Revision of the Chinese Geotragus Schoenherr with description of three new species (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Entiminae)

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Abstract

The Chinese representatives of the entimine weevil genus Geotragus are here revised, including redescriptions of the two previously known species, G. himalayanus Boheman, 1845 and G. tuberculatus Chen, 1990, and descriptions of three new species from the Hengduan Mountains, Yunnan province, China: G. brevidens sp. nov., G. declivis sp. nov. and G. rugosus sp. nov. Diagnostic characters of the genus, a key to Chinese species of Geotragus and a checklist of the now 11 known world species are also provided.

Key words: taxonomy, flightless weevils, Hengduan Mountains, Yunnan, southwestern China

Introduction

The broad-nosed weevil genus Geotragus, belonging to the speciose subfamily Entiminae (Coleoptera, Curculionidae), is mainly distributed in the Oriental Region including the southwestern parts of China. It is usually placed in the tribe Tanymeccinini Lacordaire, 1863, having lateral scrobes and postocular vibrissae on the lateral margin of the prothorax, and in the subtribe Piazomiiina Reitter, 1913 because of the tarsal claws fused or reduced to one (Emden, 1944a).

In 1845, Schoenherr established Geotragus based on a single species G. himalayanus Boheman, 1845. Schoenherr (1847) established another genus Taphrorynchus with the type species T. assamensis Schoenherr, 1847 based on specimens collected from Assam (north India), with a combined description for the genus and the species. Jekel (1849) listed Geotragus and Taphrorynchus as two valid genera in his catalogue. In 1863, Lacordaire synonymized Geotragus, Pachynotus Redtenbacher, 1844 and Taphrorynchus with Piazomias Schoenherr, 1840, without providing any particular explanation. Faust (1891) did not agree with Lacordaire’s opinion and considered that each of these three genera were valid and could be distinguished from Piazomias by the metatibial apex with outer bevel and the metepisternal suture almost complete, only absent just before the metacoxae. In this paper, he provided a key to these genera and described Taphrorynchus assamensis as a new species since he considered Taphrorynchus assamensis Schoenherr to be an unavailable species because there was no separate description for it. Later, Faust (1893) synonymized Taphrorynchus assamensis Faust, 1891 with Brachyaspistes subfasciatus Desbrochers des Loges, 1890 and B. bituberosus Desbrochers des Loges, 1891 with Geotragus himalayanus, not mentioning any reasons on which these taxonomic decisions were based.

Marshall (1916) synonymized Taphrorynchus with Geotragus, described a new species Geotragus fissicollis from Burma, and provided diagnostic characters of the genus and descriptions of the then four known species. Marshall did not accept all changes made by Faust. He transferred Sympiezomias ellipticus Faust, 1895, Brachyaspistes bituberosus and B. subfasciatus to Geotragus as three valid species, G. ellipticus, G. bituberosus and G. subfasciatus, the latter having as a synonym Taphrorynchus assamensis Faust. Most subsequent