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# HYDROCHIDAE
## (Coleoptera)

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**Abstract**

The species of *Hydrochus* LEACH from China and neighbouring areas are listed. A new synonymy is established: *Hydrochus opacus* MOTSCHULSKY, 1860 (= *H. violaceomicans* MOTSCHULSKY, 1860 syn.n.)

**Key words**: Coleoptera, Hydrochidae, China, check list

## Introduction

The Hydrochidae are a cosmopolitan family of rather small (1.5 - 5.5 mm long), elongate beetles which live mainly in stagnant water.

Phylogenetically, the Hydrochidae belong to Hydrophiloidea (BEUTEL 1994).

Currently, 2 genera (*Hydrochus* LEACH and *Kiransus* MAKHAN) and about 200 species are known.

Thanks are due to N. Nikitsky and D. Obydov (ZMUM) for the loan of types from the Motschulsky collection.

## Acronyms and CWBS localities

CWBS China Water Beetle Survey
NMW Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien
ZMUM Zoological Museum, Moscow

CWBS loc. 28: **Hunan Province**; Huaihua Prefecture; Huitong County; Guangping Township; near Paotuan Village, ca. 1 km from Academia Sinica Research Station; small river, flowing through rice terraces, partly dammed up, slightly polluted, ca. 1 m wide, ca. 350 m a.s.l.; 2.XI.1993; leg. Schönmann, Schillhammer & Ji

CWBS loc. 31: **Hunan Province**; Huaihua Prefecture; Huitong County; Guangping Township; Moshao Village, ca. 15 km W Guangping; rain water pools, ca. 350 m a.s.l.; 4.XI.1993; leg. Schönmann, Schillhammer & Ji

CWBS loc. 33: **Hunan Province**; Huaihua Prefecture; Huitong County; Guangping Township; ca 10 km S of lower Research Station of Academia Sinica; springfed pools along road ditch and flooded rice fields, ca. 400 m a.s.l.; 6.XI.1993; leg. Schönmann, Schillhammer & Ji

CWBS loc. 35: **Hunan Province**; Huaihua Prefecture; Huitong County; Guangping Township; 2 km upstream of loc. 31, near Moshao Village; small stream, 0.5 - 1 m wide, partly canalized, partly vanishing beneath the gravel, ca. 400 m a.s.l.; 7.XI.1993; leg. Schönmann, Schillhammer & Ji

CWBS loc. 49: **Guangxi Autonomous Region**; Yülin Prefecture; Liuwan Da Shan (Sixty-thousand Mountains); 30 km SW Yülin City; vicinity of Liuwan Forest Station, 0.3 - 0.5 m wide, flowing through rather flat area, rather sandy, ca. 500 m a.s.l.; 20.XI.1993; leg. Schönmann, Schillhammer & Ji

### *Hydrochus annamita* REGIMBART

General distribution: Vietnam (Qui Nhon, type locality), Philippines (d'ORCHYMONT 1926), Assam (d'ORCHYMONT 1926), China (YANG 1994); the records by d'ORCHYMONT (1926) and YANG (1994) are rather doubtful.

Distribution in China: "China" (YANG 1994) - doubtful record.

### *Hydrochus japonicus* SHARP

General distribution: Widely distributed in East Asia and New Guinea.

Distribution in China: Liaoning (LI 1992); Hunan, CWBS loc. 28, 31, 33, 35; Taiwan (SATÔ 1965); "S China" (SATÔ & CHUJO 1961).

### *Hydrochus* sp. 1

General distribution: Southeast China to northern Malaysia.

Distribution in China: Hunan, CWBS loc. 33 (5 exs.); Guangxi, CWBS loc. 49 (1 ♂).

### *Hydrochus* sp. 2

One female (NMW) from Jiangxi (Ciping, Jinggang Shan, VI.1994).

## Discussion

Only 2 species (*H. japonicus*, *H. annamita*) were hitherto recorded from China. However, the ocurrence of one of these (*H. anamita*) is doubtful.

Two species were collected by the "China Water Beetle Survey" (CWBS). One of these species probably is undescribed. However, any description of south Chinese species should wait until the southeast Asian species of the genus *Hydrochus* are revised taxonomically.

Several species have been described or recorded from adjacent areas: *Hydrochus latitans* FAIRMAIRE (N Vietnam), *H. kirgisicus* MOTSCHULSKY (Kazakhstan, Russian Far East - according to SHATROVSKIY 1989), *H. laferi* SHATROVSKIY (Primoriye), *H. opacus* MOTSCHULSKY (= *H. violaceomicans* MOTSCHULSKY syn.n.) ("Ind. or."), *H. binodosus* MOTSCHULSKY ("Ind. or."). *Hydrochus lacustris* NIETNER was doubtfully recorded from "Cochinchina" (KNISCH 1924) - to my knowledge, this species is restricted to Sri Lanka.

I have seen the types of *Hydrochus opacus* (lectotype ♂ by present designation: "Type \ LECTOTYPE \ Hydrochus opacus Motsch Ind.or.") and *H. violaceomicans* (lectotype ♂ by present designation: "ton \ Type \ LECTOTYPE \ Hydrochus violaceomicans Motsch Ind.or.") which are deposited in the ZMUM. The aedeagi of these two males are identical. Unfortunately, the single type specimen of *H. binodosus* (ZMUM) is a female.

Several species, e.g. *Hydrochus satishi* MAKHAN (Laos), *H. anandi* MAKHAN (Laos), *H. harrydeepaki* MAKHAN (Philippines), were recently described from southeast Asia without regard to any of the formerly described species. Thus they are likely to be junior synonyms.

The family Hydrochidae is in need of a thorough revision.

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