A revision of Othiini XVIII.
Two new species from China and additional records
(Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Staphylininae)

V. ASSING

Abstract

Othius vetitus sp.n. (China: southern Gansu) and O. rufocaudatus sp.n. (China: Zhejiang, Shaanxi) are described and illustrated. Based on morphological, zoogeographic, and ecological evidence, O. stenocephalus Eppelsheim, 1881, previously a subspecies of O. angustus Stephens, 1833, is regarded as a distinct species. Additional records of 26 described species and subspecies of Othius Stephens, 1829 are reported, among them the first record of O. subuliformis Stephens, 1833 from Madeira. One female of a probably undescribed species is reported from Taiwan. The distributions of six species are mapped. An updated checklist of the Othius species of China and Taiwan is provided. The Palaearctic genus now comprises a total of 126 species and subspecies; it is represented in mainland China by 38 and in Taiwan by 14 species and subspecies, with one species distributed in both regions.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Othiini, Othius, new species, new status, new records, Palaearctic Region, China, Taiwan, distribution, checklist.

Introduction

The Palaearctic genus Othius Stephens, 1829 previously comprised 124 species and subspecies (Assing 2010). Thus, it is by far the most speciose of the four genera of the Holarctic tribe Othiini (total: 141 species and subspecies). The hotspots of Othius diversity are the Atlantic Islands and the Caucasus region in the West Palaearctic, and the Himalaya, China, and Taiwan in the East Palaearctic Region. Subspecies were recognized in only three species, O. angustus Stephens, 1833 (two subspecies) in the West Palaearctic, and O. fibulifer Assing, 1999 (three subspecies) and O. latus Sharp, 1874 (two subspecies) in the East Palaearctic Region. Thirty-six species and subspecies were previously known from China and 14 from Taiwan, with one species distributed in both regions. Four of these (sub-)species are widespread in the East Palaearctic Region, the remainder is confined to China and/or Taiwan.

The present paper is the eighteenth contribution to the Othiini and primarily based on material examined since the previous instalment (Assing 2010). The material included three undescribed species from China and Taiwan, one of which is represented only by a single female, as well as 26 previously described species. Recently collected material and field observations on Othius stenocephalus Eppelsheim, 1881 stimulated a revision of the taxonomic status of the two previous subspecies of O. angustus.

Material and methods

The material treated in this study is deposited in the following public and private collections:

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<th>Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>cAss</td>
<td>author’s private collection</td>
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<td>cFel</td>
<td>private collection Benedikt Feldmann, Münster, Germany</td>
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<td>cPüt</td>
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<td>cSch</td>
<td>private collection Michael Schülke, Berlin, Germany</td>
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<td>cSha</td>
<td>private collection Alexey Shavrin, Daugavpils, Latvia</td>
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The morphological studies were conducted using a Stemi SV 11 microscope (Zeiss Germany) and a Jenalab compound microscope (Carl Zeiss Jena). A digital camera (Nikon Coolpix 995) was used for the photographs. The maps were created using MapCreator 2.0 (primap) software.

The measurements in the description are indicated in mm and abbreviated as follows: HW: maximal head width; HL: head length from anterior margin of frons to neck; PW: maximal width of pronotum; PL: length of pronotum along median line; EL: length of elytra from apex of scutellum to elytral hind margin (at the sutural angle); TiL: length of metatibia (external aspect, from knee to insertion of first metatarsomere); TaL: length of metatarsus (claws not included); TL: total length from apex of mandibles to posterior margin of tergite VIII.

The parameral side of (the median lobe of) the aedeagus is referred to as the ventral, the opposite side as the dorsal aspect.

**Descriptions of new species and additional records**

**Othius lapidicola** MÄRKEL & KIESENWETTER, 1848


**Othius piceus** SCRIBA, 1870

MATERIAL EXAMINED: SPAIN: 1 ex., Murcia, Caravaca de la Cruz, 1040 m, IX.2009, leg. Gallego (cAss); 1 ex., Murcia, Alhama de Murcia, Sierra Española, 37°50'N, 1°30'W, 800 m, flight interception trap, 14.1.2011 Gallego et al. (cAss); 1 ex., Murcia, Moratalla, Sierra de Villafuerte, 38°49'N, 2°20'W, 1230 m, X.2010, leg. Gallego (cAss); 2 exs., Murcia, Jumilla, Los Gavilanes, flight interception trap, V.2009, leg. Gallego (cAss); 1 ex., Castilla y León, Segovia, Ayllón, Encinar, Saldana de Ayllón, 41°23'N, 3°27'W, 1000 m, flight interception trap, 21.VIII. 2009, leg. González (cAss).
COMMENT: *Othius piceus* is distributed in the Iberian Peninsula and Northwest Africa (ASSING 1999a, 2005b). For a distribution map see ASSING (2005b). Most of the above specimens were collected with flight interception traps, suggesting that this rarely found species is an active flyer.

**Othius laeviusculus STEPHENS, 1833**

MATERIAL EXAMINED: SPAIN: 1 ex., Murcia, Jumilla, Sierra del Carche, 3.V.2010, leg. Lencina (cAss); 2 exs., Castilla-La Mancha, Albacete, Masegosa, flight interception trap, 18.X.2010, leg. Lencina et al. (cAss). ITALY: Sardinia: 1 ex., 5 km SW Siniscola, NW-slope of Monte Albo, 40°34′N, 9°38′E, 780 m, stony pasture, under stones, 24.XII.2012, leg. Assing (MNHUB); 1 ex., 12 km WSW Siniscola, Monte Remule, Norghio, 40°28′N, 9°38′E, 370 m, pasture, under stones, 28.XII.2012, leg. Assing (MNHUB); 1 ex., 18 km SSW Dorgali, S Genna Silana, 40°06′N, 9°32′E, 740 m, calcareous pasture, under stones, 28.XII.2012, leg. Assing (cAss). GREECE: Crete: 2 exs., S Anogia, Psiloritis, 35°14′59″N, 24°53′05″E, 1180 m, pasture, under stones near snow, 3.IV.2012, leg. Assing; 1 ex., Orno Thriptis, SE Thripti, 35°05′03″N, 25°52′51″E, 1300 m, litter and grass sifted, 6.IV.2012, leg. Assing (material from Crete in MNHUB and cAss). TURKEY: 1 ex., Adana, E Pozanti, road to Armutoluğ, 37°26′N, 34°54′E, 1220 m, 16.IV.2011, leg. Brachat & Meybohm (cAss); 1 ex., Adana, 7 km E Kamşl, 37°32′N, 34°00′E, 1330 m, 26.IV.2011, leg. Brachat & Meybohm (cAss).

COMMENT: The expansive Holo-Mediterranean distribution of *O. laeviusculus* is mapped by ASSING (2005a).

**Othius angustus STEPHENS, 1833** (Figs. 1–2)

COMMENT: This species has been considered to be represented by two subspecies, *O. angustus angustus* and *O. angustus stenocephalus*, the former having a distribution of the expansive Atlanto-Mediterranean type and the latter confined to the Caucasus region. Since the publication of the main part of the revision of the West Palearctic *Othius* species (ASSING 1997) more evidence has become available suggesting that both taxa should be considered distinct species rather than subspecies.

The *Othius angustus* group is characterised by an aedeagus with a rather short and wide internal tube, but without additional sclerotised structures, and consequently little character diversity. Even such – externally – easily distinguished species like *O. angustus* and *O. laeviusculus* have an almost identical aedeagus. The same applies to *O. lapidicola* and *O. piceus*, as well as several species distributed in the Himalaya. Therefore, a similar morphology of the aedeagus does not present, by itself, sufficient evidence that two taxa should be conspecific. The aedeagus of *O. stenocephalus* differs from that of *O. angustus* by somewhat broader shape (ventral view), as well as by the basally broader and apically more strongly narrowed ventral process (Figs. 2–3). Externally, *O. angustus* and *O. stenocephalus* are distinguished by differences in the length of the hind wings and the elytra, as well as by the different coloration. *Othius angustus* is wing-dimorphic, and the elytra are on average shorter than in the apparently monomorphic *O. stenocephalus* (see measurements and diagrams in ASSING 1997). In *O. angustus*, the pronotum is generally bright-reddish and usually distinctly contrasting with the blackish head, while in *O. stenocephalus*, the pronotum is dark-brown to blackish-brown and at most slightly less dark than the head, and the elytra are brown to dark-brown with yellowish posterior margins.

Moreover, the distributions of *O. angustus* and *O. stenocephalus* provide no evidence that they should be considered subspecies (Fig. 1). The former is widespread in the colder parts of Europe. It is absent from the south of the Iberian Peninsula, from southern Italy, and from the southern Balkans. In the northern parts of South Europe, it is confined to higher altitudes, and in North Europe its distribution extends as far north as Iceland and northern Norway without noticeable clinal variation. The eastern limit is somewhat uncertain. *Othius stenocephalus*, on the other hand, is endemic to the Caucasus region, where the species occurs at higher elevations.
Finally, both taxa seem to be ecologically different. While *O. angustus* is usually found in open, unforested habitats (heath- and moorland, subalpine shrub habitats), primarily on acidic soils, *O. stenocephalus* inhabits the leaf litter of montane and subalpine forests (see the data in the following section). For more details on the natural history of *O. angustus* see ASSING (1993, 1997).

Fig. 1: Distributions of *Othius angustus* (circles) and *O. stenocephalus* (triangles), based on examined records.

**Othius stenocephalus** EPPLESHEIM, 1881; **stat. n.** (Figs. 1, 3)

**MATERIAL EXAMINED:** **RUSSIA:** **West Caucasus:** 2 exs., 15 km ENE Krasnaya Polyana, near Pseashkha pass, 43°43'N, 40°23'E, 2040 m, moist subalpine forest (*Betula, Acer*), 16.VII.2011, leg. Assing (cAss); 3 exs., 5 km ENE Krasnaya Polyana, S-slope of Pseashkha range, 43°43'N, 40°24'E, 2040 m, subalpine beech forest with rhododendron, sifted, 17.VII.2011, leg. Assing (cAss); 33 exs., Karachayevo-Cherkesskaya Respublika, 13 km SW Teberda, 43°20'N, 41°40'E, 1450 m, moist spruce forest with scattered beech, litter, moss, and dead wood sifted, 22.VII.2011, leg. Assing (cAss); 9 exs., Karachayevo-Cherkesskaya Respublika, 20 km SW Teberda, Dombai, 43°17'N, 41°39'E, 2160 m, subalpine birch forest, litter sifted, 23.VII.2011, leg. Assing (cAss); 15 exs.,
Karachayevo-Cherkesskaya Respublika, 20 km SW Teberda, above Dombai, 43°17’N, 41°38’E, 1950 m, mixed forest (fir, spruce, beech), leaf litter sifted, 25.VII.2011, leg. Assing (cAss, cFel); 5 exs., Karachayevo-Cherkesskaya Respublika, 9 km SW Teberda, Teberdinski range, Baduk river valley, 43°23’N, 41°40’E, 2000 m, subalpine forest (maple, birch, with rhododendron) near lakeshore, litter sifted, 26.VII.2011, leg. Assing (cAss); 1 ex., Karachayevo-Cherkesskaya Respublika, 9 km SW Teberda, Teberdinski range, Baduk river valley, 43°23’N, 41°40’E, 2000 m, subalpine forest (birch, maple), leaf litter between large rocks sifted, 27.VII.2011, leg. Assing (cAss).

COMMENT: The distribution of this species is confined to the Caucasus region, including northeastern Anatolia (ASSING 1997, 2008).

**Othius baculifer** ASSING & WUNDERLE, 1995


COMMENT: *Othius punctulatus* has an expansive Holo-Mediterranean distribution and is one of the most widespread species of the genus (ASSING 1997, 2010).

**Othius grandis** HOCHHUTH, 1849

MATERIAL EXAMINED: RUSSIA: 1 ex., Krasnodarskiy Kray, Tennolesskaia near Mazmei, 750 m, 7.VI.1999, leg. Smetana (cSm); 2 exs., same data, but 800 m, 8.VI.1999 (cSm, cAss); 1 ex., same data, but 850 m, 8.VI.1999 (cSm); 4 exs., W-Caucasus, 40 km NNE Sochi, S Mt. Fisht, 43°55’N, 39°51’E, 1650 m, beech forest with scattered fir, litter and dead wood sifted, 12.VII.2011, leg. Assing (cAss); 2 exs., W-Caucasus, Karachayevo-Cherkesskaya Respublika, 20 km SW Teberda, above Dombai, 43°17’N, 41°38’E, 1950 m, mixed forest (fir, spruce, beech), leaf litter sifted, 25.VII.2011, leg. Assing (cAss); 3 exs., Karachayevo-Cherkesskaya Respublika, 9 km SW Teberda, Teberdinski range, Baduk river valley, 43°23’N, 41°40’E, 2000 m, subalpine forest (maple, birch, with rhododendron) near lakeshore, litter sifted, 26.VII.2011, leg. Assing (cAss); 2 exs., Karachayevo-Cherkesskaya Respublika, valley of Daut river, 43°62’N, 42°09’E, 17.–19.V.2009, leg. Anichtchenko (cSha); 1 ex., Karachayevo-Cherkesskaya Respublika, Dzhalan-Kol river, 43°60’9”N, 42°14’6”E, 21.–22.V.2009, leg. Anichtchenko (cAss).
COMMENT: The distribution of *O. grandis* is confined to the Caucasus region and extends into northeastern Anatolia (ASSING 1997, 2008).

**Othius strigulosus** WOLLASTON, 1854

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **PORTUGAL** : Madeira: 1 ex., 1 second-instar, 1 third-instar larvae, E Encumeada pass, 32°45'N, 17°00'W, 1310 m, old laurel, sifted, 29.XII.2011, leg. Assing (cAss); 2 second-instar, 1 third-instar larvae, SE Poiso, 32°43'N, 16°52'W, 1230 m, slope with *Erica*, sifted, 30.XII.2011, leg. Assing (cAss).

COMMENT: Larvae of this Madeiran endemic were previously collected only in March and April (ASSING 1998a, ASSING & WUNDERLE 1995).

**Othius jansoni** WOLLASTON, 1854

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **PORTUGAL** : Madeira: 1 ex., Pico Ruivo → Pico Arieiro, ca. 1600 m, grass etc. sifted, 25.XII.2011, leg. Assing (cAss); 1 ex., 26 third-instar larvae, Paúl da Serra, Ruivo do Paúl, 32°47'N, 17°05'W, 1620 m, grass etc. sifted, 27.XII.2011, leg. Assing (cAss).

COMMENT: Although relatively widespread in the Madeiran archipelago, this endemic is rather rare. Larvae were previously collected only in March (ASSING 1998a, ASSING & WUNDERLE 1995).

**Othius subuliformis** STEPHENS, 1833


COMMENT: The expansive Atlanto-Mediterranean distribution of *O. subuliformis* extends from the south of the Iberian Peninsula to the Faroe and Shetland Islands, Scandinavia, and Ukraine. The species is adventive also in North America, where it was recently reported from Newfoundland (ASSING 2003b, 2005a, 2008, 2010). The above specimens represent the first record from Madeira, where it is apparently a recent introduction and, at present, the only adventive species of the genus (ASSING & WUNDERLE 1995). For maps illustrating the distribution of *O. subuliformis* see ASSING (2003b).

**Othius wunderlei** ASSING, 1997

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **SPAIN** : 1 ex., Murcia, Jumilla, Sierra del Carche, 38°26'N, 1°10'W, 1280 m, Berlese, 1.XI.2010, leg. Lencina (cAss); 1 ex., same data, but 16.X.2010 (cAss); 3 exs., Andalucía, Jaén, Hornos, Sima del Campamento, 38°11'N, 2°47'W, 23.IX.2012, leg. G.E.V. [= Grupo de Espeleología de Villacarrillo] (cAss); 2 exs., same locality, pitfall traps, 13.I.2013, leg. G.E.V. (cAss).

COMMENT: *Othius wunderlei* is endemic to southeastern Spain. Its distribution and that of its adelphotaxon, *O. subuliformis*, are parapatric. For maps see ASSING (2003b).

**Othius brevipennis** KRAATZ, 1857

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **CROATIA** : 3 exs., Velika Kapela, 2 km NE Bijele stijene, road to Mrkopalj, 45°14'N, 15°00'0'E, 890 m, mixed fir and beech forest, fern debris sifted, 28.III.2007, leg. Makranczy (HNHM, cAss).

COMMENT: The distribution of *O. brevipennis* is confined to the eastern Alps and adjacent regions, including the northwestern Balkans. For a map see ASSING (2003b).
**Othius transsilvanicus** GANGLBAUER, 1895

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **ROMANIA**: 2 exs., Brașov County, Piatra Craiului National Park, W side of Colțul Ciliilor, 1.6 km NNW Vârful Turnul, 45°34'N, 25°15'E, 1120 m, forested rock walls, soilwashing, 13.VI.2011, leg. Makranczy (HNHM, cAss); 1 ex., Brașov County, Piatra Craiului National Park, Saua Crăpăturiui, 0.6 km WSW Piatra Mică, 45°33'N, 25°16'E, 1600 m, spruce forest at scree, subterranean traps baited with rotten cheese, 21.V.—11.VI.2011, leg. Makranczy (HNHM); 1 ex., Sibiu County, Munți Cindrel, 4.6 km SE Păltinis, 45°39'N, 23°59'E, 1370 m, wet area around spring, soil washing, 28.IV.2012, leg. Makranczy (HNHM).

COMMENT: This Carpathian endemic is the most common representative of the genus in Romania.

**Othius chrysurus** REITTER, 1891


COMMENT: *Othius chrysurus* is widespread and the least rare representative of the genus in Middle Asia (ASSING 1997, 2010).

**Othius turcmenus** FAUVEL, 1900

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **KYRGYZSTAN**: 2 exs., Issyk-Kul, 25 km W Balykchy, 2 km S Kek Mojnok Vtoroe, 42°27'N, 75°51'E, 1670 m, 18.VI.2011, leg. Frisch (MNHUB, cAss).

COMMENT: Previously, this apparently very rare species was known only from the two type specimens and three additional specimens from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, only one of them collected fairly recently (ASSING 1997, 1999b). The aedeagus is illustrated in ASSING (1999b).

**Othius medius** SHARP, 1874


COMMENT: *Othius medius* is one of the most widespread species of the genus in the East Palaearctic Region (ASSING 1999a).

**Othius latus gansuensis** ASSING, 1999

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **CHINA**: 4 exs. [1 ♂, 1 ♀ in copula], S-Gansu, mountains SE Longnan, 33°13'N, 105°15'E, 2080 m, young pine plantation, under wood and in soil, 4.VIII.2012, leg. Wrase (cSch, cAss); 2 exs., S-Gansu, mountains SE Longnan, 33°11'N, 105°14'E, 2060 m, N-slope with scree, under stones, 7.VIII.2012, leg. Assing & Wrase (cAss); 2 exs., S-Gansu, N Chengxian, W-Qinling Shan, 34°10'N, 105°42'E, 1830 m, stream valley, raked from loamy soil with tall herbaceous vegetation, 29.VII.2012, leg. Wrase (cSch, cAss); 1 ex., same data, but sifted from leaf litter (cSch); 1 ex., S-Gansu, N Chengxian, W-Qinling Shan, 34°08'24"N, 105°46'43"E, 1750 m, moist valley with stream and ponds, meadow with *Artemisia*, 28.VII.2012, leg. Schülke (cSch); 1 ex., S-Shaanxi, SW Meixian, Qinling Shan, 34°02'N, 107°24'E, 1870 m, N-slope, secondary deciduous forest, near stream, litter and grass sifted, 26.VII.2012, leg. Wrase (cSch); 8 exs., Qinghai, Qilian Shan, Chimate, 3000 m, 24.VII.—12.VIII.2010, leg. Murzin (cSch, cAss); 1 ex., Qinghai, Qilian Shan S Xining, 2800 m, 9.—11.VIII.2010, leg. Murzin (cSch); 2 exs., Qinghai, Huangzhong env., Taer Si (lamasery) [= Kumbum], 36°29'N, 101°34'E, 2665—2780 m, 17.VII.2005, leg. Hájek, Král & Ružička (NMNHP, cAss); 1 ex., Qinghai, Daban Shan, 60 km NW Honggu, 36°49'N, 102°31'E, 2360—2400 m, mixed forest, under stone, 25.VI.2011, leg. Wrase (cSch).

COMMENT: This subspecies was originally described from Gansu Province and subsequently reported also from Qinghai (ASSING 1999a, 2008). The above specimen from Shaanxi represents the first record from this province.
**Othius punctatus** BERNHAUER, 1923

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **CHINA:** 31 exs., S-Gansu, N Chengxian, W-Qinling Shan, 34°08'N, 105°47'E, 1750 m, moist valley with stream and ponds, meadow with *Artemisia*, 28.VII.2012, leg. Assing & Schülke (cAss, cSch); 1 ex., S-Gansu, N Chengxian, W-Qinling Shan, 34°08'N, 105°47'E, 1760 m, heap of rotting plants, sifted, 28.VII.2012, leg. Assing (cAss); 1 ex., same data, but secondary deciduous forest margin, leaf litter sifted, leg. Schülke (cSch); 2 exs., S-Gansu, N Chengxian, W-Qinling Shan, 34°10'N, 105°43'E, 1850 m, mixed secondary forest margin, litter sifted, 29.VII.2012, leg. Assing (cAss); 9 exs., S-Gansu, N Chengxian, W-Qinling Shan, 34°10'N, 105°42'E, 1830 m, stream valley with secondary deciduous forest, moist litter sifted, 29.VII.2012, leg. Assing & Schülke (cAss, cSch); 2 exs., S-Gansu, N Chengxian, W-Qinling Shan, 34°10'N, 105°42'E, 1830 m, stream valley, raked from loamy soil with tall herbaceous vegetation, 29.VII.2012, leg. Wrase (cSch); 2 exs., S-Gansu, W-Qinling Shan, NW Longnan, 34°03'N, 104°10'E, 2200 m, SW-slope with shrubs, litter sifted, 1.VIII.2012, leg. Assing (cAss); 1 ex., S-Shaanxi, SW Meixian, Qinling Shan, 34°02'N, 107°24'E, 1870 m, N-slope, secondary deciduous forest, near stream, litter and grass sifted, 26.VII.2012, leg. Wrase (cSch); 1 ex., S-Shaanxi, 15 km SW Dongjiangkou, 14.–17.VII.1998, leg. “Bolm” (NHMB).

COMMENT: *Othius punctatus* is widespread and rather common in mainland China and Taiwan (ASSING 1999a, 2003a, 2003b). The species is apparently rather eurytopic. In the Qinling Shan, it was both sifted from the leaf litter of forests and dug out from loamy soil in a moist clearing with dominant *Artemisia* vegetation.

**Othius rosti** BERNHAUER, 1907

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **JAPAN:** 1 ex., Hokkaido, Taisetsu-san National Park, Shio-betsy, 29.VII.2009, leg. Lackner (cAss).

COMMENT: *Othius rosti* is the most widespread species in the East Palaearctic, its distribution ranging from the Baikal region and North Korea to Japan (ASSING 1999a, 2010). Recently, the species was reported from China (Heilongjiang) for the first time (WANG et al 2012).

**Othius amamianus** ITO, 1993

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **JAPAN:** 1 ♂, Kagoshima-ken, Amami, Oshima Island, Arangachi waterfall near Ukenson, in rotting oranges, 26.III.2010, leg. Lackner (cAss).

COMMENT: The known distribution of this species is confined to the Amami Islands, southern Japan (ASSING 1999a).

**Othius wrasei** ASSING, 1999

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **CHINA:** 1 ♂, Sichuan, NE slope of Gongga Shan, 29°48'N, 102°04'E, 2760 m, sifted, 20.VI.2001, leg. Grebennikov (cSme); 1 ♀, Sichuan, NE slope of Gongga Shan, 29°35'N, 102°01'E, 2830 m, sifted, 23.VI.2001, leg. Grebennikov (cAss).

COMMENT: The known distribution of *O. wrasei* is confined to the Gongga Shan, Sichuan, China (ASSING 1999a).

**Othius mirus** ASSING, 2005

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **CHINA:** 1 ♂ [teneral], 1 ♀, Sichuan, Emei Shan, 29°34'N, 103°21'E, 1950 m, sifted, 19.VI.2001, leg. Grebennikov (cSme, cAss).
The species was originally described based on a single male from the Emei Shan (ASSING 2005a) and subsequently reported from the same mountain by ASSING (2010).

**Othius tuberipennis ASSING, 1999**

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **CHINA:** 17 exs., Yunnan, Dali env., Cang Shan, 25°40'N, 100°08'E, 2700 m, sifted, 3.VII.2011, leg. Grebennikov (cAss); 1 ex., Yunnan, Dali env., Cang Shan, E-slope of Zhonghe Shan, 25°42'N, 100°08'E, 2150 m, mixed forest margin, 13.VI.2007, leg. Hájek & Ružička (NMNHP); 1 ex., Yunnan, Dali env., Cang Shan, path Zhonghe Si – Gantang Si, 25°30′-41°N, 100°08′-09°E, 2200-2400 m, 2.VI.2007, leg. Hájek & Ružička (cAss).

COMMENT: *Othius tuberipennis* was originally described from the environs of Dali, based on a single female (ASSING 1999a). Additional specimens, including males, were subsequently reported from the Diancang Shan to the west of Dali (ASSING 2005a, b), thus allowing the description and illustration of the male sexual characters (ASSING 2005a).

**Othius fibulifer fibulifer ASSING, 1999**

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **CHINA:** 2 exs., Sichuan, valley 20 km W Jinchuan, 31°29′N, 101°50′E, 3400 m, 24.–28.VII.2007, leg. Kaláb (NHMW, cAss); 2 exs., Sichuan, Daxue Shan, 25 km SE Kangding, 3200–3500 m, 13.VI.–4.VII.2009, leg. Plutenko (cSch, cAss).
Figs: 7–16: Othius vetitus (7–13) and O. puetzi (14–16). 7) habitus; 8, 14) forebody; 9, 15) pronotum in dorso-lateral view; 10, 16) median portion of elytra; 11) aedeagus in lateral view; 12) aedeagus in ventral view; 13) internal structures of aedeagus. Scale bars: 7–9, 14–15: 1.0 mm; 10–12, 16: 0.5 mm; 13: 0.2 mm.
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COMMENT: This subspecies is distributed in the region between the Jalong Jiang valley and Dadu He river in Sichuan, to the north of the Gongga Shan (ASSING 2003a).

**Othius fibulifer extensus** ASSING, 2003

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **CHINA**: 1 ♂, Sichuan, Jiajin Shan, 30°22'N, 102°16'E, 3400 m, 15.VI.2002, leg. Janata (cSme).

COMMENT: The distribution of *O. fibulifer extensus* is separated from that of the nominate subspecies by the valley of the Dadu He river. It was previously known only from the Erlang Shan (ASSING 2003a, 2008) and doubtfully recorded also from the Jiajin Shan (ASSING 2005b).

**Othius longilabris** ASSING, 2003 (Fig. 28)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **CHINA**: 1 ♀, S-Shaanxi, Micang Shan, 33 km S Hanzhong, 32°45'N, 106°53'E, 1360 m, stream valley, forest margin, litter and soil sifted, 15.VIII.2012, leg. Assing (cAss).

COMMENT: The above female represents the second record of this micropterous species. The original description is based on a single female from the Daba Shan (region to the northwest of Zhenping in southern Shaanxi). The Micang Shan forms the western extension of the Daba Shan. The currently known distribution is illustrated in Fig. 28.

**Othius vetitus** sp.n. (Figs. 4–13, 17, 28)


Paratypes: 2 ♂ ♂ [1 ex. with head and part of the pronotum missing]: same data as holotype (cAss); 2 ♂ ♂, 3 ♀ ♂, same data, but leg. Schülke (cSch, cAss); 1 ♀: “CHINA [5] - S-Gansu, N Chengxian, W-Qinling Shan, 34°10'17"N, 105°42'56"E, 1850 m, 29.VII.2012, V. Assing” (cAss).

DESCRIPTION: Measurements (mm) and ratios (range, arithmetic mean; n = 8): HL: 1.53–1.71, 1.61; HW: 1.46–1.71, 1.57; PW: 1.65–1.83, 1.76; PL: 1.98–2.17, 2.06; EL: 1.04–1.16, 1.12; TiL: 1.53–1.71, 1.58; TaL: 1.31–1.49, 1.37; TL: 10.9–12.6, 11.7; HL/HW: 0.98–1.06, 1.02; HW/PW: 0.84–0.95, 0.90; PL/PW: 1.14–1.20, 1.17; EL/PL: 0.51–0.57, 0.54; TaL/TiL: 0.81–0.90, 0.87.

Habitus as in Fig. 7. Coloration: body dark-brown to blackish-brown; legs reddish-brown; antennae dark-brown with antennomeres I–II reddish.

Head (Fig. 8) approximately as long as broad and with subparallel lateral margins, not distinctly dilated posteriad; posterior angles rounded, weakly marked; punctuation moderately coarse and moderately dense in lateral and posterior portions; median dorsal portion impunctate; two pairs of frontal punctures present, the anterior pair accompanied by 2–4 additional punctures; frontal furrows short, shallow, and indistinct; integument with fine and distinct microreticulation composed of isodiametric meshes. Eyes small, approximately 0.3 times as long as postocular region in dorsal view.

Pronotum (Figs. 8–9) somewhat broader than head; disc with fine and distinct microreticulation (similar to that of head); posterior half of lateral margin not sinuate in dorsal view and very weakly sinuate in lateral view; posterior dorsal puncture situated at a considerable distance from both the lateral and posterior margins.

Elytra (Figs. 8, 10) much shorter than pronotum; punctuation conspicuously dense and defined. Hind wings completely reduced. Legs slender; metatarsus nearly as long as metatibia. Protarsomeres I–IV with pronounced sexual dimorphism.

Abdomen approximately as broad as elytra; punctuation fine and rather dense; interstices with fine microreticulation; posterior margin of tergite VII without palisade fringe.
♂: protarsomeres I–IV strongly dilated; sternites V and VI with subcircular tomentose median patch; sternite VIII with weakly concave posterior margin; sternite IX (Fig. 4) approximately 3.5 times as long as broad, distinctly bifid anteriorly and deeply excised posteriorly; aedeagus (Figs. 11–12) approximately 1.6 mm long; internal sac with a short median apical, two pairs of long and slender lateral, and a conspicuously small median basal structure (Fig. 13); internal tube not particularly thin and with relatively few coils.

♀: protarsomeres I–IV dilated, but distinctly less so than in male; tergite X with approximately 10 moderately modified yellowish setae at posterior margin (Figs. 5–6).

ETYMOLOGY: The specific epithet (past participle of the Latin verb vetare: to prohibit) refers to the fact that the species was discovered in an area of (non-evident) military interest, which we were unaware of and which earned us a 7-hour custody and interrogation by military personnel.

COMPARATIVE NOTES: Othius vetitus is apparently closely related to the geographically close O. longilabris ASSING, 2003 (male sexual characters unknown) from the Daba Shan, with which it shares a similarly long labrum and other similar external characters (punctation and microsculpture of head and pronotum). It is distinguished from this species by much smaller body size (no overlap; see measurements in ASSING 2003b), a more slender head, darker coloration (O. longilabris: body brown with reddish elytra), and the distinctly denser and coarser punctation of the elytra.

Fig: 17: Type locality of Othius vetitus.
The male sexual characters are remarkably similar to those of *O. puetzi* ASSING, 2003 from western Sichuan (Fig. 28), apparently the sister species of *O. vetitus*. However, both species differ so significantly in external characters that there is no doubt that they represent distinct entities. *Othius puetzi* is distinctly smaller (no overlap; see measurements in ASSING 2003a). Moreover, its head is conspicuously wedge-shaped (dilated posteriad), broader (HL/HW: 0.94–0.96) and has marked posterior angles (Fig. 14), the pronotum is distinctly tapering posteriad, and the posterior half of the lateral margin of the pronotum is distinctly sinuate both in lateral and in dorsal view (Figs. 14–15); the punctures of the dorsal series of the pronotum are coarser, the elytra are much more shallowly and sparsely punctured (Fig. 16), and the punctuation of the abdomen is distinctly sparser and finer. For illustrations of the sexual characters of *O. puetzi* see ASSING (2003a). *Othius vetitus* and *O. puetzi* are the first example of a pair of *Othius* species that are better distinguished by their external than by their sexual characters.

**DISTRIBUTION AND BIONOMICS:** The species was discovered in the Western Qinling Shan, to the north of Chengxian in southern Gansu (Fig. 28). The type specimens were sifted from moist leaf litter in a secondary deciduous forest at an altitude of 1830 m (Fig. 17) and in a mixed secondary forest at an altitude of 1850 m, together with several specimens of *O. punctatus*.

### Othius rufocaudatus sp. n. (Figs. 18–28)

**TYPE MATERIAL:** **Holotype ϕ:** “Kaihua Xian, ZHEJIANG, 4-X-2007, S. Uéno leg. / Shiba Dong, 420 m alt., Songcun Cun [29°43'N, 118°53'E], Jincun Xiang / Holotypus ϕ Othius rufocaudatus sp. n. det. V. Assing 2013” (cAss). **Paratype ϕ:** “CHINA [28] - S-Shaanxi, Micang Shan, 34 km S Hanzhong, 32°44'22"N, 106°51'55"E, 1460 m, 14.VIII.2012, V. Assing” (cAss).

**DESCRIPTION:** Measurements (mm) and ratios (holotype, paratype): HL: 2.17, 2.41; HW: 1.86, 2.14; PW: 2.14, 2.35; PL: 2.50, 2.68; EL: 1.56, 1.89; TiL: 1.74, 1.86; TaL: 1.40, 1.43; TL: 14.6, 16.1; HL/HW: 1.13, 1.16; HW/PW: 0.87, 0.91; PL/PW: 1.14, 1.17; EL/PL: 0.62, 0.70; TaL/TiL: 0.77, 0.81. Conspicuously large species (see measurements); habitus as in Fig. 18. Coloration: body black, except for the bright reddish abdominal apex (broad posterior margin of segment VIII, segments IX–X); legs dark-brown to blackish-brown with reddish tarsi; antennae blackish-brown, with antennomere I black and the basal portion of antennomere II dark-reddish.

Head (Fig. 19) oblong and with nearly subparallel lateral margins, very weakly dilated posteriad; posterior angles rounded, weakly marked; punctuation rather coarse and moderately dense in lateral and posterior portions; median dorsal portion only with scattered punctures; two pairs of frontal punctures present, the anterior pair accompanied by 2–3 additional punctures; frontal furrows distinct; integument with very shallow transverse microsculpture visible only at high magnification (Fig. 21), glossy. Eyes relatively large, 0.4–0.5 times as long as postocular region in dorsal view.

Pronotum (Fig. 19) distinctly broader than head and rather short (see ratios PL/PW and HW/PW), widest near anterior angles, and distinctly tapering posteriad; microsculpture similar to that of head; posterior dorsal puncture situated near lateral, but at some distance from posterior margin (Fig. 20).

Elytra (Fig. 19) relatively long (see ration EL/PL); punctuation dense and defined; interstices without microsculpture and glossy. Hind wings probably present (not examined). Legs relatively short; metatarsus distinctly shorter than metatibia. Protarsomeres I–IV without sexual dimorphism, strongly dilated in both sexes.

Abdomen approximately as broad as elytra; punctuation distinct and dense; interstices with fine transverse microsculpture visible only at high magnification; posterior margin of tergite VII with palisade fringe.
Figs. 18–27: Othis rufocaudatus. 18) habitus; 19) forebody; 20) pronotum in dorso-lateral view; 21) median portion of head; 22) male tergites IX and X in lateral view; 23) male sternite IX; 24) aedeagus in lateral view; 25) aedeagus in ventral view; 26) internal structures of aedeagus; 27) female terminalia (segments IX and X) in dorsal view. Scale bars: 18–20, 22, 24–25: 1.0 mm; 23, 27: 0.5 mm; 21, 26: 0.2 mm.
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$\sigma$: hemitergites IX short and apically broad (Fig. 22); sternites V and VI without tomentose patches; sternite VII with extensive median impression with dense yellowish pubescence, and with distinctly concave posterior margin; sternite VIII with rather dense yellowish pubescence and with broadly concave posterior margin; sternite IX (Fig. 23) rather short and broad, approximately 2.2 times as long as broad, distinctly bifid anteriorly and broadly, not very deeply excised posteriorly, posterior margin excised in the middle; aedeagus (Figs. 24–25) stout, 2.0 mm long; ventral process with pair of ventral carinae; internal sac with a relatively short median apical, an even shorter median basal, a pair of strongly sclerotized and relatively long lateral, and a pair of less strongly sclerotized, somewhat flattened, and apically obliquely hooked lateral structures (Fig. 26); internal tube thin and with more than 30 coils.

$\varphi$: hemitergites IX short (Fig. 27); valvifers IX short; tergite X short and broad (Fig. 27), with few weakly modified yellowish setae at posterior margin.

ETYMOLOGY: The specific epithet (Latin, adjective: with red tail) alludes to the conspicuously reddish abdominal apex.

COMPARATIVE NOTES: The species is readily distinguished from all its congeners by its large size in combination with its coloration (reddish abdominal apex distinctly contrasting with the black remainder of the body) alone. In addition, it differs from all of them by the sexual characters. In size and body proportions, $O. rufocaudatus$ is most similar to $O. taiwanus$ ITO, 1989 from Taiwan, from which $O. rufocaudatus$ is additionally separated by the much broader and shorter pronotum and by the distinctly shorter legs (length of metatibiae of $O. taiwanus$: 1.95–2.17 mm). From the similarly large $O. extraordinarius$ ASSING, 1998 from Himachal Pradesh (male sexual characters unknown), $O. rufocaudatus$ is readily distinguished by the oblong and posteriorly only very weakly dilated head with distinctly less coarse punctuation, by the more distinct microsculpture on head and pronotum, and by the much denser punctuation on the elytra and the abdomen. The similar external characters, including the similarly short legs, as well as the similar morphology of the female terminalia (short hemitergites IX, short valvifers, broad tergite X) suggest that $O. rufocaudatus$ may be a close relative of $O. extraordinarius$. $Othius taiwanus$ belongs to a different species group, as can be inferred particularly from the presence of tomentose patches on the male sternites V and VI, the different morphology of the aedeagus (more slender; internal structures of different shape), and the longer legs. For illustrations and measurements of $O. taiwanus$ and $O. extraordinarius$ see ASSING (1998b, 1999a).

DISTRIBUTION AND BIONOMICS: $Othius rufocaudatus$ is currently known from two localities, one in western Zhejiang and one in the Micang Shan in southern Shaanxi (Fig. 28). Morphological evidence (long elytra, presence of a palisade fringe at the posterior margin of tergite VII), the distance between both localities, and the low altitude of the type locality suggest that the species is probably widespread. The paratype was sifted from leaf litter and grass roots in a deciduous forest margin with bamboo at an altitude of 1460 m; the holotype was collected at an altitude of 420 m.

**Othius sp.**

MATERIAL EXAMINED: TAIWAN: 1 $\varphi$, Kaohsiung Hsien, road above Tona Forest Station, km 16–17, 1700–1800 m, 28.IV.1998, leg. Smetana (cAss).

COMMENT: The above female (body length 13.5 mm; length of forebody 7.9 mm) is at the low end of the size range of $O. taiwanus$ ITO, 1989, the only similarly large described species recorded from Taiwan. However, it differs from $O. taiwanus$ by the shorter elytra (0.64 times as long as pronotum) and by the brownish coloration of the elytra. In $O. taiwanus$, the elytra are
0.72–0.76 times as long as the pronotum and as black as the remainder of the body. Thus, the specimen most likely represents an undescribed species.

Fig. 28: Distributions of *Othius* species in China: *O. rufocaudatus* (black triangles), *O. pueltzi* (black diamond), *O. vetitus* (white diamond), and *O. longilabris* (white circles).

**Checklist of the *Othius* species of China and Taiwan**

*Othius* is currently represented in mainland China by 38 and in Taiwan by 14 species and subspecies, with one species distributed in both regions. Four of the (sub-)species are widespread in the East Palaearctic region; the remainder is confined to China and/or Taiwan. In the checklist, the mountain ranges are indicated only for the – mostly micropterous – species with presumably restricted distributions. In the reference column, only recent articles are listed; those providing illustrations and/or modern descriptions are given in bold print. The references are abbreviated as follows: A99a = ASSING (1999a); A99b = ASSING (1999b); A03a = ASSING (2003a); A03b = ASSING (2003b); A05a = ASSING (2005a); A05b = ASSING (2005b); A08 = ASSING (2008); A10 = ASSING (2010); App = ASSING (present paper); I89 = ITO (1989); I93 = ITO (1993); S73 = SHIBATA (1973); W12 = WANG et al. (2012); Z95 = ZHENG (1995); Z99 = ZHENG (1999); Z02 = ZHENG (2002). Doubtful species are preceded by an asterisk.
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I am indebted to the colleagues indicated in the material section for the loan of material under their care. Special thanks go to Aleš Smetana for the generous gift of the holotype of *O. rufocaudatus*. Benedikt Feldmann proof-read the manuscript.

**Zusammenfassung**

*Othius vetitus* sp.n. (China: südliches Gansu) und *O. rufocaudatus* sp.n. (China: Zhejiang, Shaanxi) werden beschrieben und abgebildet. Morphologische, zoogeographische und ökologische Argumente sprechen dafür, dass es sich bei *O. stenocephalus* Eppelsheim, 1881,

**References**


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A revision of Othiini XVIII. Two new species from China and additional records (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Staphylininae). 73-92