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Serina Gredler (Gastropoda, Stylommatophora: Enidae), the continuous-peristomed mountain snails endemic to the eastern slope of the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau

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Abstract

In this paper we initiate a taxonomic review of the genus *Serina* Gredler, endemic to the eastern slope of the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau, namely S Gansu, SW Sichuan, SE Xizang Autonomous Region and N Yunnan of China. We describe the genital anatomy for some species and the shell morphology for all known species: *Serina belae* (Hilber), *S. cathaica* Gredler, *S. egressa* Sturany, *S. prostoma* (Ancey), *S. ser* Gredler, *S. subser* Gredler, *S. soluta* (Möllendorff) and *S. vincentii* (Gredler). Based on the re-evaluation of both shell and genitalian differentiations we prefer to classify the taxon *egressa* as a separate species rather than a subspecies of *S. ser*. In our study we come to the conclusion that *S. soluta inflata* Yen and *S. soluta stenochila* (Möllendorff) should be regarded as synonyms of *S. soluta* due to the insufficient differentiation among them. *Buliminus* (*Holcauchen*) *tubios* Annandale, *Bulimus prostoma leucochila* Ancey and *Serina deqenensis* Chen, Zhou and Luo were conspecific with *Serina prostoma* and that *Serina sobrina* (Preston) was conspecific with *Clausiliopsis szechenyi* (Böttger). We propose a new species *Serina denticulata* **n. sp.** from the Southern Gansu Plateau. Furthermore we discuss the phylogenetic relationship among the genera *Serina, Clausiliopsis* Möllendorff, *Pupopsis* Gredler, and *Pupinidius* Möllendorff based on the morphological data from twelve relevant species.

Key words: Enoidae, Serina, revision, morphology, new taxon, phylogeny, Qinghai-Xizang Plateau

Introduction

Serina Gredler, 1898, an enid genus was established based on the study of three species (Serina cathaica Gredler, S. ser Gredler and S. subser Gredler) in which S. ser was designed as the type of the genus (Gredler, 1898a). Sturany (1900) described the fourth taxon S. cathaica egressa, which was treated as the subspecies of S. ser by Möllendorff (1901) who meanwhile proposed new members of Serina (a subgenus of Bulimus, s. str. Möllendorff, 1901), B. (S.) solutus solutus and B. (S.) solutus stenochilus, adopted Bulimus (Napaeus) vincentii Gredler to Serina, and provided the first checklist of the genus Serina, comprising seven species and subspecies. Later, this list was revised for three times, respectively by Kobelt (+Bulimus prostomus Ancey, 1884, excluding S. vincentii: seven species and subspecies) (Kobelt, 1902), by Yen (+Buliminus belae Hilber, 1883, excluding S. vincentii, + a new proposed S. soluta inflata: nine species and subspecies) (Yen, 1939), and by Chen et al. (+ 2 Turanena species and a new proposed species S. degenensis: thirteen species and subspecies) (Chen et al., 2003). The information about the anatomy of this genus was obtained from S. ser and S. subser (Wiegmann, 1901; Schileyko, 1998) before the present work.

All the known *Serina* localities are distributed on the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau slope, where most other Chinese enid genera are also distributed (Wu & Zheng, 2009; Wu & Wu, 2009; Wu & Gao, 2010; many other literature cited in this paper). On this slope, the localities where the *Serina* species were found include the valleys of Kangding, Luding (both of Yangtze drainage, Sichuan), Mangkang (Jingshajiang River, a branch of Yangtze River, Xizang Autonomous Region) and Deqing (Upper Mekong, Yunnan), all of which are geographically separate. The valleys preferred by *Serina* species are usually of aridity or semi-aridity, and are formed by the deep incision of the above rivers and are known to have abundant biodiversity (Li *et al.*, 1998). The seasonal rainfall in this region is generally less than several hundred millimetres per year and intensively occurred in the way of rainstorm.