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Three new species of *Neuraphes* in eastern Qinghai-Tibet Plateau (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae)

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Abstract

Three new ant-like stone beetle species: *Neuraphes* (*Pararaphes*) *sichuanus* sp. n., *N. (P.) tuyuhun* sp. n., and *N. (P.) miniqinghaiensis* sp. n. are described from Sichuan and Qinghai provinces of China. Another species, close to *N. qinghaiensis* Jałoszyński, is illustrated, but not formally described because of unclear diagnostic characters. The placement of *Neuraphes* species that inhabit mountain ranges surrounding Qinghai-Tibet Plateau in the subgenus *Pararaphes* is discussed and their distribution is summarized.

Key words: Cyrtoscydmini, Himalaya, China, taxonomy, biodiversity

Introduction

Among the Cyrtoscydmini of Asia, the genus *Neuraphes* Thomson, 1859 is characterized by the carinate lateral pronotal margins; antennae gradually thickening distally; eyes located near posterior margin of the head; a single large and distinctly setose basal fovea on each elytron; and the sculpture of the pronotal base, which consists of a pair of lateral impressions and a transverse groove between them, the groove always interrupted at middle either by a gap or a longitudinal wrinkle or carina (e.g., Jałoszyński 2008). Also the aedeagus of *Neuraphes* is remarkable, thin-walled, sack-like, with broad but very thin parameres, which are translucent and usually difficult to notice in dorsal or ventral view as they tightly adjoin the median lobe; the endophallus is membranous, and in some cases (including all East Palaearctic species) the only darkly sclerotized structures are variously shaped plates—two lateral and one ventral—visible in the apical region (Jałoszyński 2013). In all known East Palaearctic species the aedeagus is broadening from base to apex, and unlike in West Palaearctic congeners, distinctly bicolorous body pigmentation (head and pronotum nearly black, elytra brown) is not uncommon (Jałoszyński 2008).

A recent series of papers was devoted to representatives of *Neuraphes* that inhabit the Himalayas and mountains embracing Qinghai-Tibet Plateau from the east (Jałoszyński 2008, 2010a, 2010b, 2013). To date only the subgenus *Pararaphes* Reitter, 1891 was found in this area, with ten species: *N. himalayanus* Franz, 1970; *N. taksangensis* Franz, 1973; *N. jumlanus* Franz, 1974; *N. aruensis* Franz, 1979; *N. khumbuanus* Jałoszyński, 2008; *N. tibetanus* Jałoszyński, 2008; *N. qinghaiensis* Jałoszyński, 2010a; *N. mephistopheles* Jałoszyński, 2010a; *N. hengduanus* Jałoszyński, 2010b and *N. pseudojumlanus* Jałoszyński, 2013. These taxa inhabit southern and eastern mountain ranges that surround Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, in India, Nepal and China.

Three new species from China are described in the present paper, and the distribution of the hitherto known species of *Neuraphes* that inhabit mountains around Qinghai-Tibet Plateau is summarized.

Materials and methods

Depositories

cPJ—collection of the author, Wrocław, Poland