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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Notes on Melolonthinae (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae) from China: a new species of the genus *Miridiba* and new records

Заметки о Melolonthinae (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae) Китая: новый вид рода *Miridiba* и новые находки

F.-L. Wang

Ф.-Л. Ванг

Fa-Lei Wang, Dazhulin, Yubei District, Chongqing, 400000, P. R. China. E-mail: 531609816@qq.com

Abstract. A new species of the genus *Miridiba* Reitter, 1902, *M. yingjiangensis* **sp. nov.**, is described from the Yunnan Province, China. The genera *Laotrichia* Keith, 2007 and *Siamophylla* Keith, 2005, along with the species *L. cuccodoroi* Keith, 2007 and *S. grootaerti* Keith, 2005 are recorded from China for the first time. Six species of the subfamily Melolonthinae are also recorded from China for the first time: *Cyphochilus obscurus* Sharp, 1876, *Lepidiota acuminatops* Prokofiev, 2015, *Lepidiota cochinchinae* Brenske, 1894, *Malaisius siamensis* Li et Yang, 1999, *Malaisius mollis* Arrow, 1941, and *Pedinotrichia magna* (Itoh, 1995). The female of *M. mollis* is described and illustrated for the first time.

Резюме. Описан новый вид рода *Miridiba* Reitter, 1902 из провинции Юньнань, Китай – *Miridiba yingjiangensis* **sp. nov.** Роды *Laotrichia* Keith, 2007, *Siamophylla* Keith, 2005 и виды *L. cuccodoroi* Keith, 2007 и *S. grootaerti* Keith, 2005 впервые указаны из Китая. Также в Китае впервые отмечены шесть видов подсемейства Melolonthinae: *Cyphochilus obscurus* Sharp, 1876, *Lepidiota acuminatops* Prokofiev, 2015, *Lepidiota cochinchinae* Brenske, 1894, *Malaisius siamensis* Li et Yang, 1999, *Malaisius mollis* Arrow, 1941 и *Pedinotrichia magna* (Itoh, 1995). Впервые описана и проиллюстрирована самка *M. mollis*.

Key words: Asia, Indochina, Yunnan, fauna, description, new records, new species

Ключевые слова: Азия, Индокитай, Юньнань, фауна, описание, новые находки, новые виды

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Introduction

In recent years, there has been a significant increase in attention to the genus *Miridiba* Reitter, 1902, which includes 74 recognised species (Keith, 2010, 2020a, 2020b, 2021, 2023a, 2023b; Keith & Sabatinelli, 2010; Li et al., 2015; Bezděk, 2016; Gao et al., 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022; Gao & Coca-Abia, 2021; Pham et al., 2022). This genus is divided into the nominotypical subgenus, which has antennae with nine antennomeres, and the subgenus *Pledina* Reitter, 1902, which possesses antennae with ten antennomeres (Bezděk, 2016; Gao & Coca-Abia, 2021). In Gao & Coca-Abia (2021) and Gao et al. (2022), the genus was divided into ten species–groups (with several species remaining ungrouped) based on the male and female genitalia: *M. trichophora*, *M. gressitti*, *M. lamellata*, *M. leucophthalma*, *M. bidentata*, *M. sinensis*, *M. borneensis*, *M. rugaticollis*, *M. scutata*, and *M. ciliatipennis* species–groups. *Miridiba trichophora* species–group can be distinguished from other groups by the bi-

lateral parameres being separate from the middle by a suture dorsally and ventrally and each paramere consisting of one long dorsal branch and one short ventral branch that are separated and start from the proximal part close to the phallobase. In this study, a *Miridiba* species from the nominotypical subgenus and the *M. trichophora* species–group was described from the Chinese province of Yunnan (Gao & Coca-Abia 2021).

As a result of examining Melolonthinae specimens from China, several new country records are also provided here. The aim of this paper is to report these new findings, describe one new species, and present the first description of the female of *Malaisius mollis* Arrow, 1941.

Material and methods

The following notation is used here when quoting labels: separate label lines are indicated by a slash (/) and separate labels are indicated by a double slash (//). All the material examined is deposited in the Invertebrate Collection of Mianyang Normal University, Mianyang, China (MYNU) and Yan-Long Li personal collection, Ji'nan, China (CLYL).

Taxonomy

Order **Coleoptera**

Family **Scarabaeidae**

Subfamily **Melolonthinae**

Tribe **Rhizotrogini**

Genus ***Miridiba*** Reitter, 1902

***Miridiba yingjiangensis* sp. nov.**
(Figs 1–6)

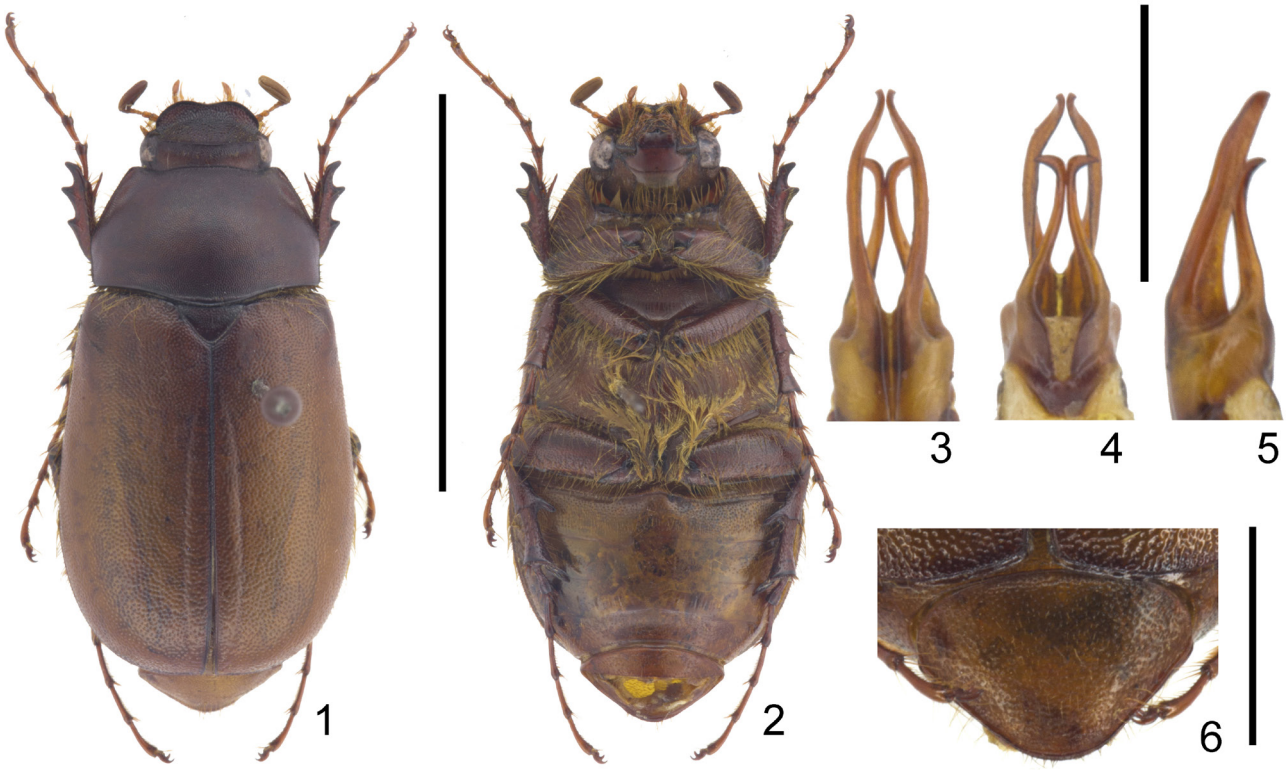
Holotype. Male, "CHINA: Yunnan / Yingjiang County, Mangyun Town / VI.2023, Shao-Fu Chen leg. // HOLOTYPE // *Miridiba yingjiangensis*, F.-L. Wang det. 2024" (MYNU).

Paratype. 1 male, with same data as for holotype (MYNU).

Description. *Male*. Body length 16.9 mm, width 8.6 mm. Body elongate ovoid, rather convex in profile. Whole body dark blackish brown; head, pronotum, scutellum, and tibias darker. Clypeus wide, wider than frons, with bilobed, strongly reflexed apex and densely, rugosely punctate surface. Fronto-clypeal suture indistinct. Frons densely punctate, most of punctures coalescent, with high basal carina. Vertex with denser and smaller punctures compared to those on frons, along with several short setae. Antennal club shorter than footstalks. Pronotum widely trapezoidal, its sides convergent in posterior two-fives, posterior margin ridged, lateral margin without marginal line in anterior three-fives, anterior angles slightly widened, posterior angles obtuse, apex rounded. Surface of pronotum rather densely punctate, most of punctures located close to each other. Scutellum with rounded apex, densely punctured surface, without punctures around apical corner. Elytral surface distinctly larger than pronotum, densely and deeply punctate, with smaller punctures laterally; humeral umbone weak; lateral margin of elytra with a row of long, yellow setae. Pygidium weakly convex in profile; its disc covered with moderately dense punctures being coarser on sides, with several yellow setae; each side of pygidium with a row of long setae. Ventrite 1 with dense punctures and dense, short, yellow setae; ventrites 2 and 3 with sparse punctures being shallower and sparser in middle; ventrite 4 with dense punctures and short, yellow setae on sides. Protibia tridentate, with slightly prolonged terminal tooth and acute basal tooth; apices of mesotibia and metatibia widened and smooth; metatibia with rounded apex and inner surface bearing a long branch. Tarsi long, slender. Genitalia as in figs 3–5.

Female unknown.

Comparison. Based on the shape of the male genitalia, *Miridiba yingjiangensis* **sp. nov.** should be placed in the *M. trichophora* species–group, which until now included 31 species (Gao & Coca-Abia, 2021; Pham & Keith, 2022; Keith, 2023). The new species can be distinguished from most species in this species–group by the glabrous dorsal surface with only the elytral base having several rather long setae, and the parameres without setae, with long and slender dorsal branches, the moderately straight upper margin in lateral view, which is distinctly longer than the ventral ones. This new species closely resembles *M. diversiceps* (Moser, 1912) and *M. brancuccii* (Sabatinelli, 1983) in the male genitalia. It differs from *M. diversiceps* in having longer dorsal branches, stronger ventral branches, and a less curved apex



Figs 1–6. *Miridiba yingjiangensis* **sp. nov.**, male (holotype). **1**, **2**, habitus; **3–5**, male genitalia; **6**, pygidium. Dorsal view (1, 3), ventral view (2, 4), lateral view from left (5). Scale bars: 10 mm (1, 2) and 4 mm (3–6).

in dorsal view. It is distinguished from *M. brancuccii* by the slender apices of dorsal branches and the well-curved apices of ventral branches (in ventral view). The male genitalia of two species in the *M. trichophora* species–group, *M. abdominalis* (Hope, 1831) and *M. bilobata* (Moser, 1913), were never illustrated. *Miridiba yingjiangensis* **sp. nov.** can be distinguished from *M. abdominalis* by the pronotum with denser and smaller punctures and the longer tarsi, and from *M. bilobata*, by the bilobed and more weakly curved anterior margin of the clypeus.

Etymology. The specific name refers to the type locality, the Yingjiang County.

Distribution. China (Yunnan Province, Yingjiang County).

Genus ***Siamophylla*** Keith, 2005

Siamophylla grootaerti Keith, 2005
(Fig. 7)

Siamophylla grootaerti Keith, 2005: 141–145, figs 1–13 [description, illustrated habitus and parameres].

Material examined. **China**, *Yunnan Prov.*, Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, Mengla County, Menglun Town, VII, VIII.2021, Ping Yang leg., 1 male (MYNU).

Distribution. China (Yunnan Province) (new record), Thailand.

Remark. The genus *Siamophylla* was described as monotypic and was only recorded from northern Thailand (Keith, 2005). In this study, we examined several specimens, confirming that this genus also occurs in southwestern China.

Genus ***Pedinotrichia*** Matsumoto, 2016

Pedinotrichia magna (Itoh, 1995)
(Fig. 8)

Holotrichia yunana magna Itoh, 1995: 196, figs 4, 21, 33 [description, illustrated habitus and parameres].
Holotrichia magna: Matsumoto, 2009: 7, fig. 2 [species rank, illustrated habitus].
Pedinotrichia magna: Matsumoto, 2016: 6 [in list and key].

Material examined. **China**, *Yunnan Prov.*, Wenshan Zhuang and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, Maguan

County, Gulinqing Town, 24.VII.2021, Xu Yan leg., 1 male (MYNU).

Distribution. China (Yunnan Province) (new record), Myanmar, Thailand.

Remark. *Pedinotrichia magna*, previously recorded only from Thailand and Myanmar (Itoh 1995; Matsumoto, 2009, 2016), is found in southwestern China for the first time.

Tribe **Leucopholini**

Genus ***Cyphochilus*** Waterhouse, 1867

Cyphochilus obscurus Sharp, 1876
(Fig. 9)

Cyphochilus obscurus Sharp, 1876: 83 [description]; Sabatinelli 2020: 172, figs 4, 50–52, 87 [redescription, illustrated habitus and parameres].

Material examined. **China**, *Yunnan Prov.*, Xishuangbannan, Mengla County, Menglun Town, IV, V.2022, Ping Yang leg., 1 male (MYNU).

Distribution. China (Yunnan Province) (new record), Laos, Thailand.

Remark. The known distribution of this species was in Laos and Thailand (Sabatinelli, 2020). Here, it is recorded for the first time from southwestern China.

Genus ***Lepidiota*** Kirby, 1826

Lepidiota acuminatops Prokofiev, 2015
(Fig. 10)

Lepidiota acuminatops Prokofiev, 2015: 340, figs 65–67 [description, illustrated habitus and parameres].

Material examined. **China**, *Yunnan Prov.*, Puer Prefecture, Simao District, Meizihu Park, 9–11.V.2018, Jian-Yue Qiu & Xu leg., 1 male (MYNU).

Distribution. China (Yunnan Province) (new record), Vietnam.

Remark. This species, previously known only from the type locality in Vietnam (Prokofiev, 2015), is now reported from southwestern China.

Lepidiota cochinchinae Brenske, 1894
(Fig. 11)

Lepidiota cochinchinae Brenske, 1894: 77 [description]; Prokofiev, 2015: 340, figs 65–67 [noted, illustrated parameres].

Material examined. **China**, *Yunnan Prov.*, Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, Jinghong, Gasa Town, Daan Vill., VI, VII.2022, local person leg., 1 femae (MYNU).

Distribution. China (Yunnan Province) (new record), Mynamar, Vietnam.

Remark. This species, previously known from Myanmar and Vietnam (Prokofiev, 2015), is here recorded from southwestern China for the first time.

Genus ***Malaisius*** Arrow, 1941

Malaisius siamensis Li et Yang, 1999
(Figs 13, 17, 18)

Malaisius siamensis Li & Yang, 1999: 191, figs 1, 6, 10, 14, 17, 21, 25, 29, 33 [description, illustrated habitus and parameres].

Material examined. **China**, *Yunnan Prov.*, Wenshan Zhuang and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, Malipo County, Malipo, 105.1891 E, 23.5222 N, 1900 m a.s.l., VII, VIII. 2020, Zi-Chun Xiong leg., 1 male (MYNU).

Distribution. China (Yunnan Province) (new record), Thailand.

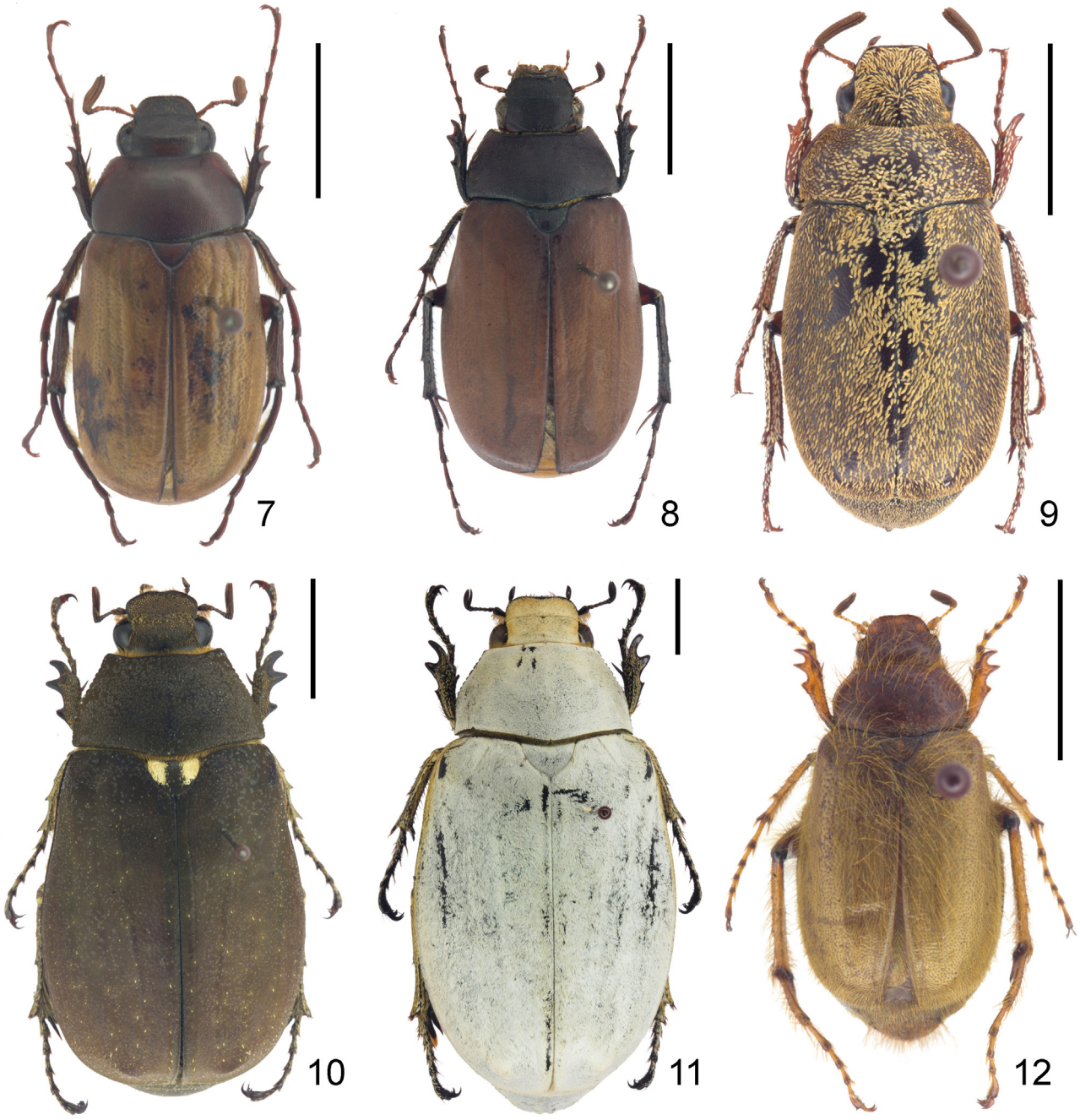
Remark. Formerly, this species was known only from its type locality in northern Thailand (Li & Yang, 1999). Herein, we record it for the first time from southwestern China.

Malaisius mollis Arrow, 1941
(Figs 14–16, 19–22)

Malaisius mollis Arrow, 1941: 5 [description]; Arrow, 1946: 31, plate II, fig. 3 [in list, illustrated habitus]; Sabatinelli & Pontuale, 1998: 62, figs 1, 8, 20 [redescription, illustrated habitus and parameres]; Zhang, 1990: 188 [in key]; Li & Yang, 1999: 193, figs 2, 7, 11, 15, 18, 22, 26, 30, 34 [redescription, illustrated habitus and parameres]; Zídek, 2006: 16, figs 21–25 [variability, illustrated habitus and parameres].

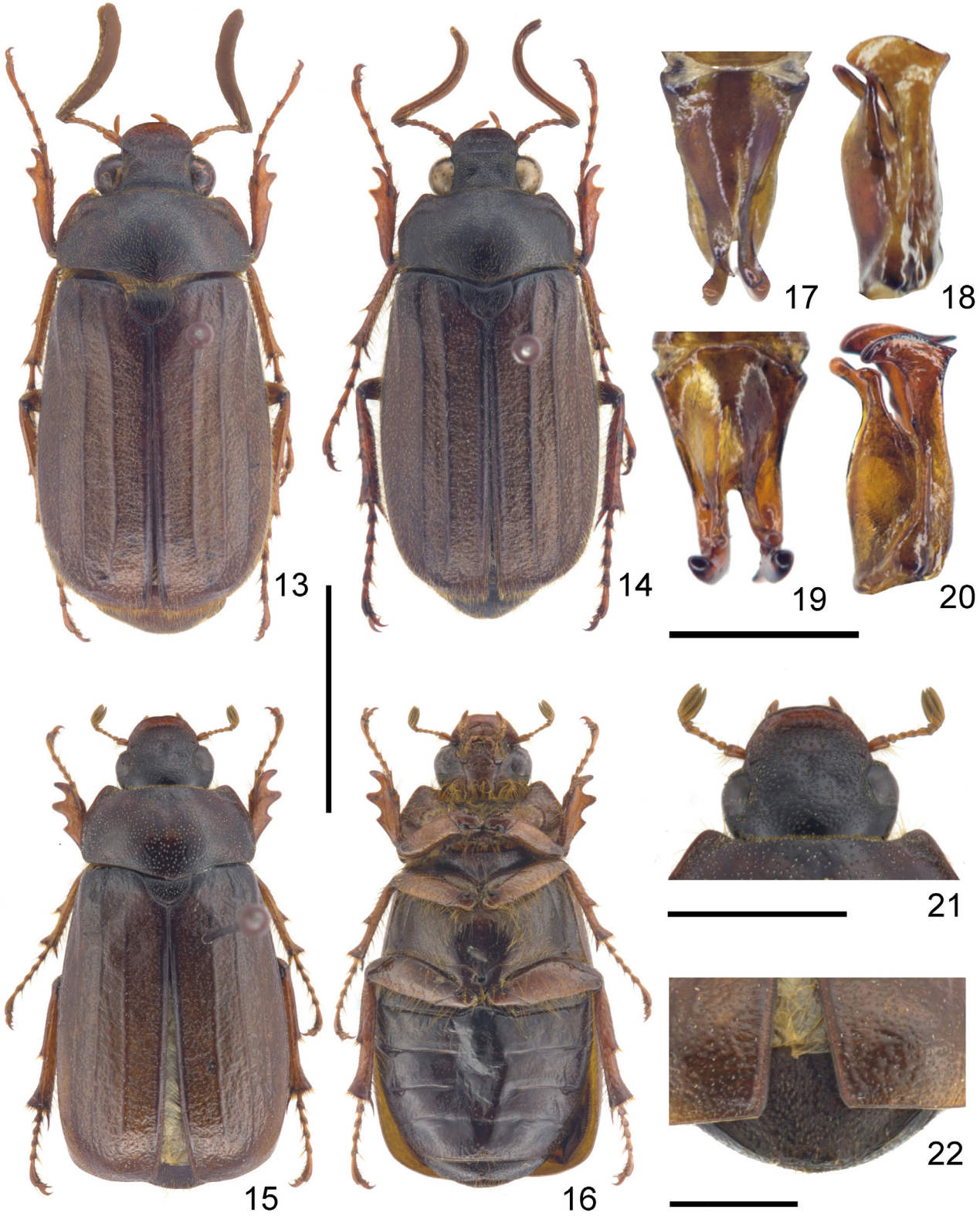
Material examined. **China**, *Yunnan Prov.*, Dehong Dai and Jingpo Autonomous Prefecture, Yingjiang County: Xima Town – Tongbiguan Town, 1400 m a.s.l., VI, VII.2020, De-Min Ding leg., 6 males (MYNU); Xima Town, V, VI.2021, Wei-Zong Yang leg., 2 males, 1 female (CLYL).

Description of female (Figs 15, 16, 21, 22). Body length 17.8 mm, width 7.9 mm. Body elongate oval, weakly convex in profile. Whole body



Figs 7–12. Habitus of Melolonthidae spp. from the Yunnan Province, dorsal view. **7**, *Siamophylla grootaerti* Keith, 2005; **8**, *Pedinotrichia magna* (Itoh, 1995); **9**, *Cyphochilus obscurus* Sharp, 1876; **10**, *Lepidiota acuminatops* Prokofiev, 2015; **11**, *Lepidiota cochinchinae* Brenske, 1894; **12**, *Laotrichia cuccodoroi* Keith, 2007. Scale bars: 5 mm.

blackish brown, with yellowish setae; head, pronotum, scutellum, elytra basally, pygidium, and abdominal sternites darker, antennae and legs yellowish brown. Clypeus semicircular, with strongly reflexed anterior margin and surface covered with spare setiferous punctures. Fronto-clypeal suture complete. Frons with sparse setiferous punctures being denser around eyes. Eyes small; maximum head width 1.52 times interocular distance. Antennae with nine antennomeres, antennal club composed of three antennomeres, 0.5 times as long as antennomeres 1–6 combined. Pronotum wideli trapezoidal, with surface covered with large, sparse setiferous punctures being sparser on disc,



Figs 13–22. *Malaisius* spp. from the Yunnan Province **13**, **17**, **18**, *M. siamensis* Li et Yang, 1999, male; **14**, **19**, **20**, *M. mollis* Arrow, 1941, male; **15**, **16**, **21**, **22**, *M. mollis* Arrow, 1941, female. Habitus (13–16), male genitalia (17–20), head (21), pygidium (22). Dorsal view (13–15, 17, 19, 21, 22), ventral view (16), lateral view from left (18, 20). Scale bars: 10 mm (13–16), 2 mm (17–20), 4 mm (21), and 3 mm (22).

smaller and denser towards anterior corners; sides of pronotum distinctly curved, anterior and posterior angles obtuse, apex rounded. Punctation on scutellum sparse and weak, similar to that on pronotum. Elytral surface with four costae, costae 1–3 complete and distinct, costa 4 weaker and slenderer; surface wrinkled, with short setae. Pygidium flat, weakly convex in profile, with rounded apex, surface covered with dense punctures of different sizes, and sides bearing long setae. Metepisternum and metepimeron overall covered with dense, long, yellowish setae. Abdominal sternites concave in lateral view, with surfaces sparsely covered with short setae. Protibia tridentate, broad, with surfaces bearing several long setae, rounded apex, prolonged second tooth, and basal tooth positioned nearly at right-angle. Protarsus shorter than in males. Mesotibia and metatibia cylindrical, with widened apices and inner surfaces bearing a row of long setae.

Distribution. China (Yunnan Province) (new record), Myanmar.

Remarks. Arrow (1941) described *M. mollis* from seven male specimens collected in 1934 in northern Myanmar, Kambaiti, 7000 ft. (2–8.VI.1934, R. Malaise leg.). Sabatinelli & Pontuale (1998) redescribed and illustrated this species based on the three syntypes stored at the Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet, Stockholm, Sweden (NHRS): 2.VI.1934, 4–8.VI.1934, and one syntype without collecting records label. Li & Yang (1999) examined the three syntypes ("Co-type // N.E. BURMA. Kambaiti, 7000 ft., 4–8 / 6 1934. R. MALAISE // N.E. BURMA. R Malaise, B. M. 1945–71 // *Malaisius mollis*, Arrow, co-type") stored at the British Museum, London, England (BMNH), and the four males from NHRS, which share the same labels as the specimens from BMNH. Zídek (2006) mentioned the three syntypes in NHRS, three syntypes in BMNH, and one newly found male syntype in BMNH, which seem to have been overlooked in previous studies. He also illustrated the newly found male from BMNH and listed the variations in the body colour and the shape of the clypeus of *M. mollis*. To sum up, it is possible to draw several conclusions: (1) there are the seven syntypes (Arrow, 1941): three in NHRS (Sabatinelli & Pontuale, 1998) and four in BMNH (Zídek, 2006); (2) Li & Yang (1999) redescribed and illustrated only the three syntypes from BMNH, Sabatinelli & Pontuale (1998) redescribed and illustrated the three syntypes from NHRS, and Zídek (2006) illustrated one syntype from BMNH, which was not mentioned in Li & Yang (1999); (3) the syntypes of *Malaisius mollis* exhibit variations in the body colour, the shape of the clypeus, and the shape of the parameres (Zídek, 2006); (4) the female of *M. mollis* was unknown before (Arrow, 1941; Li & Yang, 1999).

This species was only recorded from northern Myanmar (Arrow, 1941; Sabatinelli & Pontuale, 1998; Li & Yang, 1999; Zídek, 2006). In this study, we examined eight males and one female from the Yunnan Province, confirming that this species also occurs in China. The males from Yunnan (China) match the description and illustration by Zídek (2006), and the female is described and illustrated for the first time. Comparing with the female of *Malaisius similis* Li et Yang, 1999, setae on the dorsal surface of the examined female of *M. mollis* may be worn (Li & Yang 1999).

Tribe **Heptophyllini**

Genus ***Laotrichia*** Keith, 2007

Laotrichia cuccodoroi Keith, 2007
(Fig. 12)

Laotrichia cuccodoroi Keith, 2007: 291–299 [description]; Matsumoto & Keith 2008: 21–22, figs 1–3 [illustrated habitus and female vaginal palp].

Material examined. 1 female, **China**, *Yunnan Prov.*, Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture, Mengla County, Menglun reservoir, 620 m a.s.l., 15–17.V.2018, Jian-Yue Qiu & Hao Xu leg. (MYNU).

Distribution. China (Yunnan Province) (new record), India, Laos.

Remark. Previously, this monotypic genus was recorded from Thailand, India, and Laos (Keith, 2007; Matsumoto & Keith, 2008). In this study, the genus and species are recorded for the first time from southwestern China.

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