



New data on the genus *Ascaphium* Lewis (Coleoptera, staphylinidae, Scaphidiinae) of China

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Abstract

Three species of genus *Ascaphium* are recorded from China, including *Ascaphium longlingense* He, Tang & Li, **sp. nov.** and *A. ingentis* He, Tang & Li, **sp. nov.** from Yunnan Province. The male of *Ascaphium alticola* Löbl is discovered and described for the first time. A key to *Ascaphium* species of China is provided.

Key words: Coleoptera Staphylinidae, *Ascaphium*, new species, new records, identification key, China

Introduction

The genus *Ascaphium* Lewis, 1893 is a small Asian genus of Scaphidiinae. It can be easily distinguished from related genera by the combination of the following characters: body robust, head with occipital region visible, eye notched, segments of antennal club symmetrical, scutellum large and visible, procoxal cavities closed posteriorly, basal pronotal angle not prolonged apically, base of elytron not impressed, elytral disc with rows of longitudinal, deep and punctate striae; metaventrite glabrous in both sexes.

Up to the present, 9 species of the genus *Ascaphium* have been known from the world (all from Asia), and 5 species have been known from China. *Ascaphium tonkinense* Achard, 1921, originally described from Vietnam, was the first species recorded from Taiwan by Miwa and Mitono (1943). Later, Pic (1954) described *A. sinense* and *A. minus* (in the original description Pic named it as *A. minor* and Löbl corrected it as *A. minus* in 1999) from Fujian Province. Two additional species, *A. irregulare* and *A. alticola*, were described by Löbl (1999) from Yunnan and Sichuan Provinces, respectively.

Recently, we examined some *Ascaphium* specimens collected in China. Two new species found among them are described in this paper. Male of *Ascaphium alticola* Löbl, 1999 was discovered and described for the first time. A key to Chinese species of the genus *Ascaphium* is also provided.

Material and methods

Specimens examined during the preparation of this paper were mainly collected from Sichuan and Yunnan Provinces, P. R. China. Specimens were collected by hand from decayed wood and fungi and by sifting leaf litter in broad leaf forests and killed with ethyl acetate. For examination of male genitalia, the last two abdominal segments were detached from the body after softening the specimens in hot water. The aedeagus was separated, placed in glycerin in a cavity of plastic slide and sealed by a glass slide. Drawings were made under an