

Note on the occurrence of *Spinimegopis nepalensis* (Hayashi, 1979) in China (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae: Prioninae)

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Abstract

The occurrence of *Spinimegopis nepalensis* (Hayashi, 1979) in China is confirmed, based on a recent collection from the Tibet-Xizang Autonomous Region. This record extends the distribution of the species to the northeast in the Himalaya region.

Key words: Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Prioninae, *Spinimegopis*, *S. nepalensis*, distribution, China, occurrence confirmation

Introduction

Spinimegopis Ohbayashi, 1963 was recently revised by Komiya & Drumont (2007) and restored as a full genus. It was previously considered as a subgenus of the genus *Megopis* Audinet-Serville, 1832. The genus *Spinimegopis* is mostly characterized by the pronotum furnished with three distinct spines on each side and by having the segment 3 of antenna subcylindrical and without an internal groove, together with segment 1 of antenna without a distinct apical spine. The genus is currently comprised of 19 species and 6 subspecies divided into 5 species groups: *tibialis*, *lividipennis*, *cingalensis*, *formosana* and *perroti*.

Spinimegopis nepalensis (Figure 1) belongs to the *tibialis* species-group and has been described under the name of *Megopis* (*Spinimegopis*) *nepalensis* by Hayashi in 1979, and not in 1971 as mentioned in Komiya & Drumont (2007). The description was based on two males collected in Nepal during a Lepidopterological research expedition in 1963 organized by the Lepidopterological Society of Japan. This species exhibits a large body (37–55 mm) with integument dark brown and usually reddish on pronotum and legs, with pale yellowish elytra furnished with distinct C1 and C2 costa.

The geographic range of *S. nepalensis* is very restricted and, beside the Nepal from where the

taxon was described, the species has been only mentioned from Sikkim by Komiya & Drumont (2007) and from Bhutan by Drumont & Komiya (2010). The first record of the occurrence of *S. nepalensis* from China was presented by Hua (2002). In this list of Chinese insects, the author reported the species from Yunnan but did not explicitly state that his record represented the first citation for China, nor gave information about the origin of the specimen from Yunnan. This data was not taken into account by Drumont & Komiya (2010) in the Prioninae list of the “Catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera” because it was not possible to examine any specimen of *S. nepalensis* originating from this Chinese province. In addition, the report by Hua did not provide an illustration which would have lead us to confirm this determination.

In this paper, we confirm the occurrence of *Spinimegopsis nepalensis* in China based on data recently obtained from four male specimens collected in the Tibet-Xizang Autonomous Region. This has allowed us to also better specify the geographic distribution of the species in the Palaearctic region as defined by Löbl & Smetana (2003). The detailed collection data for *S. nepalensis* in China is provided below.

Results and discussion

Specimens examined. China: 2♂♂, Tibet, Linzhi district, Hanmi, 10.VIII.2011, leg. Hai-Lin Yang & Jian-Yun Wang (IZAS & CCCC); 2♂♂1♀, Tibet, Mêdog, Hanmi, alt. 2100 m, 23–31.VII.2011, leg. Wen-Xuan Bi (CBWX). These specimens are preserved in the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China (IZAS), the collection of Wen-Xuan Bi, Shanghai, China (CBWX) and the Collection of Chang-Chin Chen, Tianjin, China (CCCC). **Bhutan:** 1♀, Bhutan, Monghar Thebong, 2273 m., 19.VII.2009, leg. V. Siniaev, preserved in the collection of Alain Drumont, Brussels, Belgium (ADC).

The discovery of specimens of *S. nepalensis* in the Linzhi prefecture in the southeastern Tibet-Xizang Autonomous Region confirms its presence in western China and extends the distribution of the species further into the northeastern part of the Himalaya region where the species occurs. From the data recorded for the exemplars examined from Bhutan and from the bibliographic references consulted (Hayashi, 1979; Komiya & Drumont, 2007), it is clear that *S. nepalensis* shows in its geographic range a preference for mountainous areas. The species has been collected at elevations between 1600–3000 m. Based on these observations, it is possible that the species may also occur in the extreme northwestern part of Yunnan province as previously mentioned in Hua (2002). Newly collected specimens from this province would confirm this hypothesis.

The occurrence of *S. nepalensis* in China also represents a new country record for the Palaearctic region and therefore, the updated distribution of the species may be summarized as follows: Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and People’s Republic of China (Tibet-Xizang Autonomous Region and Yunnan (?) province).



Figure 1. *Spinimegopsis nepalensis* (Hayashi, 1979). Habitus, dorsal view (China, Tibet, Linzhi district, Hanmi, 10.VIII.2010 in IZAS) (figure by N. Mal).

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