the following settings: No. MCMC generations, 100,000; Thinning, 100; Burn-in, 0.1; Seed, 123. The mPTP 164

analysis was executed on the mPTP web server (https://mptp.h-its.org) with defaultsettings.

167	The ITS sequences obtained from 22 individuals were aligned with MAFFT,
168	and relationships between the obtained ITS haplotypes were estimated by statistical
169	parsimony network using PopART with the TCS option (ver. 1.7, see
170	https://popart.maths.otago.ac.nz/; Leigh and Bryant 2015). Pairwise comparisons of the
171	uncorrected <i>p</i> -distance for COI and ITS sequences between the representative
172	specimens of Torix obtained in this study and one collected from Mt. Tsukubasan,
173	Ibaraki Prefecture (INSD accession number LC538265), as well as a sample reported
174	from Liaoning Province, China (INSD accession number OL779256) were calculated
175	using MEGA X (ver. 10.1.7, see https://www.megasoftware.net; Kumar et al. 2018).
176	
177	Results
178	Molecular analyses
179	Our COI alignment matrix comprised 1,267 bp representing 31 haplotypes of Japanese
180	Torix. The maximum uncorrected pairwise genetic distance among Torix collected in
181	this study was 5.2% (Table 2), which is smaller than the range of interspecific variation
182	observed in other glossiphoniid species (de Carle et al. 2017; Kaygorodova et al. 2020;
183	Jovanović et al. 2021).
184	Our ML (ln $L = -7106.47$ ; Fig. 2) and BI (ln $L = -7154.13$ ; not shown) trees
185	based on COI sequences revealed that all haplotypes detected in this study formed a
186	single well-supported clade (BS = $100\%$ , PP = $1.0$ ) along with the sequence collected in
187	China, which was previously identified by Zhu et al. (2023) as T. tukubana. In addition,

188 *Torix* leeches in Japan formed a monophyletic lineage (BS = 57%, PP = 0.92), and were

moderately supported to form two major clades in eastern (location #1-19, #21 in Table 1) (BS = 60%, PP = 0.98) and western Japan (location #20, #22-27) (BS = 80%, PP = 0.97). For *Torix* + *Hemiclepsis* + *Glossiphonia* leeches, the ABGD and ASAP analyses resulted in 14 groups, the GMYC and bPTP in 20 groups, and mPTP in 4 groups; for *Torix* species, ABGD and ASAP analyses resulted in one group and GMYC, bPTP, and mPTP in two groups (Fig. 2). All of these results supported a one-species classification of Japanese *Torix* species.

196The *ITS* data revealed low genetic diversity within Japanese *Torix* individuals197(uncorrected *p*-distance < 1.1%), which is within the range of intraspecific variation in</td>198*Placobdella* (de Carle *et al.* 2017). Network analysis indicated that *Torix* in Japan can199be broadly divided into the eastern and western lineages (Fig. 3), as indicated in the200phylogenetic analysis of *COI* (Fig. 2). The *18S* rRNA gene sequences of representative201specimens were identical to that of the *T. tukubana* topotype (INSD accession number202LC538285).

203

#### 204 Morphological examination

205 As noted in previous studies (Kambayashi et al. 2019, 2020), the morphology of Torix was highly variable. The results of our study confirmed that the dorsal papillae were 206 207 absent in juveniles. The papillae were usually present on the dorsal surface of mature 208 individuals, but some large individuals did not possess them (Fig. 4c). Some variation 209 was also observed in the number of eyes. Many individuals possessed two pairs of 210 Hemiclepsis-like eyes (Bolotov et al. 2019), and some individuals displayed a single 211 pair of fused eyes. In addition, CW was consistently smaller than BW in adult individuals (Fig. 4*a*–*d*). However, in juveniles, CW was relatively large, sometimes 212

213	exceeding BW (Fig. 4 <i>e</i> - <i>f</i> ). The ventral mid-body somites were typically biannulate, but
214	in some adult individuals, they were superficially divided and formed triannulate mid-
215	body somites. In this study, we found that the morphology of the crop caeca was
216	variable. When the leeches were engorged, the tips of the 1st-6th crop caeca often
217	diverticulated into two or more sections (Fig. $4h$ ), whereas after digesting the blood
218	meal, dissection revealed that they were simple and non-diverticulated (Fig. $5a$ ).
219	

220 Discussion

#### 221 Genetic divergence and biogeographical implications

222 Our molecular-based analyses using mitochondrial *COI* and nuclear *ITS* sequences 223 showed that Japanese Torix are largely divided into eastern and western lineages, with 224 several sublineages (Figs 2-3). The geographic boundary between the two major 225 lineages of Japanese Torix was identified in the vicinity of locations #20 and #21 (Figs 226 1–2). This boundary is similar to that observed in a haemadipsid leech in Japan, which 227 is attributed to their expansion from northern and southern refugia (Morishima and 228 Aizawa 2019).

229 The genetic structure of ectoparasitic leeches is often concordant with that of 230 their host animals, which stems from parallel changes in their distributions (Morishima 231 et al. 2023). One of the boundaries of the Rana tagoi Okada, 1928 species complex, the 232 primary host amphibians of Japanese *Torix* is consistent with the boundary between the 233 eastern and western lineages of Torix (Eto et al. 2012), which suggests that the dispersal 234 of *Torix* is dependent on *R. tagoi*. Although, the boundaries between two major lineages 235 of the R. tagoi species complex (Clade A and B; Eto et al. 2012) and between the two sister sublineages (Clade B-2a and B-2b) occur in the same area, whether these 236

237	correspond to the population divergence and dispersal events of <i>Torix</i> remains unclear.
238	Rana tagoi and Onychodactylus japonicus (Houttuyn, 1782), which are host
239	amphibians of Torix in Japan (Kambayashi et al. 2019, 2020), show high genetic
240	divergence within the Japanese Archipelago (Yoshikawa et al. 2008; Eto et al. 2012),
241	and genetic diversity among Japanese Torix populations is low. In light of the
242	vulnerability of parasites to climate change and their higher risk of extinction compared
243	with that of their hosts (Cizauskas et al. 2017), the expansion of Torix in Japan might be
244	a relatively recent event. To clarify the dispersal history of Torix, future comparative
245	analyses of the divergence time of the Japanese Torix is required.
246	
247	Taxonomic status of three Japanese Torix species
248	The three <i>Torix</i> species in Japan have been distinguished on the basis of a combination
249	of morphological traits, some of which have been reported to be ontogenetic traits
250	(Kambayashi et al. 2019, 2020). The results of our study confirm the findings of the
251	previous studies and show that all of the conventional diagnostic features are highly
252	variable. The characteristics stated in the original description of <i>T. orientalis</i> , including
253	the biannulate segmentation pattern both dorsally and ventrally, two pairs of eyes,
254	smooth dorsal surface, and large caudal sucker, are common in juvenile individuals of
255	Torix in Japan. The conspicuous dorsal papillae and the small caudal suckers identified
256	on <i>T. tukubana</i> , are also typical of large individuals of <i>Torix</i> in Japan. Some large
257	individuals have been found without dorsal papillae (Fig. $4c$ ), and this corresponds to
258	the morphology in the original description of <i>T. tagoi</i> .
259	In addition to the topotypes of <i>T. tukubana</i> used in Kambayashi et al. (2020),
260	we examined the newly collected specimens from the type localities of three Torix

species, as well as those from various localities of Japan. Although our phylogenetic analyses revealed genetically differentiated lineages in Japanese *Torix*, no appropriate diagnostic characteristics that can distinguish each nominal species or population were found. According to the delimitation analysis, the merging of the Japanese *Torix* into a single species was supported by all methods we employed (Fig. 2). Consequently, we concluded that the three *Torix* species known in Japan should be treated as a single species.

268 Of the three species, T. tukubana is the most recently described (Oka 1935) and is considered a junior synonym of the others according to Article 23 of the International 269 270 Code of Zoological Nomenclature (International Commission on Zoological 271 Nomenclature 1999; hereinafter, the Code). However, since the other specific names 272 orientalis and tagoi were published simultaneously in Volume 10 of Annotationes 273 Zoologicae Japonenses on 31 March 1925 (Oka 1925a, b) under the genus Oligobdella, 274 and both have been accepted, the precedence between the two names cannot be 275 objectively determined. Although the specific name *orientalis* is a Latin adjective that 276 means "eastern," the Oriental region is also inhabited by other congeners, including T. 277 mirus from Vietnam and T. cotylifer from continental China. The specific name tagoi is 278 dedicated to the Late Professor Katsuya Tago (1877–1943), a zoologist well-known for 279 his work on amphibians (e.g. Tago 1931). Rana tagoi, the primary host of the Japanese 280 *Torix*, is also named after the Late Professor Tago. According to Article 24.2.2 of the 281 Code, therefore, we herein act as First Reviser and assign precedence to the name O. 282 tagoi; thus, the valid name for the Far East Asian Torix species is T. tagoi unless T. 283 orientalis and T. tagoi are treated as distinct species. The specimens collected on the 284 Korean Peninsula, one of the type localities of *T. tagoi*, were not included in this study.

285	Since more than half of the delimitation analyses suggested that a specimen from China
286	(Zhu et al. 2023) should not be treated as the same species as Japanese Torix species,
287	additional surveys are needed to clarify the taxonomic status of the East Asian
288	continental Torix leeches.
289	
290	Systematics
291	Family GLOSSIPHONIIDAE Vaillant, 1890
292	Genus Torix Blanchard, 1893
293	Type species: Torix mirus Blanchard, 1893, by monotypy
294	
295	<i>Torix tagoi</i> (Oka, 1925)
296	(Figs 4–5)
297	
298	Oligobdella orientalis Oka, 1925a: 311–315, figs 1–2; Autrum 1936: 35, fig. 23; Lukin
299	& Epshtein 1960: 812-814, figs 1-3; Soós 1969: 427; Lukin 1976: 286-289, figs
300	132–135; Yang 1996: 80–82, fig. 53. New synonym.
301	Oligobdella tagoi Oka, 1925: 330–333, figs 4–5; Autrum 1936: 34–35, fig. 22; Lukin &
302	Epshtein 1960: 814; Soós 1969: 427; Lukin 1976: 289–290, figs 136–137; Yang
303	1996: 82–83, fig. 54.
304	Oligoclepsis tukubana Oka, 1935: 66–68, one text figure; Autrum 1936: 36, fig. 24;
305	Lukin & Epshtein 1960b: 479; Soós 1969: 427; Lukin 1976: 290–291, fig. 138.
306	New synonym.
307	Torix orientalis: Sawyer 1986: 655; Sasaki 2019: 7-9, figs 1, 4.
308	Torix tagoi: Sawyer 1986: 655; Sasaki 2015: 5–8, figs 2–5; Bae et al. 2018: 519, fig. 1;

Sasaki 2019: 7–9, figs 2, 4.

*Torix tukubana*: Sawyer 1986: 655; Yoshida 2009: 47, figs 1, 2; Kambayashi *et al.* 2019:
664–665, fig. 1; Sasaki 2019: 8, figs 3, 5; Kambayashi *et al.* 2020: 59–71, figs 1–2;
Zhu *et al.* 2023: 388 (its taxonomic account should be clarified in future studies). *Torix* sp.: Yoshinari *et al.* 2022: 10, fig. 2. *Amended diagnosis.*Body greenish. Caudal sucker ventral, oval. Somites XIII–XXIV dorsally biannulate,

317 ventrally triannulate. Anus between penultimate and last annuli. Male gonopore 318 between somites XI/XII, female gonopore between somite XII (a1 + a2)/a3, gonopores 319 separated by 1 annulus XII (a1 + a2). Eyes in 2 pairs; 1st pair inconspicuous on somite 320 II, 2nd pair on somite III. Dorsal papillae on IV–XXVI, max. 44 on every mid-body 321 annulus. Mouth pore on anterior margin of oral sucker. Salivary cells in 1 pair of 322 compact mass. Oesophagus simple, Oesophageal grand absent. Bacteriosomes absent. 323 Crop giving rise to 7 pairs of crop caeca, 1st–6th pairs diverticulated during 324 engorgement, 7th pair (post-crop caeca) diverticulated into 4 sections. Intersomital 325 testisacs in 6 pairs. Paired sperm ducts thick, strongly coiled. Atrial cornua directed 326 anterolaterally, developed ovate. Paired ovisacs tubular.

327

#### 328 *Neotypification*

329 Six specimens examined in the original description of *T. tagoi* (Oka 1925b), were

automatically fixed as syntypes according to Article 73.2 of the Code. However, no type

331 series of this species were found at NSMT and UMUT, and the syntypes are believed to

have been lost or destroyed in the past according to our survey and Nakano and Itoh

(2011). The original description of *T. tagoi* is on the basis of specimens collected from
multiple localities, and individuals from each type locality are likely to belong to their
respective lineages (see Discussion), leading the nomenclatural status of this species
unclear. In order to prevent zoological and nomenclatural concerns on these species, we
propose neotype for *T. tagoi*. The neotype has been deposited in the KUZ, which
maintains a collection of Japanese leeches.

339 One newly collected specimen, KUZ Z4997, was selected as the neotype for T. 340 *tagoi*. This neotype possesses the characteristics outlined in the amended diagnosis, and 341 each body measurement was as follows: BL 20.6 mm, BW 5.83 mm, CL 3.04 mm, and 342 CW 2.90 mm (Fig. 4*a*-*b*). The original specimens of *T. tagoi* were collected in Hida 343 Province (currently Gero City, Hida City, Shirakawa Village, and Takayama City, Gifu 344 Prefecture) in Japan and Koryo (north of Seoul) on the Korean Peninsula. The neotype 345 was collected in Takayama City (36°12′56″N, 137°06′15″E; elev. 1213 m), which is 346 included in Hida Province, one of the original type localities.

Although this neotype differed in several characteristics compared with its original descriptions, all these features were found to vary ontogenetically according to a previous and the present survey (Kambayashi *et al.* 2019, 2020). Given the fact that no other biannulate glossiphoniid species were found at the type locality of this species, there is no doubt over the identity of the species as *T. tagoi*.

352

353 *Material examined.* 

Neotype of *T. tagoi*: KUZ Z4997, a mature specimen, dissected, collected from Takayama
City, Gifu Prefecture, Japan, on 8 May 2021.

356

Additional material. In total, 17 matured specimens were examined and

dissected: KUZ Z4998 and Z5000 (two specimens), locality as for neotype of *T. tagoi*;

358 KUZ Z4975, Z4977–Z4978 (three specimens), collected from Nemuro City, Hokkaido,

- 359 Japan (= topotypes of *T. orientalis*); KUZ Z4982 (one specimen) collected from
- 360 Tomakomai City, Hokkaido, Japan; KUZ Z2972–Z2973 (two specimens) examined in
- 361 Kambayashi *et al.* (2020) and KUZ Z4989 (one specimen) collected from Mt.
- 362 Tsukubasan, Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan (= topotypes of *T. tukubana*); KUZ Z4992 (one
- 363 specimen) collected from Yumoto, Nikko City, Tochigi Prefecture, Japan (= topotype of
- 364 *T. orientalis*); KUZ Z5002, Z5004, and Z5005 (three specimens) collected from Akame,
- 365 Nabari City, Mie Prefecture, Japan (= topotypes of *T. orientalis*); KUZ Z5008 (one
- 366 specimen) collected from Katsuta-gun, Okayama Prefecture, Japan; KUZ Z5011–Z5013
- 367 (three specimens) collected from Hatsukaichi City, Hiroshima Prefecture, Japan.
- 368 Additionally, three juvenile specimens were examined: KUZ Z4980 (one specimen)
- 369 collected from Samani-gun, Hokkaido, Japan; KUZ Z4996 collected from Nakatsugawa
- 370 City, Gifu Prefecture, Japan; KUZ Z5014 collected from Hatsukaichi City, Hiroshima
- 371 Prefecture, Japan.
- 372
- 373 Description of matured individuals
- Body lanceolate or ovate (Fig. 4*a*–*d*). Caudal sucker ventral, oval. Measurements (mean
- $\pm 1$ SD, followed by ranges in parenthesis; n = 18, including neotype): BL 16.6  $\pm 4.1$
- 376 mm (10.7–22.7 mm), BW 6.15  $\pm$  1.93 mm (3.39–10.1 mm), CL 3.15  $\pm$  0.73 mm (2.14–
- 377 4.67) mm, CW  $2.97 \pm 0.74$  mm (1.86–4.57 mm).
- Somite I completely merged with prostomium. Somites II (= peristomium), III uniannulate; Somites IV–VI often uniannulate, each with slight dorsal furrow, rarely both dorsally and ventrally biannulate, (a1 + a2) > a3. Somite VII often both dorsally

381	and ventrally biannulate, $(a1 + a2) > a3$ , rarely uniannulate with slight dorsal furrow.
382	Somites VIII–XII both dorsally and ventrally biannulate, $(a1 + a2) > a3$ . Somites XIII–
383	XXIV variable; some both dorsally and ventrally biannulate, $(a1 + a2) > a3$ , others
384	dorsally biannulate, $(a1 + a2) > a3$ , ventrally triannulate, $a1 = a2 < a3$ , ventral annular
385	furrow between a1 and a2 slightly shallow. Somite XXIV a3 being ventrally last
386	complete annulus. Somite XXV uniannulate. Annulation of somites XXVI and XXVII
387	comprising 3 annuli altogether; antepenultimate = penultimate > last. Anus between
388	penultimate and last annuli.
389	Clitellum unobservable.
390	Male gonopore between XI/XII. Female gonopore between XII $(a1 + a2)/a3$ .
391	Gonopores separated by 1 annulus.
392	Eyes in one or two pairs on anterior margin of II to anterior margin of III.
393	Dorsal papillae on IV-XXVI, max. 44 on every mid-body annulus, forming 1
394	inconspicuous transverse row on posterior margin of $(a1 + a2)$ , and on middle of a3 of
395	each mid-body somite, respectively.
396	Nephridiopores undetectable.
397	Mouth pore on anterior margin of oral sucker. Proboscis in membranous sheath
398	reaching to XI/XII, without forming loop (Fig. 5a). Salivary cells arranged in 1 pair of
399	compact mass between somites IX (a1 + a2)–XIII a3 (Fig. 5a); multiple ductules
400	inserting independently into base of proboscis in XI (Fig. 5a). Oesophagus simple (Fig.
401	5a), occasionally recurved; Oesophageal grand absent. Bacteriosomes absent. Crop
402	reaching to XIX/XX, giving rise to 7 pairs of crop caeca (Fig. 5 <i>a</i> ); 1st–6th pairs crop
403	caeca appearing simple and nondiverticulated when unfed, diverticulated in multiple
404	sections when engorged: 1st pair in XIII $(a1 + a2)-a3$ ; 2nd pair in XIV $(a1 + a2)-a3$ ;

405 3rd pair in XV (a1 + a2)-a3; 4th pair in XVI (a1 + a2)-a3; 5th pair in XVII (a1 + a2)-

- 406 a3; 6th pair in XVIII (a1 + a2)–a3; and 7th pair (post-crop caeca) diverticulated into 4
- 407 sections, in XIX (a1 + a2)-XXII a3. Intestinal caeca in 4 pairs (Fig. 5*a*): 1st pair in XIX
- 408 (a1 + a2)–XX (a1 + a2); 2nd pair in XX (a1 + a2)–a3; 3rd pair in XXI (a1 + a2)–a3; 4th
- 409 pair in XXII (a1 + a2)–a3. Rectum simple tubular (Fig. 5*a*), occasionally recurved.
- 410 Testisacs in 6 pairs, intersomital (Fig. 5*a*): 1st pair in XIII a3–XIV (a1 + a2); 2nd pair in
- 411 XIV a3–XV (a1 + a2); 3rd pair in XV a3–XVI (a1 + a2); 4th pair in XVI a3–XVII (a1 +
- 412 a2); 5th pair in XVII a3–XVIII (a1 + a2); 6th pair in XVIII a3–XIX (a1 + a2). Paired
- 413 sperm ducts thick, strongly coiled, in XI–XIII (Fig. 5*a–b*). Pair of muscular atrial
- 414 cornua directed anterolaterally, developed ovate, in XI a3–XII (a1 + a2) (Fig. 5b). One
- 415 pair of ovisacs tubular, thin-walled, slightly folded running alongside ventral nerve
- 416 cord, XII (a1 + a2) to XIII (a1 + a2)-XVIII (a1 + a2) (Fig. 5b); both ovisacs reaching to
- 417 XII (a1 + a2), then turned posteromedially toward female gonopore (Fig. 5*b*).
- 418

### 419 Description of juveniles

- 420 Measurements (mean, followed by ranges in parenthesis; n = 3): BL 3.69 mm (3.49–
- 421 3.80 mm), BW 1.13 mm (0.97–1.29 mm), CL 1.08 mm (0.96–1.24 mm), CW 1.03 mm
- 422 (0.84–1.22 mm). Somites I–V uniannulate, and VI–XXIV biannulate in KUZ Z4980
- 423 and Z5014. Somites I-VII uniannulate, and VIII-XXIV biannulate in KUZ Z4996. Eyes
- 424 in 2 pairs: 1st pair on posterior margin of II; 2nd pair on anterior margin of III. Male
- 425 and female gonopore undetectable. Dorsal papillae undeveloped. CW relative to BW is
- 426 larger than that found in mature individuals (Fig. 4*a*–*f*), occasionally CW is larger than
- 427

BW.

429 *Colouration*.

430 In life, dorsal surface uniform dark or light green, white and green mottled on distal

431 margin (Fig. 4g); ventral surface transparent (Fig. 4h). Colour faded in preservative;

432 uniform pale green or yellowish-gray (Fig. 4a-d).

433

434 *Host preference*.

435 All specimens of *T. tagoi*, with the exception of free-living individuals, were collected

436 from the body surface of amphibians. The observed amphibian host species of *T. tagoi* 

437 are as follows: Buergeria buergeri (Temminck & Schlegel, 1838), Rana ornativentris

438 Werner, 1903, R. tagoi, R. sakuraii Matsui & Matsui, 1990, R. pirica Matsui, 1991, R.

439 neba Ryuzaki, Hasegawa & Kuramoto, 2014, Hynobius retardatus Dunn, 1923, H.

440 kimurae Dunn, 1923, H. sematonotos Tominaga, Matsui & Nishikawa, 2019,

441 Onychodactylus japonicus, and O. kinneburi Yoshikawa, Matsui, Tanabe & Okayama,

442 2013. The most frequently infested hosts are *R. pirica* in Hokkaido and *R. tagoi* in

443 Honshu and Shikoku. In Korea and China, R. uenoi Matsui, 2014 and R. dybowskii

Günther, 1876 have been recorded as the host animals, respectively (Bae *et al.* 2018;

445 Zhu *et al.* 2023).

446

447 Remarks

448 Examination of the topotypes of *T. tagoi*, *T. orientalis*, and *T. tukubana* revealed no

449 diagnostic characters that could be used to distinguish them. Because the genetic

450 divergence in the *COI* sequences among these species was low, we concluded that the

451 three *Torix* species should be treated as a single species and proposed *T. tagoi* as a valid

452 species name. The genus *Torix* contains four nominal species following this

synonymization: *T. mirus*, *T. cotylifer*, *T. novaezealandiae* (Dendy & Olliver, 1900), and *T. tagoi. Torix tagoi* can be easily distinguished from the other congeneric species by the
following characters: 1) position of the male gonopore; 2) shape and number of the crop
caeca; and 3) shape of the ovisacs (Table 3).

457 The type species of *Torix*, *T. mirus*, was described as a biannulate species by 458 Blanchard (1893). In the subsequent redescription by Blanchard (1898), the male 459 gonopore was shown to be located at XI (a1 + a2)/a3, which differs from *T. tagoi*, 460 wherein the male gonopore is located at XI/XII. Torix mirus is known to prey on 461 mollusks (liquidsomatophagous), and its feeding behavior differs from that of T. tagoi, 462 which sucks blood from amphibians (haematophagous). Although both species share a 463 reduced annulation pattern, the annulation reduction can occur more frequently than 464 previously thought. In light of the aforementioned morphological and ecological 465 differences, T. tagoi and T. mirus might belongs to separate lineages. Torix tagoi and T. 466 orientalis were originally described as members of the genus Oligobdella, and they 467 have been synonymized with *Placobdella* (Siddall et al. 2005). However, T. tukubana, 468 which is considered a new synonym of *T. tagoi*, was described under the genus 469 Oligoclepsis Oka, 1935. Future comparative studies are required in order to clarify the 470 taxonomic status of T. tagoi; if T. tagoi and T. mirus are found to belong to separate 471 lineages, the genus Oligoclepsis will be resurrected for T. tagoi. 472 473 Data availability

The data that support this study will be shared upon reasonable request to thecorresponding author.

476

#### 477 **Conflicts of interest**

- 478 The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.
- 479

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- 669 **Table 1.** Samples with voucher numbers, collection localities, and International Nucleotide Sequences Database (INSD) or Barcode of
- 670 Life Data System (BOLD) accession numbers of the sequences used for molecular analyses. Sequences marked with an asterisk (\*)
- 671 were obtained for the first time in the present study. Special remarks for each specimen are shown in parentheses. Acronyms: KUZ, the
- 672 Zoological Collection of Kyoto University; TRPM, Tottori Prefectural Museum.

Species	Locati	Lagelity	Vauahan		INSD/BOLD	Defense	
Species	on #	Locality	vouener	COI	18S	ITS	References
Ingroup (= <i>Torix tagoi</i> )							
(Topotype of <i>T. orientalis</i> )	1	Nemuro City, Hokkaido	KUZ Z4975	LC776047*	LC776025*	LC776026*	This study
			KUZ Z4976	LC776048*	_	_	This study
			KUZ Z4977	LC776049*	_	_	This study
			KUZ Z4978	LC776050*	_	_	This study
	2	Akkeshi-cho, Hokkaido	KUZ Z4979	LC776051*	_	LC776027*	This study
	3	Samani-gun, Hokkaido	KUZ Z4980	LC776052*	-	LC776028*	This study
	4	Yubari City, Hokkaido	KUZ Z4981	LC776053*	-	LC776029*	This study
	5	Tomakomai City, Hokkaido	KUZ Z4982	LC776054*	-	LC776030*	This study
			KUZ Z4983	LC776055*	-	-	This study
	6	Oshamanbe-cho, Hokkaido	KUZ Z4984	LC776056*	-	LC776031*	This study
	7	Ajigasawa-machi, Aomori Pref.	KUZ Z4985	LC776057*	-	-	This study
	8	Sendai City, Miyagi Pref.	KUZ Z4986	-	_	-	_
	9	Nagai City, Yamagata Pref.	KUZ Z4987	-	_	-	_
	10	Tamura City, Fukushima Pref.	KUZ Z4988	LC776058*	_	LC776032*	This study

(Topotype of <i>T. tukubana</i> )	11	Tsukuba City, Ibaraki Pref.	KUZ Z2972	LC538265	LC538285	LC776033*	Kambayashi et al. (2020); This study
		.,	KUZ Z4989	LC776059*	_	_	This study
			KUZ Z4990	LC776060*	_	_	This study
			KUZ Z4991	LC776061*	_	_	This study
(Topotype of T. orientalis)	12	Yumoto, Nikko City, Tochigi Pref.	KUZ Z4992	LC776062*	-	LC776034*	This study
			KUZ Z4993	LC776063*	_	_	This study
	13	Nagano City, Nagano Pref.	KUZ Z4994	_	_	_	-
	14	Itoigawa City, Niigata Pref.	KUZ Z4995	LC776064*	-	LC776035*	This study
	15	Nakatsugawa City, Gifu Pref.	KUZ Z4996	LC776065*	-	LC776036*	This study
(Neotype of T. tagoi)	16	Takayama City, Gifu Pref.	KUZ Z4997	LC776066*	LC776024*	LC776037*	This study
(Topotype of T. tagoi)			KUZ Z4998	LC776067*	_	_	This study
			KUZ Z4999	LC776068*	-	_	This study
			KUZ Z5000	LC776069*	-	_	This study
	17	Taga-cho, Shiga Pref.	KUZ Z5001	LC776070*	_	LC776038*	This study
(Topotype of T. orientalis)	18	Akame, Nabari City, Mie Pref.	KUZ Z5002	LC776071*	LC776022*	LC776039*	This study
			KUZ Z5003	LC776072*	-	_	This study
			KUZ Z5004	LC776073*	-	_	This study
			KUZ Z5005	LC776074*	-	-	This study
	19	Nantan City, Kyoto Pref.	KUZ Z5006	LC776075*	-	_	This study
	20	Toyooka City, Hyogo Pref.	KUZ Z5007	LC776076*	-	LC776040*	This study
	21	Katsuta-gun, Okayama Pref.	KUZ Z5008	LC776077*	-	LC776041*	This study
	22	Saihaku-gun, Tottori Pref.	TRPM-AO-	LC776078*	-	LC776042*	This study
			0000256				

	23	Miyoshi City, Hiroshima Pref.	KUZ Z5010	LC776079*	-	LC776043*	This study
	24	Hatsukaichi City, Hiroshima Pref.	KUZ Z5011	LC776080*	LC776023*	LC776044*	This study
			KUZ Z5012	LC776081*	_	_	This study
			KUZ Z5013	LC776082*	_	_	This study
			KUZ Z5014	LC776083*	_	_	This study
	25	Okinoshima-cho, Shimane Pref.	KUZ Z5015	LC776084*	_	LC776045*	This study
	26	Mima City, Tokushima Pref.	KUZ Z5016	_	_	_	_
	27	Kumakougen-cho, Ehime Pref.	KUZ Z5017	LC776085*	_	LC776046*	This study
(Identified as <i>T. tukubana</i> )	28	Dandong City, Liaoning Province,	_	OL779256	_	_	Zhu et al. (2023)
		China					
Dutgroup							
Hemiclepsis kasmiana		South Korea	Hir103/4	MN295423	_	_	Bolotov et al. (2019)
Oka, 1910							
Hemiclepsis khankiana		Primorsky Krai, Russia	Hir101	MN295420	_	_	Bolotov et al. (2019)
Bolotov, Klass,							
Bespalaya, Konopleva,							
Kondakov & Vikhrev,							
2019							
Hemiclepsis marginata		France	_	AF003259	_	_	Siddall and Burreson (1998)
(O. F. Müller, 1773)							
Hemiclepsis		Myanmar	Hir48/1	MN295394	_	_	Bolotov et al. (2019)
<i>myanmariana</i> Bolotov,							
Klass, Bespalaya,							

Konopleva, Kondakov &						
Vikhrev, 2019						
Hemiclepsis schrencki	Primorsky Krai, Russia	Hir88/1	MN295415	_	_	Bolotov et al. (2019)
Bolotov, Klass,						
Bespalaya, Konopleva,						
Kondakov & Vikhrev,						
2019						
Hemiclepsis tumniniana	Khabarovsk Krai, Russia	Hem1/2	MN295371	_	_	Bolotov <i>et al.</i> (2019)
Bolotov, Klass,						
Bespalaya, Konopleva,						
Kondakov & Vikhrev,						
2019						
Hemiclepsis	Jingzhou, Hubei Province, China	_	MN106285	_	_	Yi et al. (2022)
yangtzenensis Yang &						
Bolotov, 2021						
Glossiphonia balcanica	Dečani, Kosovo	Gbalc1	LCHME036	_	_	Jovanović et al. (2021)
Grosser & Pešić, 2016			-20			
Glossiphonia baicalensis	Lake Baikal, Russia	_	AY047329	_	_	Light and Siddall (1999)
(Stschegolew, 1922)						
Glossiphonia complanata	Ohrid Lake, North Macedonia	MAC1_1	LCHME020	_	_	Jovanović et al. (2021)
(Linnaeus, 1758)			-20			
Glossiphonia complanata	Podgorica, Montenegro	MN1_1	LCHME008	_	-	Jovanović et al. (2021)
			-20			

Glossiphonia concolor	Mecklenburg-Vorpommern,	Gcon1	LCHME041	_	_	Jovanović et al. (2021)
(Apathy, 1888)	Germany		-20			
Glossiphonia concolor	Ukraine	-	KM095097	_	_	Kaygorodova and Mandzyak (2014)
Glossiphonia elegans	Manitoba, Canada	ROMIZI115	MK479253	-	_	Mack and Kvist (2019)
Verrill, 1872		05				
Glossiphonia nebulosa	Berlin, Germany	Gnebu4	LCHME044	_	_	Jovanović et al. (2021)
Kalbe, 1964			-20			
Glossiphonia cf. nebulosa	Dečani, Kosovo	Gnebu1	LCHME042	_	_	Jovanović et al. (2021)
			-20			
Glossiphonia verrucata	Sweden	-	AY962458	_	_	Siddall et al. (2005)
(Fr. Müller, 1844)						
Glossiphonia verrucata	Croatia	ROMIZI117	MK479263	_	_	Mack and Kvist (2019)
		53				
Glossiphonia verrucata	Croatia	ROMIZI117	MK479264	_	_	Mack and Kvist (2019)
		55				
Glossiphonia sp.	Lake Izumrudnoe, Russia	Н56	MH670835	_	_	Kaygorodova et al. (2020)

## **Table 2.** Uncorrected *p*-distances for the mitochondrial *COI* sequences of representative *Torix* specimens. Location numbers in Table 1

are presented in parentileses.								
Voucher	1	2	3	4	5	6	7 8	9
1. KUZ Z4976; topotype of T. orientalis (1)								
2. KUZ Z4982 (5)	0.02	26						
3. KUZ Z2972; topotype of <i>T. tukubana</i> (11)	0.03	0.042						
4. KUZ Z4992; topotype of <i>T. orientalis</i> (12)	0.03	0.043	0.0039					
5. KUZ Z4997; neotype of <i>T. tagoi</i> (16)	0.03	0.043	0.030	0.031				
6. KUZ Z5002; topotype of <i>T. orientalis</i> (18)	0.03	0.043	0.032	0.035	0.024			
7. KUZ Z5011 (24)	0.03	0.052	0.039	0.040	0.035	0.041		
8. KUZ Z5017 (27)	0.03	0.043	0.034	0.034	0.034	0.039	0.019	
9. China; identified as T. tukubana (28)	0.04	8 0.057	0.051	0.051	0.042	0.044	0.044	0.040

### 675 are presented in parentheses.

# **Table 3.** Comparisons of morphological characters between *Torix tagoi* and three

# 678 congeneric species.

Character	Torix tagoi	Torix cotylifer	Torix mirus	Torix novaezealandiae
Male gonopore	XI/XII	XI/XII	XI (a1 + a2)/a3	?
Crop caeca	7 pairs: 1st–6th	7 pairs: 1st pair	?	6 pairs: 1st pair being very
	pairs being	extending to		small
	equal-sized	lateral margin of		
		body		
Ovisacs	tubular	globular	?	tubular



Fig. 1. Map showing the sampling localities of *Torix* specimens used in this study. Open
circles, the square, and triangles indicate the type localities of *T. orientalis*, *T. tukubana*,
and *T. tagoi*, respectively. The numbers of localities are shown in Table 1.



Fig. 2. Maximum likelihood tree for 1,267 bp of the mitochondrial COI gene, along with 686 the results of five species-delimitation analyses (ABGD, ASAP, GMYC, bPTP, and 687 688 mPTP) as indicated by vertical bars. Voucher and location number corresponding to Table 689 1 are presented for *Torix*. The blue and red shading indicate the eastern (locations #1–19, #21 in Table 1) and western (#20, #22–27) lineages of Japanese Torix, respectively. Open 690 691 circles, the square, and triangles indicate the topotypes of T. orientalis, T. tukubana, and 692 T. tagoi, respectively. Numbers on nodes represent bootstrap values for maximum 693 likelihood and Bayesian posterior probabilities.



Fig. 3. Statistical parsimony network of nuclear *ITS* haplotypes. The blue and red circles
indicate haplogroups of the eastern and western lineages of Japanese *Torix* shown in Fig.
2, respectively. Black circles indicate the missing haplotypes. The number on each circle

- 699 corresponds to the location number in Table 1.
- 700



702Fig. 4. Torix specimens used in this study: (a) dorsal and (b) ventral views of the neotype703of T. tagoi (KUZ Z4997); (c) dorsal and (d) ventral views of the topotype of T. orientalis704(KUZ Z4975); (e) dorsal and (f) ventral views of a juvenile specimen (KUZ Z4980); (g)705dorsal view of the live neotype of T. tagoi; (h) ventral view of live adult individual (KUZ706Z5006). Scale bars: 10 mm (a-d, g-h), 1 mm (e-f).



Fig. 5. *Torix tagoi*, neotype (KUZ Z4997): (*a*) dorsal view of the digestive tract and male
genital organs; (*b*) dorsal view of the reproductive system and positions of ganglia XI–
XVIII. Abbreviations: ac, atrial cornu; agm, anterior ganglionic mass; cc, crop cecum; fg,
female gonopore; ic, intestinal cecum; mg, male gonopore; oes, oesophagus; ov, ovisac;
pb, proboscis; pcc, post-crop cecum; rt, rectum; scm, salivary cells mass; sd, sperm duct;

714 ts, testisac. Scale bar: 5 mm(a), 1 mm(b).