



## Notes on the genus *Ceruchus* MacLeay from China, with the description of a new species (Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea: Lucanidae)

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### Abstract

The taxonomy is reviewed for most Chinese species of *Ceruchus*. New localities are recorded for *Ceruchus minor* Tanikado & Okuda. *Ceruchus yangi* Huang, Imura & Chen, **sp. nov.** is described from Guizhou, China. Morphological characters of most species from China and Japan are studied and summarized into tables. Female genitalia of seven species of *Ceruchus* are described and illustrated for the first time. A key to males of the Palaearctic species and a key to females of the Chinese and Japanese species are provided. Natural history notes are given for some species from China.

**Key words:** Lucanidae, *Ceruchus*, new species, new localities, China, checklist, identification key, morphology, natural history

### Introduction

Lucanid beetles of the genus *Ceruchus* MacLeay (Coleoptera: Lucanidae: Syndesinae) are small, shiny, black stag beetles known only from the Holarctic region (Didier & Seguy 1953, Benesh 1960, Mizunuma & Nagai 1994, Krajcik 2001, Maes 2011). Sixteen species (including one fossil species) have been described, mostly in the Palaearctic region.

The genus *Ceruchus* was considered to belong in the subfamily Aesalinae MacLeay by Benesh (1960), but was reclassified by Holloway (1960). In a later work (Holloway 1968), the four genera *Ceruchus*, *Syndesus* MacLeay, *Sinodendron* Schneider and *Psilodon* Perty were shown to share a number of important characters and were placed in the subfamily Syndesinae MacLeay. The latter classification was followed in most recent works (Howden & Lawrence 1974; Maes 1992, 2011; Paulsen 2011).

Only one species of *Ceruchus* was described from China before 1994. Since then, China has been opened to foreign travelers and foreign entomologists discovered seven more new species (Tanikado & Okuda 1994, Kral