



The species of the genus *Athousius* Reitter, 1905 of China, and re-establishment of the genus *Thacana* Fleutiaux, 1936 (Insecta: Coleoptera, Elateridae)

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Abstract

The species of the genus *Athousius* Reitter, 1905 from China are revised, described, illustrated, a key to species is given, and some systematic characters are discussed. The genus *Thacana* Fleutiaux, 1936 is re-established as a bona gen. and is excluded from the Chinese fauna in this paper. The following species are introduced as new to science: *Athousius gan-suensis* sp. n., *A. jiuzaigouensis* sp. n., *A. muyupingensis* sp. n., and *A. shaanxiensis* sp. n.

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, Coleoptera, Elateridae, *Athousius*, new species, *Thacana* bona gen., China

Introduction

The species of the genus *Athousius* (Reitter, 1905) belong to the systematic category of the tribe Athouini. As a common character, these species have an edged frontal margin, which is also slightly depressed in the middle. The species differ in colour and in the form and structure of the pronotum, antenna, scutellum and aedeagus. These characters are taxonomically relevant on species level.

There is nothing known about the phylogeny of the species of the *Athousius*-group, and their distribution is poorly understood and insufficiently documented. So far, only two species of this genus are known from China, *A. holdereri* and *A. wudanganus*, while four are described from Japan: *A. humeralis* (Miwa, 1927), *A. kitanoi* Ohira, 1972, *A. obakoensis* Kishii, 1976 and *A. yukikoa* (Ohira, 1976). The known range of species of the *Athousius*-group is limited to the eastern Palaearctic Region and the Indo-Chinese subregion.

One species closely allied to those of *Athousius* is known from Cambodia and northern Vietnam; Fleutiaux (1936) described it as *Thacana cambodiensis*. Fleutiaux (1936) proposed genus *Thacana* based on the species *Corymbites cambodiensis* described by him in 1918. Ôhira (1971) synonymized *Thacana* with the genus *Athousius*, and this was also mentioned by Kishii & Jiang (1996) when they recorded *A. cambodiensis* from Jiangxi and Guizhou provinces in China. In this paper we re-establish the genus *Thacana* as a bona gen.

Abbreviations

CPG	Coll. Platia, Gatteo
CRG	Coll. Riese, Genoa
CSV	Coll. Schimmel, Vinningen
CTW	Coll. Tarnawski, Wrocław
ICZN	International code of zoological nomenclature