

## TWO NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *PROSOPASPIS* SMETANA, 1987 FROM CHINA (COLEOPTERA, STAPHYLINIDAE: OMALIINAE)

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**Abstract.** — Two new species of the genus *Prosopaspis* are described from China: *P. pluvialis* (Sichuan) and *P. rougemonti* (Yunnan). The genus *Prosopaspis* was previously known only from the Himalaya (two species in Nepal). A key to all four known species is given.



**Key words.** — Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Omaliinae, *Prosopaspis*, People's Republic of China, taxonomy, distribution.

### INTRODUCTION

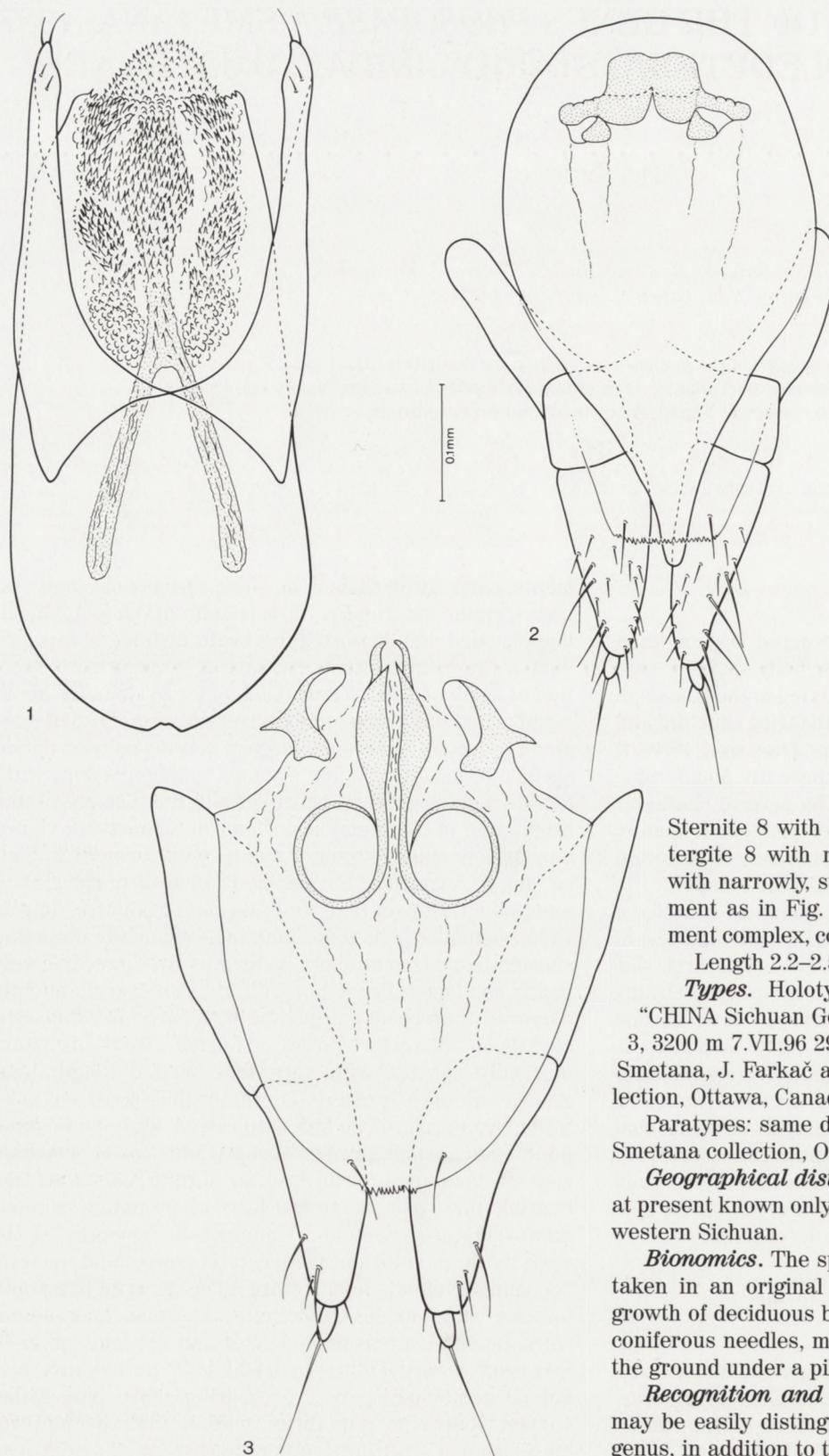
The genus *Prosopaspis* was erected by Smetana (1987) for two new species of peculiar body shape: *P. gibbicollis* and *P. puncticeps*, both occurring in the Himalaya in Nepal. The genus was assigned to the tribe Omaliini and placed near the genus *Pycnoglypta* Thomson, 1858. It shares with *Pycnoglypta* several apparently apomorphic character states, but differs from it by several character states, mainly by the differently developed female genital segment (Figs. 2,3), sterna and the presence of the ocelli on the head (see Smetana 1987: 371, 372 for details).

While doing field work recently in Sichuan, I collected a series of specimens that represent a new species of *Prosopaspis*, a conspicuous species due to its large size and dark coloration. Another new species was found by my friend G. de Rougemont in southern Yunnan. Of the second species only one female, which is missing the abdomen, is available. But since it is distinctly different from all other species of the genus, and since its occurrence in southern Yunnan extends the distributional range of the genus considerably southward, I decided to name and describe it to make it available. Hopefully more specimens will be found in the type locality area in the near future, so that the sexual characters might be added to the description.

*Prosopaspis pluvialis* sp. nov.  
(Figs 1, 2)

**Description.** Form moderately elongate and moderately convex. Black, elytra somewhat paler, rather piceous-black, lateral margins of pronotum more or less paler; undersides piceous-black with apex of abdomen paler; palpi brunneous, maxillary palpi with segments two and three partially darkened; antennae piceous to piceous-black, first five segments rufo-brunneous, some of seg-

ments partially darkened in some specimens; legs testaceous-brunneous. Head with markedly developed, shield-like elevated middle portion and with distinct, sharp postocular ridge; ocelli situated at base of elevated middle portion of head, separated from each other by distance about equal to distance separating each ocellus from medial margin of eye; eyes moderately large, markedly convex; dorsal surface of head (including elevated middle portion) without any microsculpture, bearing scattered, fine pale setae originating in extremely small and fine punctulae visible only at high magnification. Antenna with segment 3 about as long as segment 2 but distinctly slenderer, segments 4 and 5 slightly longer than wide, segment 6 about as long as wide, segments 7–10 wider than long, gradually becoming shorter, last segment about as long as two preceding segments combined. Pronotum with anterior margin slightly narrower than basal margin and with each lateral margin slightly sinuate before posterior angles; disc of pronotum markedly convex, with very fine, medial longitudinal groove anteriorly; postero-lateral portions flattened; posterior two thirds to one half with rather dense and coarse punctation changing rather abruptly into fine to very fine, sparsely set punctures on anterior third to half; punctures bearing fine, pale setae; surface of pronotum without microsculpture. Scutellum impunctate, smooth. Elytra each with punctation moderately dense and coarse, becoming gradually finer toward apical margin, punctures forming more or less indefinite, irregular longitudinal rows, punctation becoming denser and not longitudinally arranged toward suture in basal half, particularly just behind scutellum; punctures bearing short, pale setae; surface between punctures without microsculpture. Mesosternum with large differentiated middle area covered by rugulose sculpture, flanked at each side by fine longitudinal carina. Metasternum finely and sparsely punctate, each puncture bearing fine, short pale seta.



Figures 1–3. 1, 3 *Prosopaspis pluvialis*: (1) aedeagus with internal sac; (3) female genital segment. 2 *Pycnoglypta aptera* Campbell, female genital segment.

Abdominal sternites extremely finely, sparsely punctate, each puncture bearing very fine, short pale seta.

Male. First four segments of front tarsus slightly dilated, each bearing a pair of long and strong, somewhat clavate setae dorso-apically and additional modified pale setae ventrally. Middle and hind tibiae each inconspicuously thickened, curved, with stronger medio-apical tooth and along medial margin with longer and thicker setae than those of female. Sternite 8 broadly, arcuately emarginate apically; tergite 8 markedly narrowed anteriorly, with apical margin slightly, broadly concave. Aedeagus quite distinctive, as in Fig. 1; parameres each with two apical setae, with apex exceeding apex of median lobe; internal sac complex, with paired, strongly sclerotized elongate sclerites.

Female. First four segments of front tarsus not dilated and without modified setae. All tibiae straight, simple, not modified.

Sternite 8 with apical margin narrowly subarcuate; tergite 8 with medial portion somewhat produced, with narrowly, subacutely arcuate apex. Genital segment as in Fig. 3, structure anterior to genital segment complex, composed of several paired structures.

Length 2.2–2.5 mm.

**Types.** Holotype (♂) and allotype (♀): CHINA: “CHINA Sichuan Gongga Shan, Hailuogou, above Camp 3, 3200 m 7.VII.96 29°35'N 102°00'E C54/” collected by A. Smetana, J. Farkač and P. Kabátek”. In the Smetana collection, Ottawa, Canada.

Paratypes: same data as holotype, 4 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀, in the Smetana collection, Ottawa, Canada.

**Geographical distribution.** *Prosopaspis pluvialis* is at present known only from the massive of Gongga Shan in western Sichuan.

**Bionomics.** The specimens of the original series were taken in an original coniferous forest with lush undergrowth of deciduous bushes and rhododendrons by sifting coniferous needles, moss, dead grass and other debris on the ground under a pile of recently cut *Abies* branches.

**Recognition and comments.** *Prosopaspis pluvialis* may be easily distinguished from all other species of the genus, in addition to the sexual characters (female genital segment and aedeagus in particular), by the large size and the very dark coloration alone. Unlike the remaining species of the genus, *P. pluvialis* possesses a more elon-

gate and only moderately transversely convex general body form, fitting the more generalized omaliine appearance, the eyes are not extremely convex and highly globular; the pronotum is only moderately transversely convex anteriorly and lacks the conspicuous depression of the basal portion, the elytra are relatively shorter, exposing a large portion of the abdomen, and their punctation is simpler, only partially arranged into longitudinal rows. These are apparently primitive omaliine characters and *P. pluvialis* is therefore considered the most primitive species of the genus. Also, the males of *P. pluvialis* have the middle and hind tibiae distinctly sexually modified in a way that is common in members of Omaliinae. These modifications may have been secondarily lost in the other species of the genus.

**Etymology.** The specific epithet is the Latin adjective *pluvialis*, -e (related to rain). It refers to the fact the specimens of the original series were collected during incessant, dense rain.

*Prosopaspis rougemonti* sp. nov.

**Description.** In all characters similar to *P. gibbicollis*, but different as follows: coloration darker, head brownish-piceous, pronotum dark brownish, becoming paler toward basal margin, elytra dark brownish-red, becoming paler toward apex; last segment of maxillary palpus distinctly darkened, antenna rufo-testaceous, outer five segments distinctly darkened, piceous; legs rufo-testaceous. Head with eyes larger, longitudinal diameter of eye seen from above equal to combined length of antennal segments 2 and 3 (in *P. gibbicollis* the longitudinal diameter of eye seen from above is shorter than combined length of antennal segments 2 and 3 [ratio 0.80]). Pronotum proportionally smaller, less narrowed anteriorly, anterior margin therefore almost as wide as basal margin, punctation of pronotum with same characteristics as that of *P. gibbicollis*, but distinctly finer and less deep. Elytra with punctation of same type as that of *P. gibbicollis*, but punctures in longitudinal rows distinctly finer.

Female. First four segments of front tarsus not dilated and without modified setae. Configuration of terminal abdominal segments, including genital segment, unknown (abdomen missing).

Length 1.5 mm.

Male unknown.

**Types.** Holotype (♀): CHINA: "CHINA Yunnan Ruili 4.II. 1993 G. de Rougemont". In the de Rougemont collection, London, England.

**Geographical distribution.** *Prosopaspis rougemonti* is at present known only from the type locality in southwestern Yunnan near the Burma border.

**Bionomics.** Nothing is known about the collection circumstances of the holotype.

**Recognition and comments.** *Prosopaspis rougemonti* is similar and apparently closely related to *P. gibbicollis*; it may be easily distinguished by the characters given above. After some hesitation, since the holotype is missing the abdomen, I decided to name the species. Its occurrence in southwestern Yunnan extends the distributional range of the genus considerably southward and therefore it seems to be useful to have a name to refer to (see also Introduction).

**Etymology.** Patronymic, the species was named in honor of my friend, Mr. G. deRougemont, London, England, who collected the holotype.

KEY TO SPECIES OF *PROSOPASPIS*

1. Shield-like elevated middle portion of head distinctly punctate. Length 1.4–1.6 mm. Himalaya (eastern Nepal) ..... *P. puncticeps* Smetana
- Shield-like elevated middle portion of head virtually impunctate ..... 2
2. Pronotum with very fine, medial longitudinal groove anteriorly; basal portion of pronotum not conspicuously depressed. Coloration dark, body mostly black. Size large: 2.2–2.5 mm. China: Sichuan. .... *P. pluvialis* sp. nov.
- Pronotum without fine, medial longitudinal groove anteriorly; basal portion of pronotum conspicuously depressed. Coloration paler, body never even partially black. Size smaller: 1.4–1.6 mm ..... 3
3. Head with eyes smaller, longitudinal diameter of eye seen from above shorter than combined length of antennal segments 2 and 3 (ratio 0.80). Coloration paler: body rufo-brunneous to brunneous, with more or less darker head. Punctures in longitudinal rows on elytra coarser. Length 1.4–1.6 mm. Himalaya (central Nepal) ..... *P. gibbicollis* Smetana
- Head with eyes larger, longitudinal diameter of eye seen from above equal to combined length of antennal segments 2 and 3. Coloration darker: head brownish-piceous, most of pronotum dark brownish, most of elytra dark brownish-red; outer five antennal segments distinctly darkened, piceous. Punctures in longitudinal rows on elytra finer. Length 1.5 mm. China: southern Yunnan ..... *P. rougemonti* sp. nov.

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