



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3609.5.5>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:E4E87D20-B180-4EB9-9DDB-4E48AACF511B>

Three new species of Eutheiini (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae) from China

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Abstract

Three new species of the ant-like stone beetle tribe Eutheiini are described from the People's Republic of China: *Eutheia laolongiana* **sp. n.** (Gansu), *Veraphis gansuanus* **sp. n.** (Gansu) and *V. assingi* **sp. n.** (Sichuan). Key morphological characters of the new taxa are illustrated and a distinctly sub-Himalayan distribution of all Eutheiini hitherto known to occur in China is summarized.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae, Eutheiini, *Eutheia*, *Veraphis*, new species, East Palaearctic, China

Introduction

The ant-like stone beetle tribe Eutheiini was recorded from the People's Republic of China for the first time in 2008, nearly two hundred years after the first East Palaearctic species has been described (Jałoszyński 2008a). Eutheiini of China is an exceptionally poorly known group, and to date only two genera and eight species were described from this large territory. The genus *Eutheia* Stephens is represented in China by *E. puetzi* Jałoszyński, 2008a (Sichuan), *E. nujianglisuana* Jałoszyński, 2010a (Yunnan) and *E. sculpturata* Jałoszyński, 2010b. Geographically closest congeners are known from Nepal, the Russian Far East, Japan and Taiwan (a checklist of Palaearctic species of *Eutheia* was given by Jałoszyński (2010a)). A very similar genus *Veraphis* Casey (diagnostic characters and differences were discussed by Jałoszyński & Hoshina (2005) and briefly summarized by Jałoszyński (2012)) is represented by four species: *V. modestus* Jałoszyński, 2009 (Sichuan), *V. spinosus* Jałoszyński, 2009 (Sichuan), *V. calcarifer* Jałoszyński, 2012 (Sichuan) and *V. qinghaiensis* Jałoszyński, 2012 (Qinghai). Other East Palaearctic species of *Veraphis* are known to occur in Mongolia, Siberia, Russian Far East, Japan and North Korea (Jałoszyński & Hoshina 2005; Kurbatov 1995, 2006; Jałoszyński 2009, 2012).

In the present paper a new species of *Eutheia* and two new species of *Veraphis* are described from a sub-Himalayan mountainous region of China. Moreover, the distribution of Eutheiini in China is discussed, as the new and old findings form a distinct geographic pattern and may contribute to the knowledge of the global distribution and evolution of this still poorly known tribe of Scydmaeninae.

Materials and methods

Dry-mounted specimens were relaxed in warm water and dissected; aedeagi and fore legs of males were dehydrated in isopropanol, transferred to xylene and mounted in Canada balsam. Morphological terms are used after Jałoszyński & Hoshina (2005) and Jałoszyński (2009). The measurements and abbreviations are as follows:

AeL—length of aedeagus

AnL—length of antennae