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Rediscovery of *Acilius sinensis* PESCHET, 1915 (Coleoptera: Dytiscidae)

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Abstract

The rediscovery of *Acilius sinensis* PESCHET, 1915 (Coleoptera: Dytiscidae) in Yunnan province, China, is reported. A male and a female were collected in a water-filled rut on a forest track 31 km east of Luxi at 2280 m. Photographs illustrating both sexes and the habitat are provided.

Key words: Coleoptera, Dytiscidae, *Acilius sinensis*, Yunnan, China, conservation.

Introduction

A comprehensive taxonomic revision of the Holarctic genus *Acilius* LEACH was recently published by BERGSTEN & MILLER (2005). In total, six Palaearctic and seven Nearctic species were recognized. None of these species is Holarctic in distribution. One of the rarest members of this genus is *Acilius sinensis* PESCHET, 1915, an isolated southwest Chinese species. No specimens have been collected since at least 82 years (BERGSTEN & MILLER 2005). Neither a special field trip to Yunnan by J. Bergsten in September 2000 nor the extensive China Water Beetle Survey (JÄCH & Ji 1995, 1998, 2003) revealed any further specimens. The rediscovery of the species in western Yunnan gives some hope that other missing Chinese lentic water beetle species, such as *Hygrobia davidi* BEDEL (Hygrobiidae), are still extant.

Material and Methods

Specimens mentioned in this work are deposited in the following collections:

CLH Collection Dr. Lars Hendrich, Berlin, Germany (property of Vienna Natural History Museum, Austria)
ZSM Zoologische Staatssammlung, München, Germany

Acilius sinensis PESCHET, 1915 (Figs. 1, 2)

Material examined: 1 ♂, 1 ♀: "China (Yunnan) Dehong Dai Aut. Pref. mount. Range 31 km E Luxi, 2280 m 24°29'31" N 98°52'58" E, 3.VI.2007 D.W.Wrase (19)" (CLH); 1 ♀: "Yunnan", "Coll. Donckier", "Samml. A. Zimmermann", "Zoologische Staatss. München" (ZSM); 1 ♂: "Yunnan", "Type", "Samml. A. Zimmermann", "Zoologische Staatss. München" (ZSM); 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀: "Se Tchouan Chine" [Sichuan], "TYPE", "Samml. A. Zimmermann", "Zoologische Staatss. München" (ZSM).

Distribution (Fig. 3): China: Sichuan and Yunnan between 1691 m and 2280 m in altitude. From Sichuan no precise locality data are known (BERGSTEN & MILLER 2005). From Yunnan it is recorded from the north-eastern and western part of the province. The new record is not far away from the border to Myanmar.

Collecting Notes: Both specimens were collected by a Chinese taxi driver in a water-filled rut on a forest track without having a net or other proper equipment (D. Wrase and A. Pütz, pers. com.).

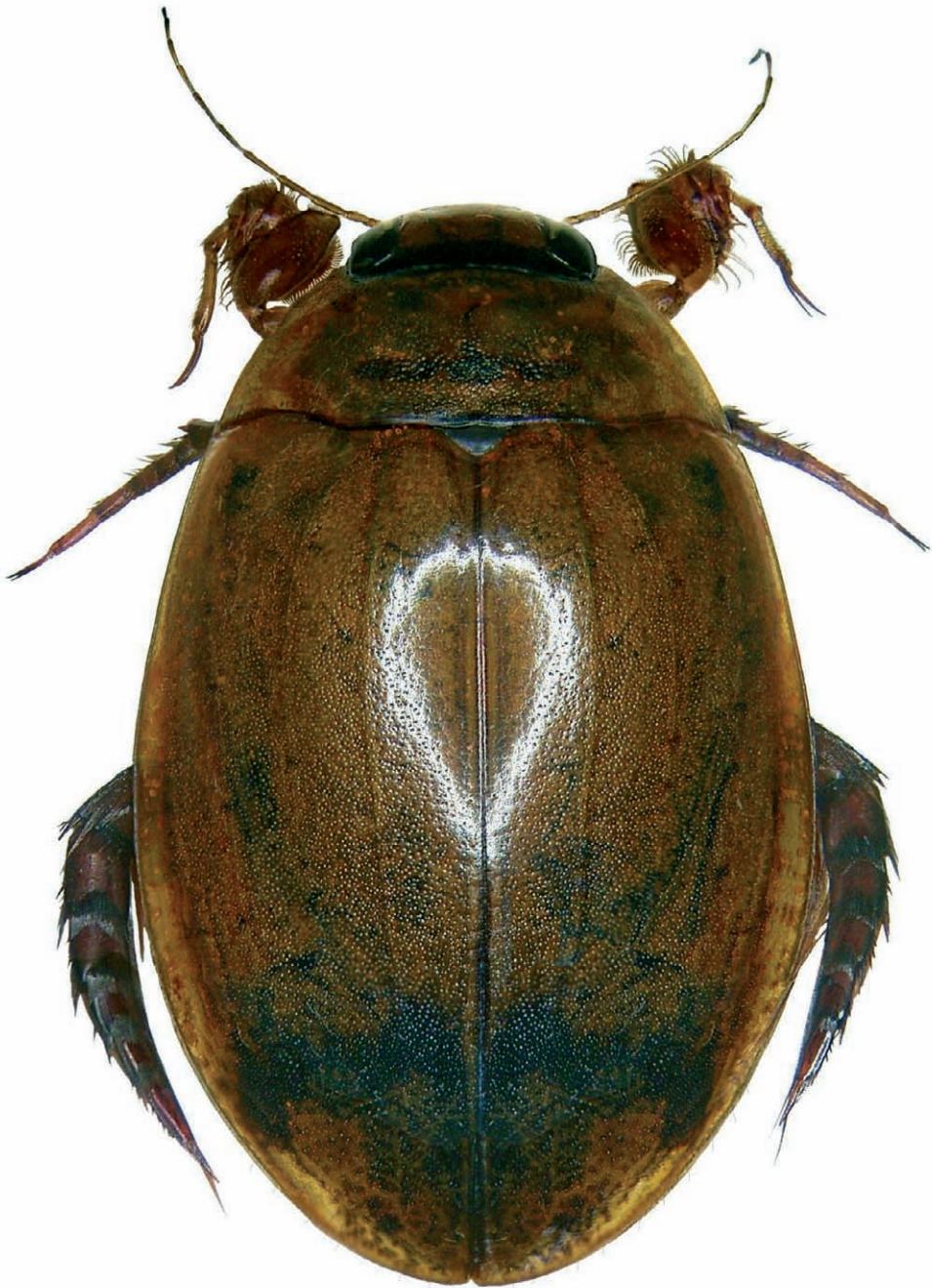


Fig. 1: Habitus of *Acilius sinensis*, male.



Fig. 2: Habitus of *Acilius sinensis*, female.

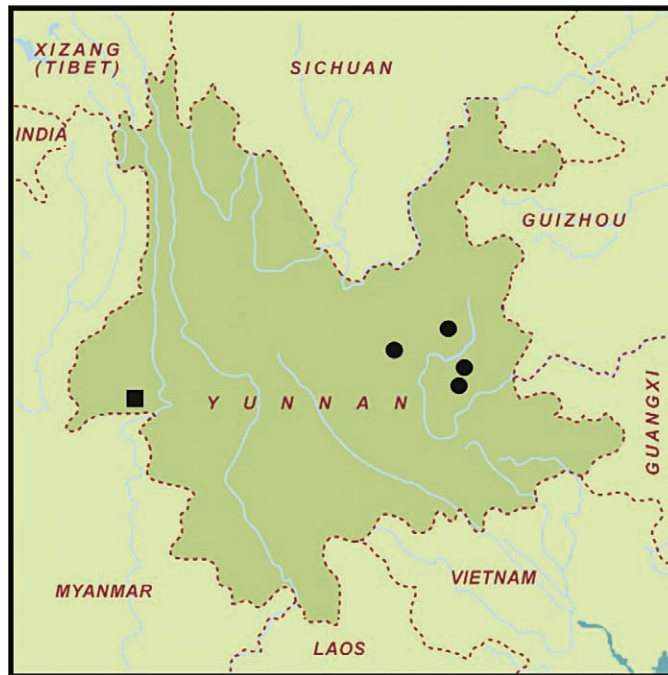


Fig. 3: Distribution of *Acilius sinensis* in Yunnan, China; square = new record, dots = localities listed in BERGSTEN & MILLER (2005).



Fig. 4: Woodland track (31 km E Luxi, 2280 m, Yunnan, China). The water-filled rut, where *Acilius sinensis* was collected, is just right of the car, not visible on the photograph.

The forest track was at the edge of a remnant, secondary growth pine forest surrounded by pastures and grassland (Fig. 4).

Together with the two *Acilius* one specimen of the rare *Cybister convexus* SHARP, 1882 and two unidentified females of the *Agabus congener*-group were caught.

Conservation Status: Many parts of China are under severe pressure from human development. The author agrees with the suggestion of BERGSTEN & MILLER (2005) that *A. sinensis* should be included in the IUCN red list, although a more detailed survey is needed to evaluate the actual distribution, the exact habitat requirements and the conservation status of this species.

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References

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