



Taxonomic notes on Chinese *Cercyon*: description of a new species, new synonyms, and additional faunistic records (Coleoptera: Hydrophilidae: Sphaeridiinae)

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Abstract

A new species, *Cercyon* (*Clinocercyon*) *hanseni* **sp. nov.**, is described from Jiangxi and Guizhou Provinces, China. Based on a study of type material, the following synonymies are proposed for the species occurring in China: *Cercyon signifer* Hebauer, 2002 is synonymized with *C.* (s. str.) *berlovi* Shatrovskiy, 1999, *Cercyon guangxiensis* Wu et Pu, 1995 with *Cercyon* (s. str.) *quisquilius* (Linnaeus, 1761), *Cercyon nigrostriatus* Wu et Pu, 1995 with *Cercyon* (*Clinocercyon*) *lineolatus* (Motschulsky, 1863), *Cercyon vicinaloides* d'Orchymont, 1925, and *Cercyon tropisternus* Wu et Pu, 1995 with *Cercyon* (*Paracycreon*) *laminatus* Sharp, 1873, and *Cercyon linearis* Wu et Pu, 1995 with *Cercyon* (*Paracycreon*) *subsolanus* Bal-four-Browne, 1939. A lectotype is designated for *Cercyon vicinalis* var. *vicinaloides* d'Orchymont, 1925. Three Palaeartic species are recorded from China for the first time: *Cercyon* (s. str.) *ovillus* Motschulsky, 1860, *Cercyon* (s. str.) *olibrus* Sharp, 1874 and *Cercyon* (s. str.) *unipunctatus* (Linnaeus, 1758). Additional faunistic data from China are provided for *Cercyon berlovi* and *Cercyon nigriceps* (Marsham, 1802). *Cercyon amplevatus* Jia, 1995 is transferred to the genus *Armostus* Sharp, 1890. A checklist of all *Cercyon* species recorded from China is presented, along with a tentative identification key.

Key words: New species, new synonym, new combination, lectotype designation, new records, China, Palaeartic Region, Oriental Region

Introduction

Cercyon Leach, 1817 is one of the largest genera of the Hydrophilidae. At present, it comprises more than 250 described species distributed worldwide (Hansen, 1999; Short & Hebauer, 2006; Short & Fikáček, 2011). A total of 24 species of the genus have been recorded from China so far, five of which were mentioned already by d'Orchymont (1914) as occurring in Taiwan. Since then, additional species were described by Jia *et al.* (1995), Shatrovskiy (1999), Hebauer (2002b) and Ryndevich (2004a), or recorded by Jia *et al.* (2010). Two species described from China were recently found to be synonyms of previously described species (Jia, 2002; Ryndevich, 2004b).

In 2003, the first author had the opportunity to study the specimens of various Oriental and Palaeartic species of *Cercyon* identified by Nakane and Satô during his trip to the Hokkaido University Museum. Along with the additional comparisons with the material deposited in European collections, this allow us to revise the status of the *Cercyon* species described previously from China and establish the synonymies in needed cases. In addition, one new *Cercyon* species is described within this paper as well.