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Two new species and a new synonym of the genus *Paederus* Fabricius (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Paederinae) from China

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Abstract

Two new species of the genus *Paederus* Fabricius, 1775 from mainland China are described: *Paederus* (*Harpopaederus*) *brevior* **sp. nov.** (Shaanxi) and *P.* (*H.*) *multidenticulatus* **sp. nov.** (Hubei). One new synonym is proposed: *Paederus parvidenticulatus* Li, Zhou & Solodovnikov, 2013 = *Paederus symmetricus* Li, Zhou & Solodovnikov, 2013 **syn. nov.**

Key words: Paederina, *Paederus*, new species, new synonym, China

Introduction

Examination of new material of the genus *Paederus* Fabricius, 1775 recently received from the Natural History Museum in Vienna led to the discovery of two new species of the subgenus *Harpopaederus* Scheerpeltz, 1957. At the same time, some of the newly examined specimens revealed a new synonym in the *Paederus biacutus*-species group.

Although, as discussed earlier (Li *et al.* 2013), the current subgeneric system of the genus *Paederus* is largely artificial, we keep assigning new species to subgenera as far as possible for practical purposes. Both new species are closely related and can be clearly placed in the subgenus *Harpopaederus* Scheerpeltz, 1957, particularly based on their longitudinally keeled and toothed dorsal plate of the aedeagus, a labrum with a pair of smooth teeth on the anterior margin flanking the midline and with triangular protrusions at its antero-lateral margins, as well as on their short elytra and weakly developed humeral angles. So far this subgenus comprises 14 species distributed in the Palearctic and Oriental regions, eight of them recorded from China (Smetana, 2004; Li & Zhou, 2007; Willers, 2011). The distributions of both new species, *P.* (*H.*) *brevior* **sp. nov.** from Qingling mountain in Shaanxi and *P.* (*H.*) *multidenticulatus* **sp. nov.** from Dalao mountain of Hubei are allopatric and fit the overall distribution range of the subgenus *Harpopaederus*.

The holotypes and most of the paratypes are deposited at the Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Austria (NHMW). Some paratypes are retained in the collections of the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China (IZCAS) and the Natural History Museum of Denmark (Zoological Museum, ZMUC).

Material and methods

The specimens were relaxed in distilled water for 10–12 hours for dissection of the apical one or two abdominal segments. Detached parts were placed into KOH (10%) for ca. 12 hours. After examination the aedeagi and terminalia were placed into glycerin in plastic genitalia vials pinned under the respective specimens.

Observations, photos and measurements were made under a compound microscope (Leica MZ–APO).

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