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urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:83E9363D-0D2C-4742-B92B-A66774867517

A taxonomic review of Korean species of the genus *Philhygra* Mulsant & Rey (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Aleocharinae)

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Abstract

A taxonomic review of Korean species of the athetine genus *Philhygra* Mulsant & Rey, 1873 is presented. Seven species are recognized, two of which, *P. pseudoelongatula* (Bernhauer, 1907) and *P. sparsa* (Bernhauer, 1907), are new to the Korean Peninsula. A key, descriptions and illustrations of diagnostic characters are provided.

Key words: Aleocharinae, Athetini, Korea, *Philhygra*, Staphylinidae, taxonomy

Introduction

Since *Philhygra* was first proposed as a subgenus of *Microdota* Mulsant & Rey, 1873 by Mulsant & Rey (1873a), it has been treated as a subgenus of many different genera (see Fenyés 1920; Blackwelder 1952; Yosii & Sawada 1976; Lohse & Smetana 1985; Smetana 2004). Later, however, Seevers (1978) raised it to the generic level and Lohse *et al.* (1990) and Muona (1995) followed. The genus *Philhygra* contains 71 species from the Palaearctic region. In East Asia, 11 species and 4 species were recorded in China and in Japan, respectively (Smetana 2004). Five species were reported in North Korea by Pašnik (2001).

In this study we recognize seven *Philhygra* species in Korea, two of which, *P. pseudoelongatula* (Bernhauer, 1907) and *P. sparsa* (Bernhauer, 1907), are newly added to the Korean fauna. Two other species, *P. homoeopyga* (Eppelsheim, 1893) and *P. palustris* (Kiesenwetter, 1844), are identified for the first time in South Korea. A key to the Korean species, descriptions, habitus photographs and line drawings of diagnostic characters of seven species are provided.

Permanent microscope slides were prepared using the techniques described by Hanley and Ashe (2003). Terminology for chaetotaxy and microstructures follows Sawada (1972) and Ashe (1984). North Korean species were loaned from the Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals, Kraków, Poland. In material examined sections this depository is listed as ISEA. All the other examined specimens are deposited in the Chungnam National University Insect Collection (CNUIC), Daejeon, Korea.

Philhygra Mulsant & Rey, 1873

Type species. *Microdota (Philhygra) perdubia* Mulsant & Rey, 1873a. Fixed by Blackwelder, 1952: 300.

Diagnosis. Members of *Philhygra* can be distinguished from the other athetine genera by combination of following characters: body subparallel-sided, surface glossy with dense and fine punctures; head quadrate, not distinctly transverse; pronotum less than 1.25 times as wide as long; metatarsomeres 1–4 subequal in length; abdomen parallel-sided, tergites III–V with transverse basal impression, posterior margin of female sternite VIII with specialized minute setae; female with secondary sclerite in genital segment; internal sac of median lobe with two bundles of spinose structure; spermatheca tiny (Muona 1995).