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The *Lacconectus* Motschulsky of Hainan, China, with description of a new species (Coleoptera: Dytiscidae: Copelatinae)

JIRÍ HÁJEK¹, SHUANG ZHAO² & FENGLONG JIA^{2,3}

¹Department of Entomology, National Museum, Kunratic 1, CZ-148 00 Praha 4, Czech Republic. E-mail: jiri_hajek@nm.cz

²State Key Laboratory of Biocontrol and Institute of Entomology, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou 510275, China.

E-mail: lssjfl@mail.sysu.edu.cn

³Corresponding author

Abstract

Lacconectus brancuccii **sp. nov.** from Hainan Island, China, is described and illustrated. The new species belongs to the *L. fulvescens* species group and can be recognised based on the broader, poorly delimited pale basal markings on the elytra, but predominantly based on the characteristic shape of the median lobe of the aedeagus, which in lateral view is slightly narrowed subapically, then broadened to a rounded apex. Previous records from Hainan attributed to *L. formosanus* (Kamiya, 1938) are found to refer to *L. maoyangensis* Brancucci, 2003. Additional records of two further species endemic to Hainan, *L. hainanensis* Hendrich, 1998 and *L. maoyangensis*, are presented and their habitus are figured.

Key words: Dytiscidae, Copelatinae, *Lacconectus*, Oriental Region, Palaearctic Region, China, new species

Introduction

Lacconectus Motschulsky, 1855 is treated as a monophyletic group of Oriental Copelatinae, nested within the currently paraphyletic *Copelatus* Erichson, 1832 (Balke *et al.* 2004). The genus is characterised by absence of metacoxal lines, elytra without striae, and male protarsi with eight adhesive discs arranged in two rows (Brancucci 1986). It occurs exclusively in the Oriental region, from India to the Greater Sunda Islands; no species is known to cross Wallace's line (cf. Brancucci & Hendrich 2005: Fig. 62), and only a few species reach the margins of the Palaearctic zoogeographical region in the Himalayas, southern China and Taiwan (Brancucci 2003, 2006). *Lacconectus* was thoroughly revised by Brancucci (1986), who subsequently described numerous additional species and raised the number of known species to 71 (for a summary see Nilsson 2013).

Hainan is the smallest and southernmost of China's provinces. It comprises some two hundred islands scattered among three archipelagos off the southern coast, however the majority of its land mass is represented by Hainan Island. Although, due to its affiliation to China, it is included in the Palaearctic zoogeographical region in recent catalogues of Dytiscidae (Nilsson 2013, Nilsson & Hájek 2013), Hainan has a tropical moist monsoonal climate, and Oriental taxa prevail in its fauna, not only in water beetles. So far 43 species of Dytiscidae have been recorded from Hainan, eight species (more or less associated with running water) of the genera *Allopachria* Zimmermann, 1924, *Microdytes* J.Balfour-Browne, 1946, *Lacconectus*, *Platambus* Thomson, 1859 and *Platynectes* Régimbart, 1879 are considered to be endemic to the island (cf. Nilsson & Hájek 2013); one of them, *Microdytes trontelji* Wewalka, Ribera & Balke, 2007, is endogean (Wewalka *et al.* 2007).

So far only two *Lacconectus* species are known to occur in Hainan, both endemic to the island: *L. hainanensis* Hendrich, 1998 and *L. maoyangensis* Brancucci, 2003 (identified as *L. formosanus* (Kamiya, 1938) in Hendrich 1998). The Chinese-Czech expedition to Hainan in May 2011 confirmed the occurrence of both species, and also revealed the presence of a third species, the description of which is the aim of the present paper.