

Studies on the *Eucibdelus* lineage
2. New species of *Rhyncocheilus* FAUVEL
and *Phytolinus* SHARP
(Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Staphylininae)

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Abstract

Two new species of the *Eucibdelus* lineage (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Staphylininae) are described: *Rhyncocheilus sommersgutteri* and *Phytolinus hirtus* (both from Sichuan, China). The subtle differences between the two genera are shortly discussed and both species are illustrated by color photographs.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Staphylininae, Staphylinina, *Rhyncocheilus*, *Phytolinus*, new species, taxonomy.

Introduction

The genera *Rhyncocheilus* FAUVEL and *Phytolinus* SHARP appear to be sister groups within the *Eucibdelus* lineage. In fact, they are so closely related and similar that it is difficult to find suitable arguments against lumping them. However, there are a few consistent characters which allow separation of the two genera. Nevertheless, it has to be verified by additional studies whether or not these characters are sufficient to maintain the present generic concept.

Rhyncocheilus: pronotum about as long as wide or slightly wider than long; mandible without lateral furrow, thus without ridge usually delimiting mandibular furrow dorsally; sharp longitudinal ridge on ventral face of profemur leading toward lateral margin of terminal ventral emargination; tibial spurs shorter, often hardly to be seen underneath the usual terminal setae.

Phytolinus: pronotum markedly longer than wide; mandible with lateral furrow, which is sometimes rather shallow but always delimited dorsally by more or less sharp ridge; sharp longitudinal ridge on ventral face of profemur leading toward base of terminal ventral emargination; tibial spurs always long and conspicuous.

Complete generic descriptions of the two genera will be provided in a future paper dealing with all known species (for already revised genera see SCHILLHAMMER 2001).

***Rhyncocheilus sommersgutteri* sp.n.**

Holotype ♀: "CHINA, Sichuan prov., 27.IV.-3.VII.1991, Z. Kejval lgt. Liziping env. near Shimian 200 km SW of Ya'an" (deposited at Naturhistorisches Museum Wien).

DESCRIPTION (Habitus: Fig. 1): 25.5 mm long (13.5 mm, abdomen excluded). – Head black dorsally with clypeus and area around antennal insertions reddish-yellow; ventral face of head reddish-yellow, border between black and reddish-yellow portions sharply delimited; labrum yellowish, with a slightly darker shade laterally; mandibles reddish-yellow, apices and medial margin including dentation black; palpi reddish yellow; segments 1-7 of antennae reddish, segments 8-11 blackish, segment 1 with large portion darker brownish leaving only base and apex narrowly reddish to yellowish, segments 2 and 4-7 with darker base and gradually

becoming paler distally, segment 3 with basal two thirds blackish, the very base narrowly reddish-brown; pronotum black, anterior two thirds of deflexed lateral portion and entire hypomera reddish-yellow; prosternum black, depression along anterior margin and coxal cavities reddish-yellow; scutellum black, with margins and elevated base reddish-brown; elytra with anterior third black, posterior two thirds and deflexed lateral and narrow basal portion yellowish; abdomen black, elevated area in front of basal line brightly yellowish including area where basal line encircling spiracles, posterior margin narrowly reddish to reddish-yellow, slightly to distinctly darker than anterior margin, but also sharply delimited, becoming gradually broader toward apex of abdomen; styli of tergite IX black with basal third yellowish, tergite X brown with yellowish margin; legs reddish-yellow to reddish-brown, basal two thirds of profemora and basal half of meso- and metafemora blackish; front coxae reddish with a large black patch medio-basally and latero-basally.

Head ovoid, slightly longer than wide (1.04 times), widest near base, distinctly narrowed anteriorly; eyes small, markedly protruding, slightly shifted toward dorsal face of head posteriorly; tempora convex, 1.70 times as long as eyes; dorsal surface of head very irregular, particularly between eyes, densely, rugosely punctate, margins of punctures forming partly irregular, partly transverse rugae; punctures of macrosetae in deep, crater-like fossae; clypeus separated from frons by conspicuous transverse ridge; clypeus with wide medial emargination, meeting base of labrum laterally; pubescence of head moderately dense, short, golden; labrum large, surface sparingly punctate and pubescent, with dense fringe of moderately long, stout, black setae along medial and apico-lateral edges, with moderately dense submarginal row of longer setae; dentation and ridges of mandibles as in all other *Rhyncocheilus* species; antennae with basal three segments almost equal in length, segment 2 slightly shorter, remaining segments gradually decreasing in length, segments 4-7 markedly oblong, segments 8-10 about as long as wide, slightly asymmetrical, segment 11 strongly asymmetrical, distal half of last segment strongly constricted (this feature seems characteristic for the entire lineage); pronotum slightly wider than long (1.06 times), widest shortly behind anterior angles; surface similarly irregular as that of head, fossae containing punctures of macrosetae even deeper; with very narrow, shiny, impunctate midline, interrupted by longitudinal groove in basal third; scutellum with shallow depression, densely and finely punctate, pubescence golden; elytra large, markedly longer and wider than pronotum, without any evident surface irregularities; posterior third of suture divergent; exceedingly densely and finely punctate, base and shoulders with pubescence similar to that of head and pronotum, remaining portion with exceedingly dense, variegated, modified silvery hairs; grooves of macrosetae very wide, very shallow, hardly impressed, glabrous; abdominal tergites variegated with short, silvery, golden and brownish-black pubescence, forming pairs of toment-like patches along midline of first five visible tergites; tergite VII with broad, transverse fascia of dense silvery pubescence, occupying posterior two thirds of tergite, medially extending anteriorly and somewhat mingling with pair of dark pubescence at base; protibia only slightly clavate; protarsi as in all other species of *Rhyncocheilus* but slightly more asymmetrical than in e.g. *R. aureus* FABRICIUS.

Male unknown.

RECOGNITION: The species has such a unique appearance, mainly due to the irregular surface of head and pronotum and the characteristic pubescence of the elytra, that it cannot be confused with any of the hitherto described species of *Rhyncocheilus*.

DISTRIBUTION: The species is known only from the type locality.

DERIVATIO NOMINIS: This outstanding species is named in honour of Prim. Dr. Manfred Sommersgutter (Mittersill, Austria), for generously supporting the research work of the coleopterists at the Natural History Museum, Vienna.

Phytolinus hirtus sp.n.

Holotype ♀: "Wolung 2000 m Wassuland 7.-10.1934 \ W.Szechuan China Sankiangkou leg. Friedrich" (deposited at Naturhistorisches Museum Wien).

DESCRIPTION (Habitus: Fig. 2): 18.7 mm long (9.2 mm, abdomen excluded). – Black, dull; mandibles and antennae dark reddish-brown, two outer antennal segments inconspicuously darker; clypeus dark reddish, narrowly black medially; labrum dark reddish-brown with somewhat darker disc; front legs black, base of tibia and tarsal segment 5 dark reddish-brown; mid and hind legs paler brownish; posterior margins of first four visible tergites obscurely reddish-brown, posterior third of tergite VII more distinctly and well delimited reddish-brown.

Head transversely quadrangular, 1.30 times as wide as long, base of head straight; eyes moderately protruding, tempora parallel-sided, 1.08 times as long as eyes; disc of head moderately vaulted, without any irregularities, punctation fine, very dense, punctural grooves with sharp edges, somewhat longitudinally shaped especially on vertex at level of posterior third of eyes; entire surface of head covered by dense, moderately long silvery hairs; macrosetae rather short and thin, brownish at base, silvery toward apex, apical portion of macrosetae very thin, apically usually somewhat curled, rather inconspicuous within dense ground pubescence; mandibles with shallow longitudinal furrow dorso-laterally, dorsally delimited by blunt-edged but distinct ridge; medial margin with dentation characteristic for the genus, dorsal surface with dense, rugose microsculpture; labrum large, triangular, with dense silvery pubescence, particularly antero-lateral margin exceedingly densely pubescent, without submarginal macrosetae, but with a few very long but thin, apically curled macrosetae on disc; antennae with segment 2, segments 4-7 gradually decreasing in length, oblong, segments 8-10 about as long as wide, distal half of segment 11 with characteristic constriction; pronotum 1.14 times as long as wide, widest shortly behind front angles, narrowed toward slightly convex base in almost straight line; glabrous midline almost complete, slightly elevated in posterior half, distinctly widened and shiny in front of posterior margin; surface densely punctate, punctural grooves much flatter than on head, punctation less dense on two indistinct gibbosities, one situated antero-laterally another at midlength exactly halfway between midline and lateral margin; pubescence of disc as on head, silvery but with a coppery tinge in anterior fourth, along lateral margin exceedingly dense and long, almost furry, especially in posterior two thirds; scutellum densely, rather coarsely punctate and with very dense silvery pubescence; elytra exceedingly finely and densely punctate, with dense, long, variegated silvery pubescence, particularly long along posterior margin; macrosetae of pronotum and elytra almost inconspicuous among ground pubescence, also with curled apices; first five visible tergites with pairs of depressions bearing somewhat denser patches of silvery pubescence than remaining portions of tergites, along midlines of tergites with much finer and more scanty punctation and pubescence; first four visible tergites with pairs of inconspicuously indicated oblique carinae at base; anterior face of profemora covered with very long furry pubescence as along sides of pronotum; protibiae clavate, with moderately long and dense silvery pubescence dorsally and medially, with exceedingly long silvery hairs laterally, particularly toward distal end; protarsi patellate, individual segments strongly asymmetrical, semi-membranous portion of ventral side bearing modified setae conspicuously extensive; segment five in comparison to other *Phytolinus* species rather slender, unusually long, but still hardly reaching beyond ventral extension of segment 4; mid and hind legs very gracile, with scanty silvery pubescence and a few longer silvery hairs (which most likely are homologous to the spines in other genera).



Fig. 1: Habitus of *Rhyncocheilus sommersgutteri*.



Fig. 2: Habitus of *Phytolinus hirtus*.

Male unknown.

RECOGNITION: *Phytolinus hirtus* cannot be confused with any of the described *Phytolinus* species. It may be easily recognized by the large size but above all by the conspicuous fur-like, almost shaggy silvery pubescence.

DISTRIBUTION: The species is known only from the type locality.

ETYMOLOGY: The specific name is derived from the Latin adjective *hirtus*, -a, -um, meaning bristly or shaggy, and refers to the conspicuous pubescence.

Zusammenfassung

Zwei neue Arten aus der *Eucibdelus* lineage (Staphylinidae: Staphylininae) werden beschrieben: *Rhyncocheilus sommersgutteri* und *Phytolinus hirtus* (beide aus Sichuan, China). Die feinen Unterschiede zwischen beiden Gattungen werden kurz diskutiert und beide Arten durch Farbfotos abgebildet.

Reference

SCHILLHAMMER, H. 2001: Studies on the *Eucibdelus* lineage: 1. *Trichocosmetes* Kraatz, *Sphaeromacrops* gen.n., *Guillaumius* gen.n., and *Rhyncocheilus* Sharp. – *Koleopterologische Rundschau* 71: 67-96.

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