



A review of Chinese species of the subgenus *Paederus s. str.* (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Paederinae) with description of a new species

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Abstract

Chinese species of the subgenus *Paederus s. str.* (genus *Paederus* Fabricius, 1775) are reviewed. *Paederus (s. str.) xinjiangensis* Li & Zhou, **n. sp.** is described from Xinjiang, Northwest China. Male genitalia and other critical characters are illustrated for five other Chinese species of the subgenus *Paederus s. str.*, namely *P. (s. str.) socius* Bernhauer, 1916, *P. (s. str.) coxalis* Fauvel, 1895, *P. (s. str.) parallelus* Weise, 1877, *P. pilifer (s. str.)* Motschulsky, 1860 and *P. (s. str.) sondaicus* Fauvel, 1895. A key to the six Chinese species of *Paederus s. str.* is presented and their geographical distribution in China is mapped.

Key words: Staphylinidae, taxonomy, *Paederus s. str.*, new species, distribution

Introduction

The genus *Paederus* was erected by Fabricius, 1775 and its type species, *P. riparius* (Linnaeus, 1758), was designated by Latreille (1810). As a genus-group taxon, *Paederus sensu lato* has a very complicated history and its taxonomic sense changed dramatically (Bernhauer & Schubert 1912; Cameron 1925; Coiffait 1982; Willers 2003; Li & Zhou 2007). To accommodate a large diversity of species, 14 genera were gradually erected from *Paederus sensu lato* (Mulsant & Rey 1878; Scheerpeltz 1957; Fagel 1958; Korge 1969). In this paper, we use the generic name *Paederus* in the sense of the widely accepted definition (Coiffait 1982; Frank 1988; Willers 2003; Li & Zhou 2007) which is much narrower compared to the earlier concept of the genus. In modern classification the genus includes 11 subgenera, namely *Anomalopaederus* Scheerpeltz, 1966, *Eopaederus* Scheerpeltz, 1957, *Gnathopaederus* Chapin, 1927, *Harpopaederus* Scheerpeltz, 1957, *Heteropaederus* Scheerpeltz, 1957, *Nepalopaederus* Scheerpeltz, 1976, *Oedopaederus* Scheerpeltz, 1957, *Oreinopaederus* Scheerpeltz, 1976, *Paederus s. str.*, *Poederomorphus* Gautier des Cottés, 1862, and *Pseudopaederus* Bernhauer, 1915 (Coiffait 1982; Boháč 1985; Frank 1988; Newton *et al.* 2000; Newton 2003; Herman 2003; Willers 2003; Smetana 2004; Li & Zhou 2007). In this study, we focus on taxonomy and geographical distribution of species of the subgenus *Paederus s. str.* occurring within the territory of China.

Before our study, only 13 species were placed in the subgenus *Paederus s. str.* (Scheerpeltz 1957; Coiffait 1982; Boháč 1985; Frank 1988; Smetana 2004). In addition to *P. (s. str.) socius* Bernhauer, 1916, four other species were also recorded from China, namely, *P. (s. str.) coxalis* Fauvel, 1895, *P. (s. str.) parallelus* Weise, 1877, *P. (s. str.) pilifer* Motschulsky, 1860 and *P. (s. str.) sondaicus* Fauvel, 1895 (Smetana 2004). In this paper, we describe a new species, *P. (s. str.) xinjiangensis* Li & Zhou, **n. sp.**, from Xinjiang, Northwest China. Thus, in the subgenus *Paederus s. str.* six species are now known from China, whereas the total number of species in the subgenus is now fourteen.