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Taxonomy of the genus *Oxytelus* Gravenhorst (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Oxytelinae) from China

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Abstract

The Oxytelus Gravenhorst, 1802 is one of the most speciose genus in the subfamily Oxytelinae (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae) and its members are mainly ground dwellers and are distributed in almost all geographical regions. This paper reports four new species from China: O. abiturus sp. nov, from Sichuan and Yunnan, O. ailaoshanicus sp. nov, from Shaanxi, Sichuan, and Yunnan, O. bajiei sp. nov, from Guangxi, Hubei, Hunan, Sichuan, Yunnan, and O. solus sp. nov, from Sichuan. The following four names are synonymized: O. ginyuenensis Bernhauer, 1935 and O. takahashii Ito, 1994 (= O. lucidulus Cameron, 1929); O. discalis Cameron, 1930 (= O. punctipennis Fauvel, 1905); O. nilgiriensis Cameron, 1930 (= O. subferrugineus Cameron, 1941). The Chinese fauna of the genus is thus increased to twenty-one species. All other species known to occur in China are also revised and redescribed to update the knowledge on their identifications. Some important characters are discussed, detailed line drawing is offered for each species, and a key to all the Chinese species is provided. All the types of the new species are deposited in IZ-CAS.

key words: Staphylinidae, Oxytelinae, Oxytelus, Taxonomy, China

Introduction

The genus Oxytelus was established by Gravenhorst (1802), with originally 11 species. The taxonomic definition then was dramatically different from what was used in last decades and those species were assigned to seven different genera of the subfamily Oxytelinae (Coleoptera) in the current classification. The type species of this genus is Staphylinus piceus Linné, 1767, a subsequent designation by Latreille (1810). According to the diagnostic characters of the type species given by Linné (1767), the genus should have pitchy elytra (contrast to the dark body) and depressed thorax with three longitudinal “striae” (today “sulci” instead); both are now common