



Two new species of *Veraphis* Casey (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae) from China

PAWEŁ JAŁOSZYŃSKI

Museum of Natural History, Wrocław University, Sienkiewicza 21, 50-335 Wrocław, Poland. E-mail: scydmaenus@yahoo.com

Abstract

Two new species of the Holarctic genus *Veraphis* Casey are described from the sub-Himalayan part of China: *V. qinghaiensis* sp. n. (from Qinghai) and *V. calcarifer* sp. n. (from Sichuan and Qinghai). Diagnostic characters of the new taxa are illustrated, including the aedeagi and modified fore legs, and possible relationships with previously known Eastern Palaearctic species are discussed.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae, Eutheini, *Veraphis*, new species, East Palaearctic, China

Introduction

Veraphis Casey, 1897 is a Holarctic genus of Eutheini that accommodates rarely collected, strongly elongate and flattened ant-like stone beetles associated with the forest litter and rotting wood. Fourteen Palaearctic species and subspecies are distributed mostly in the eastern part of the region (Japan, China, Russian Far East, North Korea, Mongolia), with a single exception of *V. engelmarki* Franz, 1970, known from *Picea* forests of N Sweden and Finland. The Palaearctic representatives of *Veraphis* were revised by Jałoszyński & Hoshina (2005), and later another species was described from Primorie by Kurbatov (2006), and two from China by Jałoszyński (2009).

Among Eutheini, *Veraphis* mostly resembles *Eutheia* Stephens, but clearly differs in the narrow (and not broad) mesoventral intercoxal process and the nearly tubular, very slender aedeagus (and not broad and with a large and clearly separated apical part). All species have also a pair of pits on the vertex, and some show a remarkable sexual dimorphism in the development of antennae, with females having the antennae strongly thickened and with a deeply excavated terminal antennomere. The diagnostic characters were discussed by Jałoszyński & Hoshina (2005).

Two previously known Chinese species of *Veraphis* inhabit high altitudes (3500–4300 m) of Tibet (Ganzi and Aba Tibetan Autonomous Prefectures of Sichuan). In the present paper two new species are described from similarly high altitudes of the sub-Himalayan region of China. Certainly more new representatives of this rare genus can be expected to be found in this large area, and the current state of knowledge regarding Chinese Eutheini must be treated as initial.

Materials and methods

Dry-mounted specimens were relaxed in warm water and dissected; aedeagi and fore legs of males were mounted in Canada balsam. Morphological terms are used consistently after Jałoszyński & Hoshina (2005) and Jałoszyński (2009). All available specimens were measured; the measurements and abbreviations used in the descriptive part are as follows:

AeL—length of aedeagus

AnL—length of antennae