

HALIPLIDAE:

I. Three new synonymies

(Coleoptera)

B.J. van VONDEL

Abstract

The three Chinese species of Haliplidae (Coleoptera), described by MAKHAN (1999), are synonymised. *Peltodytes aschnae* is considered as a junior synonym of *Peltodytes sinensis* (HOPE). *Haliplus rishwani* is considered as a junior synonym of *Haliplus japonicus* SHARP and *Haliplus amrishi* is considered as a junior synonym of *Haliplus sharpi* WEINCKE.

Key words: Coleoptera, Haliplidae, China, Chongqing, taxonomy.

Introduction

Recently MAKHAN (1999) described three new species of Haliplidae from China, all from Chongqing. He refers to my review of the Chinese Haliplidae (Vondel, 1995) and compares two of his new species with certain species mentioned in that review. Although I tried to, it was not possible to get type material of Makhan's new species for examination. Nevertheless Makhan's descriptions offer sufficient information to form my opinion on the status of his species.

Peltodytes sinensis (HOPE)

Haliplus sinensis HOPE 1845:15

Peltodytes aschnae MAKHAN 1999: 269 **syn.n.**

Makhan compares this species with *Peltodytes coomani* PESCHET and indeed this species differs. When compared with *P. sinensis* (HOPE) however, there is a striking resemblance. Makhan's description of *P. aschnae* fits perfectly in the set of characters known from the widespread *P. sinensis*. The two black dots between the eyes together with the narrow pronotal margins and the blunt tooth on the metacoxal plates distinguish *P. sinensis* from all other Palearctic species. As Makhan does not mention characters possibly distinguishing *P. aschnae* from *P. sinensis* I consider *P. aschnae* as a junior synonym of *P. sinensis*.

Haliplus japonicus SHARP

Haliplus japonicus SHARP 1873: 55

Haliplus rishwani MAKHAN 1999: 271 **syn.n.**

Makhan compares *H. rishwani* with *H. japonicus* SHARP and that is correct, because both have very much in common. Makhan however, sees two main differences: the colour pattern and the shape of the male genitalia. As in most Haliplidae, the colour pattern in *H. japonicus* is to a certain extent variable and I consider the colour pattern as illustrated by Makhan to belong to the normal variety of the latter species. The genitalia may show some variation depending on the

way preparations are made. I see no reliable difference in the genitalia as I know them from *H. japonicus* and the genitalia from *H. rishwani* as illustrated by Makhan.

I consider *H. rishwani* as a junior synonym of *H. japonicus*.

Haliplus sharpi WEHNCKE

Haliplus sharpi WEHNCKE 1880: 74

Haliplus amrishi MAKHAN 1999: 272 **syn.n.**

Makhan writes that his species is allied to *H. diopus* GUIGNOT. Following the key to species identification of VONDEL (1993) however some clear differences are seen. In the latter species the pronotum has a central dark mark and the metaventral process has two strong pits. In *H. amrishi* the pronotum lacks any dark mark, while the metaventral process has a central impression. So the two species clearly differ in some important characters and seem less allied to each other than to some other species in the region. For unknown reasons Makhan did not take into consideration a relation with *H. sharpi*. When I compare the characters of *H. amrishi* with the characters of *H. sharpi* I can not detect any difference strong enough to justify a separate status.

I consider *H. amrishi* as a junior synonym of *H. sharpi*.

Discussion

The sizes of the different species given by Makhan are in all three cases exceeding the values given by VONDEL (1996) by about 20%. It is possible that Makhan collected unusually large specimens, but one should take into consideration the possibility that Makhan's measurements are not correct.

Some general remarks regarding Makhan's publication have to be made:

1. Makhan did not study type material of related species. For a reliable foundation of the creation of a new species I think that is necessary.
2. Makhan did not consult a specialist on Haliplidae, although such a specialist is available in his own country.
3. Makhan should have been suspicious, when he thought he had collected only undescribed species. Although I have examined a large number of Haliplidae from various parts of China (VONDEL, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1998) I found only a few specimens belonging to undescribed species.

Acknowledgements

I am very grateful to Dr. L. Ji (Shenyang) and Dr. M.A. Jäch (Vienna) for their valuable help. I thank Dr. R. Angus for revising the English. The Uyttenbogaart-Eliassen Foundation is acknowledged for financial support.

References

- GUIGNOT, F. 1955: Quarante-deuxième note sur les Hydrocanthares. - Revue Française d'Entomologie 22: 270-276.
- HOPE, F.W. 1845: On the entomology of China, with descriptions of the new species sent to England by Dr. Cantor from Chusan and Canton. - Transactions of the Entomological Society of London 4: 4-17.
- MAKHAN, D. 1999: Three new species of Haliplidae (Coleoptera) from China. - Entomotaxonomia 21: 269-274.
- PESCHET, R. 1923: Dytiscidae et Haliplidae nouveaux (Col.). - Bulletin de la Société entomologique de France: 175-181.
- SHARP, D. 1873: III. The water beetles of Japan. - Transactions of the entomological Society of London 21: 45-67.
- VONDEL, B.J. van 1990: Description of *Haliplus harminae* n.sp. from China (Coleoptera: Haliplidae). - Entomologische Berichten, Amsterdam 50 (2): 22-24.
- VONDEL, B.J. van 1991: Revision of the Palaearctic species of *Haliplus* subgenus *Liaphlus* Guignot (Coleoptera: Haliplidae). - Tijdschrift voor Entomologie 134: 75-144.
- VONDEL, B.J. van 1992: Revision of the Palaearctic and Oriental species of *Peltodytes* Régimbart (Coleoptera: Haliplidae). - Tijdschrift voor Entomologie 135: 275-297.
- VONDEL, B.J. van 1993: Revision of the *Liaphlus* species of the Oriental region, excluding China (Coleoptera: Haliplidae). - Tijdschrift voor Entomologie 136: 289-316.
- VONDEL, B.J. van 1995: Haliplidae: Review of the Haliplidae of China, pp. 111-154. - In Jäch, M.A. & Ji, L. (eds.): Water Beetles of China, Vol. I. - Wien: Zoologisch-Botanische Gesellschaft in Österreich and Wiener Coleopterologenverein, 410 pp.
- VONDEL, B.J. van 1998: Haliplidae: Additional notes on the Haliplidae of China and neighbouring countries (Coleoptera), pp. 131-136. - In Jäch, M.A. & Ji, L. (eds.): Water Beetles of China, Vol. II. - Wien: Zoologisch-Botanische Gesellschaft in Österreich and Wiener Coleopterologenverein, 371 pp.
- WEHNCKE, E. 1880: Neue *Haliplus*. - Stettiner Entomologische Zeitung 41: 72-75.

Bernhard J. van VONDEL

Roestuin 78, 3343 CV Hendrik-Ido-Ambacht, The Netherlands

ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Water Beetles of China](#)

Jahr/Year: 2003

Band/Volume: [3](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Vondel Bernhard J. van

Artikel/Article: [Haliplidae: I. Three new synonymies \(Coleoptera\) 285-287](#)