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## Taxonomy of the genus *Oxytelus* Gravenhorst (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Oxytelinae) from China

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## Abstract

The *Oxytelus* Gravenhorst, 1802 is one of the most speciose genus in the subfamily Oxytelinae (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae) and its members are mainly ground dwellers and are distributed in almost all geographical regions. This paper reports four new species from China: *O. abiturus* **sp. nov.** from Sichuan and Yunnan, *O. ailaoshanicus* **sp. nov.** from Shaanxi, Sichuan, and Yunnan, *O. bajiei* **sp. nov.** from Guangxi, Hubei, Hunan, Sichuan, Yunnan, and *O. solus* **sp. nov.** from Sichuan. The following four names are synonymized: *O. ginyuenensis* Bernhauer, 1935 and *O. takahashii* Ito, 1994 (= *O. lucidulus* Cameron, 1929); *O. discalis* Cameron, 1930 (= *O. punctipennis* Fauvel, 1905); *O. nilgiriensis* Cameron, 1930 (= *O. subferrugineus* Cameron, 1941). The Chinese fauna of the genus is thus increased to twenty-one species. All other species known to occur in China are also revised and redescribed to update the knowledge on their identifications. Some important characters are discussed, detailed line drawing is offered for each species, and a key to all the Chinese species is provided. All the types of the new species are deposited in IZ-CAS.

**key words:** Staphylinidae, Oxytelinae, *Oxytelus*, Taxonomy, China

## Introduction

The genus *Oxytelus* was established by Gravenhorst (1802), with originally 11 species. The taxonomic definition then was dramatically different from what was used in last decades and those species were assigned to seven different genera of the subfamily Oxytelinae (Coleoptera) in the current classification. The type species of this genus is *Staphylinus piceus* Linné, 1767, a subsequent designation by Latreille (1810). According to the diagnostic characters of the type species given by Linné (1767), the genus should have pitchy elytra (contrast to the dark body) and depressed thorax with three longitudinal “striae” (today “sulci” instead); both are now common