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Second highly modified hypogean species of the genus *Morimotoidius* Habu from western Jiangxi Province, China, with a new locality for *M. zhushandong* (Coleoptera: Carabidae: Platynini)

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Abstract

Morimotoidius cavicola sp. n. is described and illustrated from a limestone cave called Guanfeng Dong in Yichun City of western Jiangxi Province, China. It is the second hypogean and highly morphologically modified species of the genus *Morimotoidius* recorded in China. *M. cavicola* sp. n. is easily recognized by its shorter pronotum which is less expanded medially than that in *M. zhushandong* Pang & Tian, 2014. *M. zhushandong* is also recorded from the cave Zhuangxi Dong. A distribution map, together with a modified key to Chinese species of the genus are also provided.

Key words: new species, *Morimotoidius*, ground beetle, cavernicolous

Introduction

The genus *Morimotoidius* was established by Habu in 1954 to contain two Japanese species, *Trephionus otuboi* Habu, 1944 and *Colpodes astictus* Bates, 1883 and a newly described species, *M. formosus*, from Taiwan Province of China. In addition, he proposed two subgenera, and put the former two species into the nominate subgenus *Morimotoidius* (*s. str.*), and the latter into subgenus *Sphodroides* (Habu, 1954). However, he had “great hesitation” when he dealt with the Taiwanese species (Habu, 1954, p. 269) because of its peculiar structure on prosternal process. It was perhaps the true reason why he ignored the Taiwanese species in his monography of Platynini published within the book series “Fauna Japonica”, mentioned only Japan concerning the generic range of *Morimotoidius* (Habu, 1978).

Morimotoidius differs from other Asian lineages of the tribe Platynini mainly by its slender pronotum with lateral setae absent. The Japanese and Taiwanese species are additionally characterized by the asetose 3rd interval of elytra (Habu, 1954, 1978).

M. zhushandong Pang & Tian (2014) was recorded from the cave Zhushan Dong II in Wanzai County of western Jiangxi Province, eastern China. It is the first representative of *Morimotoidius* from mainland China and from cave. *M. zhushandong* has very striking cave-adapted characteristics such as a very elongated body, and very slender, long appendages. This species must be a member of a very peculiar group in the genus. Apart from the above characters the distinguishing character of this group is that elytra have three dorsal setiferous pores on interval 3, which are absent in other species of *Morimotoidius*. Although *M. zhushandong* is a cave-dwelling species, it retains eyes and a well pigmented body.

In 2014, during a cave biological survey made in Yichun areas of western Jiangxi Province, seven *M. zhushandong*-like platynine beetles were collected in two limestone caves. Further study confirmed that the single male specimen collected from the cave Zhuangxi Dong is a member of *M. zhushandong*, but others collected from the cave Guanfeng Dong are representatives of a new species though they are quite similar to *M. zhushandong*. The purpose of this paper is to describe the new species, to record the new locality of *M. zhushandong*, and to provide a distribution map for *zhushandong* species group.