



## Taxonomical study on the genus *Pselaphodes* Westwood (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Pselaphinae) from China. Part I.

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### Abstract

Twelve Chinese species of the genus *Pselaphodes* Westwood, 1870 are described and illustrated. This includes one previously known species, *Pselaphodes walkeri* (Sharp, 1892), and, eleven new species: *P. aculeus* Yin, Li & Zhao **sp. nov.** from Yunnan, *P. cornutus* Yin, Li & Zhao **sp. nov.** from Henan, *P. declinatus* Yin, Li & Zhao **sp. nov.** from Zhejiang, *P. hlavaci* Yin, Li & Zhao **sp. nov.** from Sichuan, *P. latilobus* Yin, Li & Zhao **sp. nov.** from Zhejiang, *P. miraculum* Yin, Li & Zhao **sp. nov.** from Guizhou, *P. nomurai* Yin, Li & Zhao **sp. nov.** from Henan and Shanxi, *P. subtilissimus* Yin, Li & Zhao **sp. nov.** from Yunnan, *P. tianmuensis* Yin, Li & Zhao **sp. nov.** from Zhejiang, *P. torus* Yin, Li & Zhao **sp. nov.** from Qinghai and *P. wuyinus* Yin, Li & Zhao **sp. nov.** from Jiangxi and Fujian. *Labomimus yunnanicus* Hlaváč, Nomura & Zhou, 2002 is transferred to *Pselaphodes*. A key to all thirteen Chinese species of *Pselaphodes* is provided.

**Key words:** Staphylinidae, Pselaphinae, Tyrini, *Pselaphodes*, taxonomy, new combination, new species, key, China

### Introduction

The genus *Pselaphodes* was erected by Westwood (1870) to accommodate his new species *P. villosus*, described from Sarawak, Borneo. Nine species have since been added or moved to this genus (Hlavac & Chandler 2005). All species are restricted to the Oriental region (Sri Lanka, East China, India, Philippines, Singapore). Only one species, *P. walkeri* (Sharp, 1892), had been recorded from China (Zhejiang Province). The genus *Pselaphodes* is a member of a complex of closely allied genera (Hlaváč 2002), that are presently known only from the Oriental region, continental China, Taiwan and Japan. *Pselaphodes* can be readily separated from its allies by the following combination of characters: 1) a usually well-defined pair of vertexal foveae and a frontal fovea; 2) lateral and median pronotal foveae very distinct; 3) maxillary palpi usually with palpomere I very minute, II pedunculate, palpomeres II–IV asymmetrical, roundly expanded or protuberant laterally; 4) median metaventral fovea absent.

The first Chinese species of *Pselaphodes* was described by Sharp (1892) as *Eulasinus walkeri*, taken from the summit of the “Ta-maou” Island of the Chusan Archipelago. *Eulasinus* was later synonymized with *Pselaphodes* by Hlaváč (2002: 286). We are of the opinion that the correct transliteration of the locality should be the “Da-mao” Island (Island of a big cat), one of the 1,390 islands of the Zhoushan Archipelago. Very little collecting effort was made in Zhejiang Province before: that may be the reason why *P. walkeri* was recorded only from the Da-mao Island.

Study of the collection of Pselaphinae deposited in SHNUC revealed another 11 species of *Pselaphodes* that were found to be new to science. Most of the species were collected from the Oriental region, or from the zone of overlap between the Oriental and Palaearctic regions, except for *P. torus* **sp. nov.**, which was collected from the southeastern part of Qinghai Province (Palaearctic region).

A key to the Chinese species of *Pselaphodes* is presented before the section containing the descriptions.