



Five new *Stenus* species of the *cephalotes* group (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae) from China with a key to Chinese species of the group

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³304th Contribution to the knowledge of Steninae

Abstract

Five new *Stenus* species of the *cephalotes* group are described from China: *S. substrictus* Tang & Puthz, **sp. nov.** and *S. breviculus* Tang & Puthz, **sp. nov.** from Zhejiang Prov., *S. gonggashanus* Tang & Puthz, **sp. nov.**, *S. latipectus* Tang & Puthz, **sp. nov.** and *S. tianquanensis* Tang & Puthz, **sp. nov.** from Sichuan Prov., and their diagnostic characters are illustrated. A key to Chinese species of the *cephalotes* group is provided.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, *Stenus cephalotes* group, identification key, new species, China

Introduction

In our on-going study of the *Stenus* Latreille, 1797 fauna of China, five new species allied to *S. cephalotes* Sharp, 1889 were discovered and will be described here. Thus, including *S. micuba* Hromádka, 1982 described from Hubei Prov., six species of the *cephalotes* group are known from China now.

The *cephalotes* group (Puthz 2003) can be defined by the following characters: Small (2.2–3.5 mm) brachypterous species, body blackish to dark brown. Head broader than elytra, eyes very large, head width to eye diameter ratio < 2.15, frons relatively narrow, with two longitudinal furrows and a distinctly elevated median portion. Antennae moderately long, when reflexed slightly shorter than pronotum or slightly extending beyond posterior margin of pronotum. Paraglossae oval. Pronotum about as long as broad with some ± deep median longitudinal impressions. Elytra subtrapezoid, broader than long. Abdomen cylindrical, not margined, segment 3 (sometimes also segment 4) with trace of highly degenerated lateral margination (as in the former subgenus *Hypostenus*; see Puthz 2008). Male: Legs simple; ventral characters inconspicuous, sternite 8 with very shallow apical emargination, sternite 9 with long apicolateral tooth; tergite 10 rounded; aedeagus variable. Female: Posterior margin of sternite 8 rounded and/or slightly projecting medially; valvifer acute apicolaterally; tergite 10 broadly rounded; spermatheca consisting of a ± coiled tube and a distinct infundibulum of various shape.

Three species: *S. ignobilis* Puthz, 2003, *S. decens* Puthz, 2003 and *S. hlavaci* Puthz, 2003, which were regarded as related to *S. cephalotes* previously (Puthz 2003), should be placed in another closely related unnamed group and can be distinguished from the species of the *cephalotes* group by clearly margined 3rd abdominal segment.

Material and methods

Specimens listed in this paper were collected mainly by sifting leaf litter in broad leaf forests. Specimens were killed with ethyl acetate and dried. To examine male and female genitalia, the last two abdominal segments