



Review of Chinese species of the genus *Ontholestes* Ganglbauer, 1895 (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Staphylininae) with description of two species new to science

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Abstract

Species of the genus *Ontholestes* Ganglbauer, 1895 that occur in the fauna of China are reviewed. *Ontholestes napoensis* Yang & Zhou, **sp. nov.** is described from Guangxi and *O. xinqiaoensis* Yang & Zhou, **sp. nov.** from Fujian provinces of China. *Ontholestes callistus* (Hochhuth, 1849) is recorded from China for the first time. Male genitalia and other taxonomically important characters are illustrated for both new and the following other Chinese species: *O. aurosparsus* (Fauvel, 1895), *O. inauratus* (Mannerheim, 1830), *O. murinus* (Linné, 1758), *O. oculatus* (Sharp, 1874), *O. orientalis* Bernhauer, 1906, *O. proximus* Kirshenblat, 1936, *O. simulator* Kirshenblat, 1936, *O. tenuicornis* (Kraatz, 1859) and *O. tessellatus* (Geoffroy, 1785). An identification key to all species of *Ontholestes* known from China is presented, and their geographical distribution in China is mapped.

Key words: Staphylinini, Staphylinina, *Ontholestes*, taxonomy, China, new species, new record, geographic distribution

Introduction

The subtribe Staphylinina Latreille, 1802 (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Staphylinini) is a speciose rove beetle group of mostly ground-dwelling species living in leaf litter, dead wood and other similar microhabitats in the forest and open landscapes. According to the current classification of Staphylinidae (e.g., Herman 2001), this subtribe includes 42 genera, one of which is the genus *Ontholestes* Ganglbauer, 1895.

The genus *Ontholestes* was erected by Ganglbauer (1895) for two species, *Ontholestes murinus* (Linné, 1758) and *O. nebulosus* (Fabricius, 1793) (now a synonym of *O. tessellatus* (Geoffroy, 1785)). Of them *Staphylinus murinus* Linné, 1758 was subsequently designated as the type species of the genus *Ontholestes* (Lucas 1920). Taxonomic history of *Ontholestes* is complex (Kraatz, 1857; Thomson, 1858 & 1859; Heyden, 1880; Heyden, Reitter & Weise, 1891; Heyden, 1893), but it is not a subject of this paper. In its current sense *Ontholestes* comprises 28 species distributed in all continents except Australia. Of them 9 species were hitherto known from China (Herman, 2001; Smetana, 2004): *Ontholestes aurosparsus* (Fauvel, 1895), *O. inauratus* (Mannerheim, 1830), *O. murinus* (Linné, 1758), *O. oculatus* (Sharp, 1874), *O. orientalis* Bernhauer, 1906, *O. proximus* Kirshenblat, 1936, *O. simulator* Kirshenblat, 1936, *O. tenuicornis* (Kraatz, 1859) and *O. tessellatus* (Geoffroy, 1785).

In addition to those 9 listed species, 3 species (*O. hairaerensis* Li, 1993, *O. hayashii* Li, 1992 and *O. paramurinus* Li, 1993) have been described for China by Li (1992, 1993). However the books, where these species were described, are hardly available for scientific community. In our interpretation of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) (cf. Articles 8, 8.1, 8.1.1-8.1.2), they were not properly published for the purposes of the zoological nomenclature. Even if someone considers these books as formally published, because of the very poor quality of descriptions, it is impossible to establish identity of any species described there. Additionally, the descriptions provide no information about the location of the type specimens, while our repetitive requests to