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Discovery of the genus *Ancyrocerus* Raffray in China, with description of a new species (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Pselaphinae)

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Abstract

The tmesiphorine genus *Ancyrocerus* Raffray, 1893 is newly recorded in China, and a new species, *A. chinensis* Yin, Wang & Li **sp. n.**, is described, figured, and compared with its congeners. New collection data of a previously described species *Tmesiphodimerus sinensis* Yin & Li is given.

Key words: Tmesiphorini, *Ancyrocerus*, new species, southern China

Introduction

Achille Raffray (1893) established the genus *Ancyrocerus* to include his new species *A. sumatrensis* Raffray from Sumatra. He placed the new genus in the tribe Tyrini, and compared it to the genera *Marellus* Motschulsky, *Centrophthalmus* Schmidt-Göbel, *Tyrus* Aubé, and *Pseudophanias* Raffray. This placement had been adopted in all major catalogs (Raffray 1904, 1908, 1911, Newton & Chandler 1989) until recently Chandler (2001) transferred *Ancyrocerus* and *Ctenotillus* Raffray from Tyrini, and *Pseudophanias* from Phalepsini to Tmesiphorini on the basis of the presence of a setose semicircular sulcus that partially encloses the base of each antennal insertion. In four subsequent publications, Raffray (1895, 1897, 1904, 1912) added eight more species from Singapore (*A. pallidus* Raffray, *A. punctatus* Raffray, *A. rugicollis* Raffray), West Malaysia (*A. punctatus* Raffray, *A. longicornis* Raffray), Sumatra (*A. militaris* Raffray, *A. laevipennis* Raffray, *A. carinatus* Raffray), and southern India (*A. irregularis* Raffray). About half of the described species were known from a single specimen, and the rest from syntypes of which the number of specimens were usually not explicitly stated in the original publications. When the type series are examined in combination with the original descriptions, all species can be clearly distinguished from each other, mainly based on the form of the antennal modifications, size of the body, and characters on the pronotum and first abdominal tergite.

In recent reports of faunal investigations in eastern Asia, Nomura and his co-workers also listed eight possible unnamed species from Malaysia, and one from Thailand (Nomura & Idris 2005, Nomura *et al.* 2010). Therefore, it is reasonable to expect a wider distributional range of the genus in the Oriental region. In January and February, 2013, the authors and colleagues surveyed the staphylinid fauna of the Hainan Island, southern China, and collected a new species of the genus *Ancyrocerus*, which is formally described herein. All individuals were found from inside of decomposing logs, frequently in the company of termite colonies. This new species represents the first record of *Ancyrocerus* in China, and also the northernmost distribution of the genus. In addition, new collection and biological data of the recently described species *Tmesiphodimerus sinensis* Yin & Coulon, which was known from two males in Hainan, is included.

Material and methods

All material treated in the present paper is housed in the Insect Collection of Shanghai Normal University, Shanghai, China (SNUC).

Distribution. Southern China: Hainan.

Etymology. The specific name refers to China where the new species was found.

***Tmesiphodimerus sinensis* Yin and Coulon**

Tmesiphodimerus sinensis Yin and Coulon (in Yin, Coulon & Li 2013: 339).

Additional material. 1 ♂, 4 ♀♀, labeled 'China: Hainan, Ledong Hsien, Jianfengling N.R., Mingfenggu, 18°44'30"N, 108°50'29"E, rainforest, decaying log with termites, 995 m, 23.i.2015, Peng, Song, Yin, Zhou leg'. 1 ♀, labeled 'China: Hainan, Qiongzong Hsien, Limu Mt., path to peak, 19°10'27"N, 109°45'29"E, broad-leaved forest, decaying log, 1000 m, 01.ii.2015, Peng & Tu leg.'

Comments. This species was described from two males collected at Diaoluo Mountain (840 m) and Jianfengling (1000 m) from sifted litter samples. The above material extends the distributional range of this species to the Limu Mountain. *Tmesiphodimerus sinensis* has a stout habitus with compressed antennae, plus all new material was collected from decaying logs with termite colonies, indicating the possible termitophily of this species.

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