

A new species of *Cryptopleurum* Mulsant, 1844 from China (Coleoptera: Hydrophilidae)

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A new species of the Hydrophilidae subfamily Sphaeridiinae, *Cryptopleurum sichuanicum* sp. n., is described from China.

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After Hansen (1991) the genus *Cryptopleurum* includes 21 species, distributed in the Palaearctic (4 spp.), Nearctic (5 spp.), Neotropical (2 spp.), Afrotropical (8 spp.), Oriental (6 spp.), Australian (1 sp.) and Pacific (1 sp.) regions. Recently Hebauer (2001) described two additional species from Papua New Guinea.

Up to now, only two species of the genus are known from China (including Taiwan): *C. pygmaeum* Orchymont, 1913 and *C. subtile* Sharp, 1884.

Cryptopleurum sichuanicum sp. n.

Holotype. ♀, **China**, *Sichuan*, near Bijishan vill., left tributary of Lianhegou River, 2500-3200 m, 19.VI.2000 (Belousov, Kabak & Davidian); deposited in the Zoological Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences, St.Petersburg.

Paratype. ♀, with same data as for holotype; deposited in author's collection.

Description. Length 2.0 mm, width 1.4 mm. Body broadly oval; dorsal side moderately convex, weakly shining. Head black with mouthparts and anterior margin of clypeus yellow or pale yellow. Punctuation of head and pronotum dense and fine. Clypeus not demarcated from frons by a straight transverse groove. Mentum trapezoidal, almost flat, anterior margin shallowly sinuate and slightly impressed. Antennae and maxillary palpi brownish red. Second segment of maxillary palpi strikingly clubbed. Antennae 9-segmented. Antennal grooves very large, well-defined posterolaterally, almost reaching lateral prothoracic margin.

Pronotum dark brown with narrow brownish red anterior and posterior margins and broad brownish red lateral margins. Width of pronotum 2.3 times its length (both measured in the middle). Pronotum slightly curved and slightly narrowed anteriorly. Lateral margin of pronotum not continued around anterior and posterior angles. Surface of pronotum with fine scattered setae. Scutellum black. Elytra dark brown, with punctate striae consisting of coarse deep large punctures. Their diameter almost equal to width of intervals of elytra. Striae 7 and 8 not geminate. Intervals of elytra strongly shagreened, narrower and more convex laterally and apically. Ventral side black. Mesosternal platform narrow (its length 1.3 times the width), largely impressed medially, strongly and coarsely punctate, covered with dense microsculpture. Metasternum covered with very large punctures, intervals between them with reticulate microsculpture; middle portion of metasternum slightly elevated, with a large median impression, projecting anteriorly between mesocoxae where

it broadly fused with mesosternal platform. Femoral lines absent. Legs brownish red.

Abdomen sculptured as metasternum. Apices of abdominal segments reddish yellow. First sternite with a sharp median longitudinal carina.

Comparison. The new species differs from most of Palaearctic species in having normally-shaped 7th and 8th elytral striae. The Oriental species of the genus *Cryptopleurum* were considered and keyed by Orchymont (1926). According to this key, the genus is clearly divided in two species groups differing in the sculpture of the 7th and 8th elytral striae which are separated and normally-shaped (*C. ferrugineum*-group) or geminate (*C. minutum*-group). Among the Oriental *Cryptopleurum*, the new species resembles *C. ferrugineum* Motschulsky, 1863 only in that the 7th and 8th elytral striae not geminate; otherwise it appears rather peculiar and isolated with some characters differing from other members of the genus, for instance the absence of femoral lines on the metasternum, the pronotal sides not deflexed and not angulate in lateral view, and the clypeus not demarcated from the frons by a straight transverse groove.

Etymology. The species is named after terra typica, Sichuan.

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