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A new microphthalmous *Atheta* species from Yunnan, China (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae)

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Abstract: *Atheta (Microdota) geostiboides* sp.n. (China: N-Yunnan) is described and illustrated.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae, *Atheta*, *Microdota*, Palearctic region, China, taxonomy, new species.

Introduction

Aleocharine material recently collected in Yunnan, China, and made available to me by Michael Schülke, Berlin, contained an unnamed apterous and microphthalmous species of *Atheta* THOMSON, which is here described. Previously, two species of the subgenus *Microdota* MULSANT & REY with distinctly reduced eyes and wings were known from China: *Atheta puetzi* PACE from the Qinling Shan in Shaanxi and *A. elisa* ASSING from the Daba Shan in southern Shaanxi (ASSING 2002).

Material and abbreviations

The material referred to in this study is deposited in the following public institutions and private collections:

cAss author's private collection

cSch private collection M. Schülke, Berlin

Atheta (Microdota) geostiboides sp.n. (Figs. 1-10)

H o l o t y p e ♂ : China: N-Yunnan [C03-07], Zhongdian Co., 55 km N Zhongdian, 28°19.8'N, 99°45.7'E, 3800 m, primary forest, Rhodod., dead wood, mushrooms, moss, 18.VIII.2003, leg. M. Schülke / Holotypus ♂ *Atheta geostiboides* sp.n. det. V. Assing 2004 (cAss).

P a r a t y p e s : 3♂♂, 3♀♀: same data as holotype (cSch, cAss); 5 exs. [partly teneral]: same data, but leg. Wrase (cSch, cAss); 2♀♀ [teneral]: China (N-Yunnan), Zhongdian Co., 36 km ESE Zhongdian, 3500 - 3550 m, 27°40.9'N, 100°01.5'E (overgrown rock hillside with old mixed forest, bamboo, dead wood, leaf litter) 23./24.VIII.2003, Wrase [13] (cSch).

D e s c r i p t i o n : 2.2-2.6 mm. Habitus as in Fig. 1. Coloration of body brownish, with the head and pronotum usually slightly darker than the elytra and with the abdomi-

nal segments V-VII dark brown to blackish; legs and basal 3-4 antennomeres testaceous; remaining antennomeres infusate.

Head slightly wider than long (length measured from anterior margin of clypeus); eyes very small, in dorsal view about 1/4 the length of postocular region or slightly larger, and not protruding from lateral outline of head; puncturation usually very shallow, fine, and indistinct; integument with microreticulation. Antenna distinctly incrassate apically; antennomere II apically strongly dilated, less than twice as long as wide; III distinctly shorter than II, apically strongly dilated, and only slightly longer than wide; IV and V of similar size and shape and distinctly transverse; VI-IX of increasing width and increasingly transverse; X about twice as wide as long; XI approximately as long as the combined length of the two preceding antennomeres.

Pronotum about 1.15 times as wide as head and 1.15-1.20 times as wide as long (Fig. 1); maximal width in anterior half; pubescence directed anteriorly along midline; puncturation and microsculpture similar to those of head.

Elytra about as wide as pronotum and very short, at suture approximately 0.60-0.65 times as long as pronotum (Fig. 1); puncturation and microsculpture similar to those of head. Hind wings reduced.

Abdomen wider than elytra, maximal width at segments V/VI (Fig. 1); puncturation fine and sparse; microreticulation shallow; posterior margin of tergite VII without palisade fringe.

♂: head and pronotum often depressed or with more or less extensive, but shallow median impression; tergite VIII not distinctly modified (Fig. 2); sternite VIII much longer than the corresponding tergite, trapezoid, and with truncate posterior margin (Fig. 3); median lobe of aedeagus and apical lobe of paramere as in Figs. 6-8.

♀: head and pronotum unmodified; tergite VIII similar to that of ♂ (Fig. 4); sternite VIII only slightly longer than tergite VIII, not distinctly trapezoid, and with weakly concave posterior margin (Fig. 5). Spermatheca as in Figs. 9-10.

E t y m o l o g y : The name (adj.) refers to the resemblance to species of *Geostiba* THOMSON.

C o m p a r a t i v e n o t e s : From the other two microphthalmous and apterous *Microdota* species known from China, the new species is distinguished by the primary and secondary sexual characters, from the evidently closely related *A. elisa* also by smaller body size and usually darker coloration.

D i s t r i b u t i o n a n d b i o n o m i c s : The localities where the species was found are situated near Zhongdian in northern Yunnan (China), not far from the border to Sichuan. The types were sifted from the leaf litter of mixed forest at altitudes of 3500-3800 m. Some of the types are teneral.

Acknowledgements

I am most grateful to Michael Schülke for making the material available to me and for the generous gift of the holotype.

Zusammenfassung

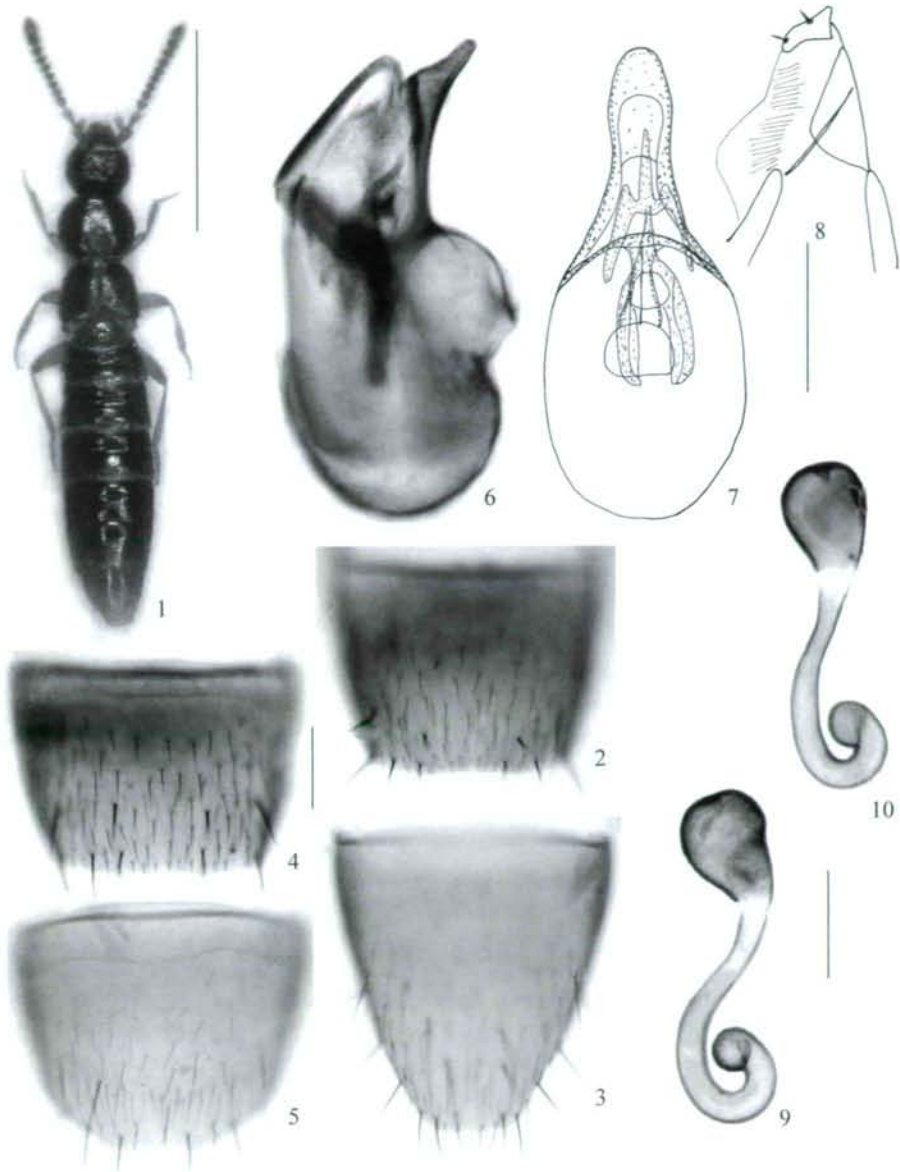
Atheta (Microdota) geostiboides sp.n. (China: N-Yunnan) wird beschrieben; wesentliche Differentialmerkmale werden abgebildet.

References

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Figs. 1-10: *Atheta geostiboides* sp.n.: (1) – habitus (holotype); (2) – ♂ tergite VIII; (3) – ♂ sternite VIII; (4) – ♀ tergite VIII; (5) – ♀ sternite VIII; (6, 7) – median lobe of aedeagus in lateral and in ventral view; (8) – apical lobe of paramere; (9, 10) – spermathecae of two ♀♀. Scales: 1: 1.0 mm; 2-10: 0.1 mm.

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