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Description of *Pella sichuanensis* sp. n. (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Aleocharinae) from Micang Mountain, Sichuan, China

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Abstract

Pella sichuanensis Zheng & Zhao, sp. n. of the *P. cognata* group is described, illustrated, and distinguished from similar congeners.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae, *Pella*, China

Introduction

The lomechusine genus *Pella* Stephens is represented by 62 species world-wide (Hlaváč et al. 2011, Song and Li 2013), of which eight occur in China: *P. beijingorum* Pace (Beijing), *P. cooterorum* Maruyama (Beijing, Yunnan), *P. hlavaci* Maruyama (Beijing), *P. jureceki* Dvořák (Beijing), *P. kishimotoi* Maruyama (Hunan), *P. puetzi* Assing (Yunnan), *P. zhoui* Maruyama (Beijing) and *P. maoershanensis* Song & Li (Guangxi).

The main goal of this contribution is to describe a new species, *Pella sichuanensis* Zheng & Zhao, sp. n., discovered in Sichuan, China, and provide illustrations of its major diagnostic features.

Material and methods

Specimens were killed with ethyl acetate and preserved in 75% ethanol before dissection; and photos of habitus were taken with a Canon EOS 70D with an MP-E 65mm Macro Photo Lens.

Head length was measured from the clypeal anterior margin to the occipital constriction; elytral length at the suture from the apex of the scutellum to the elytral posterior margin.

All the types are deposited in the Insect Collection of Shanghai Normal University, Shanghai, China (SNUC).

Taxonomy

Pella sichuanensis Zheng & Zhao, sp. n.

(Fig. 1)

Type material (1♂, 1♀). Holotype: ♂, labeled 'China: Sichuan Prov. / Bazhong City / Nanjiang Coun. / Micang-Shan / Daba / N32.39.825, E107.01.788 / Alt. 1798m / 27–28-IV-2008 / HUANG Hao & XU Wang leg. // HOLOTYPE [red] / *Pella sichuanensis* sp. n. / Zheng and Zhao / det. 2014, SNUC'. Paratype: 1♀, same label data as holotype, all bearing the following label: 'PARATYPE [yellow] / *Pella sichuanensis* sp. n. / Zheng and Zhao / det. 2014, SNUC'.

8th sternite (Fig. 1E) with posterior margin rounded. Aedeagus (Figs. 1H–J) oval in ventral view; apical lobe curved ventrad, obtuse at apex in lateral view, rounded at apex in ventral view; longitudinal band relatively long; distal crest of aedeagal median lobe gently projected; basal ridge weakly convex, invisible in lateral view; copulatory piece of inner sac as in Fig. 1J.

Female: Eighth tergite (Fig. 1D) with posterior margin truncate; truncate apex weakly crenate; 8th sternite (Fig. 1F) with 14 or 15 macrosetae. Spermatheca (Fig. 1G) curved three times; basal part almost as long as apical part, acutely curved around middle, slightly dilated apically; apical part acutely curved around apical 2/5, slightly dilated apically, its inner wall densely wrinkled from apex to around apical 3/5.

Comparative notes. Based on the shapes of the pronotum, the bicoloured elytra and the morphology of aedeagal median lobe the new species refers to the *P. cognata* group. The new species can be separated from all other species of the *P. cognata* by its lighter color, the relatively long aedeagal longitudinal band.

Three species of the *P. cognata* group have been known from China: *P. kishimotoi* Maruyama, *P. puetzi* Assing and *P. maoershanensis* Song & Li. From these species, *P. sichuanensis* is additionally distinguished as follows: from *P. kishimotoi* (China, Hunan Prov.) by the more transverse antennomeres VI–VIII; from *P. puetzi* and *P. maoershanensis* by head lacking sexual dimorphism and the different shape of the ventral process of the aedeagus, especially in ventral view. In addition, the more transverse antennomeres V–X separates the new species from *P. puetzi*.

Etymology. The new species is named after its type locality.

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