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First record of *Microscydmus* Saulcy & Croissandeau, 1893 from China, with descriptions of two new species (Coleoptera: Scydmaenidae)

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Abstract

The genus *Microscydmus* Saulcy & Croissandeau, 1893 is reported for the first time to occur in China, and two new species are described: *M.* (s. str.) *bicavatus* **sp. n.** and *M.* (s. str.) *nasutus* **sp. n.** Both newly described species are distributed in Yunnan Province. Diagnostic characters, including the aedeagi, are illustrated.

Key words: Scydmaenidae, Scydmaeninae, Cyrtoscydmini, *Microscydmus*, E Palearctic, China, taxonomy, new species

Introduction

Microscydmus Saulcy & Croissandeau, 1893 comprises the smallest scydmaenid beetles within the tribe Cyrtoscydmini (Scydmaeninae), typically 0.7–1 mm of the body length. The genus is distributed worldwide and includes nearly 170 species (Newton & Franz 1998). However, placement of some of them, especially those described from the New World, requires verification, and therefore, the actual number of species truly belonging to this genus is uncertain. Diagnostic characters of *Microscydmus* were discussed by Jałoszyński (2005); the genus in its current shape is defined by the antennal sockets narrowly separated and located on the anterior margin of the head; the frons with distinctly subtriangular anterior margin; and the pronotum with a median pair of nearly fused (or at least adjacent one to another), large ante-basal foveae. Additionally, these tiny beetles can be recognized on the basis of their relatively uniform and remarkable general appearance, by the narrow occipital constriction; the 3-segmented antennal club; the nearly circular pronotum with the arcuate base and without the lateral carinae; and the short, oval elytra, each bearing a single, large basal impression. The above-mentioned characters were used recently to reduce the Oriental genus *Parastenichnus* Franz, 1970 to subgenus of *Microscydmus* (Jałoszyński 2005). Status of other subgenera and subgeneric diagnoses were also briefly discussed in that paper. External morphology of *Microscydmus* is relatively uniform, and typically, primary diagnostic characters used to define species are structures of the aedeagus.

Only five species of *Microscydmus* have been previously known to occur in the eastern part of the Palearctic Region: *M. turcomanus* (Reitter, 1891) from Uzbekistan, *M. jumlanus* Franz, 1980 and *M. martensi* Franz, 1971 from Nepal, *M. gregarius* Kurbatov, 1988 and *M. pusio* Kurbatov, 2006 from the Russian Far East (Davies 2004; Kurbatov 2006). The Japanese species described as *Scydmaenus debilis* Sharp, 1874, and treated for a long time as *Microscydmus* (e.g., O'Keefe & Li 1998; Davies 2004) was recently transferred to *Euconnus* Thomson, 1859 (Kurbatov 2006).

So far, no species of *Microscydmus* have been reported to occur in the vast areas of China. In this paper two new species are reported to occur in Yunnan; one of them shows a highly unusual modification of the apical part of the elytra, not known in any other Palearctic member of *Microscydmus*. Both species are placed in the nominotypical subgenus on the basis of the mesoscutellum not visible in natural position. The mesoscutellum is very small but well visible in all other currently recognized subgenera.

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