



On the identity of *Anchorosternum sinense* (Coleoptera: Hydrophilidae: Megasternini)

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The monotypic genus *Anchorosternum* Jia, Wu, & Pu, 2001 (Hydrophilidae: Sphaeridiinae: Megasterini) was originally described to accommodate *A. sinense* Jia, Wu & Pu, 2001, then known from four specimens collected in dung in southern China. At the time of its description, Jia *et al.* (2001) were unable to compare it with type material of other megasternine taxa occurring in the Oriental region, and as such the genus was largely diagnosed using the key to megasternine genera published by Hansen (1991), which also can be difficult to use without comparative material at hand. Moreover, all four type specimens were lost when the entomological collection of Sun Yat-sen University (formerly Zhongshan University) in Guangzhou, P. R. China, moved to a new building. Consequently, *Anchorosternum* remained the last megasternine genus with unclear status following the revision of recently described hydrophilid genera by Short & Fikáček (2011) and the revision of the Megasternini described previously by the Chinese authors by Jia *et al.* (2011). In 2010, the senior author of this paper found a single specimen of *Anchorosternum sinense* bearing the same locality data as the lost holotype in the collection of the Sun Yat-sen University. This specimen is designated below as the neotype of *A. sinense*. Its detailed study revealed that it is conspecific with *Paroosternum saundersi* (Orchymont, 1925), which makes *Anchorosternum* a junior synonym of *Paroosternum*.

Paroosternum Scott, 1913

Paroosternum Scott, 1913: 220. Type species: *P. degayanum* Scott, 1913 (by original designation).

Anchorosternum Jia, Wu, & Pu, 2001: 155, **new synonym**. Type species: *A. sinensis* Jia, Wu & Pu, 2001 (by original designation).

Taxonomic note. *Anchorosternum* is identical with *Paroosternum* in all external diagnostic characters: (i) antennal grooves not reaching lateral margin of the hypomeron; (ii) median portion of prosternum elevated, with lateral parts deeply excised [character unique for *Paroosternum* within the Megasternini]; (iii) preepisternal plate elongate oval; (iv) metaventricle without anterolateral ridge; (v) femoral lines complete, reaching anterolateral corner of metaventricle [not drawn in the original illustration, but mentioned in generic description]. In addition, the type species of *Anchorosternum* agrees with the previously described species of *Paroosternum* (see below). For all these reasons, we consider *Anchorosternum* as a junior subjective synonym of *Paroosternum*.

Paroosternum saundersi (Orchymont, 1925)

Oosternum Saundersi Orchymont, 1925: 289. Type locality: Singapore.

Paroosternum saundersi: Hansen (1991: 261, transferred from *Oosternum* to *Paroosternum*).

Anchorosternum sinensis Jia, Wu, & Pu, 2001: 157, **new synonym**. Type locality: China, Guangxi province, Nanning.

Anchorosternum sinense: Hansen (2004: 61, corrected spelling).