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On the identity of *Pselaphodes walkeri* (Sharp, 1892) (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Pselaphinae), with description of a new related species

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Abstract

The identity of *Pselaphodes walkeri* (Sharp, 1892) is clarified based on examinations of the holotype and recently collected material from the type locality (Damao Island, Zhoushan Archipelago). Previous records of *P. walkeri* from West Tianmushan Mountain (Zhejiang), Baishanzu Natural Reserve (Zhejiang) and Wuyishan Mountain (Jiangxi) are proven to be based on misidentifications, populations there represent a new species closely related to *P. walkeri*. Both *P. walkeri* and the new species are redescribed/described, illustrated and distinguished from the other members of the genus.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Pselaphinae, taxonomy, *Pselaphodes walkeri*, Damao Island, China

Introduction

David Sharp described (1892) the new genus and species *Eulasinus walkeri* based on a single male collected by J. J. Walker from ‘the summit of Ta-maou Island of the Chusan Archipelago’. He stated that *Eulasinus* ‘... comes very close to the genera *Pselaphodes*, *Lasinus* and *Labomimus*, especially the latter, from which, however, it can no doubt be very readily distinguished by the shorter 1st dorsal segment’. *Eulasinus walkeri* was subsequently included (Kurbatov 1989) in the ‘Key to the insects of the Far East of the USSR’. In his recent revision of the Oriental Tyrini, Hlaváč (2002) considered the variable length of the tergite IV to have no generic significance among the *Pselaphodes* Westwood and its allied genera. In combination with the absence of the median metaventral fovea, *Eulasinus* was therefore synonymised with *Pselaphodes*.

The synonymy was followed by Yin *et al.*, in their study of Chinese *Pselaphodes* (Yin, Li & Zhao 2010, 2011; Yin, Li & Gu 2012); some specimens from West Tianmushan Mountain (Zhejiang), Baishanzu Natural Reserve (Zhejiang) and Wuyishan Mountain (Jiangxi) were identified and/or keyed out as *P. walkeri* based on Sharp’s original description. Reasonably, the identification may be considered less dependable because of the inaccessibility of the holotype to the authors at that time.

With the purpose of clarifying the identity of *P. walkeri*, Yin and his colleagues (X.-B. Song and W.-X. Bi) made a short collecting trip to the type locality (officially spelled as ‘Damao Island of the Zhoushan Archipelago’) in Oct. 2012, and successfully obtained a small series of *Pselaphodes* specimens. Days later, with the help of M. Barclay, R. Booth and Y.-K. Zhang, clear pictures of the holotype of *P. walkeri* were made available to us, and the identity of *P. walkeri* was confirmed. Comparison of the holotype and additional material from the type locality with those from Tianmushan, Baishanzu and Wuyishan showed remarkable differences in antennal modification and aedeagal structure, confirming that previous records of *P. walkeri* outside Damao Island were based on misidentifications, and that populations there represent a new species allied to *P. walkeri*.

In this paper, both *P. walkeri* and the new species are (re)described, illustrated and distinguished from related congeners, and biological information of the two species is provided.