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## 1. Introduction

With this revision of the diving-beetle genus *Hydrovatus* Motschulsky I conclude my survey of the taxonomy and systematics of the hydroporine tribe Hydrovatini.

The traditional composition of Hydrovatini, introduced by SHARP (1882a), includes two genera, viz. *Hydrovatus* and *Queda* Sharp. A separate revision of the latter genus was published by BISTRÖM (1990). A reorganisation of the Hydrovatini has recently been sug-

gested by WOLFE (1988), who proposes a unification of Methlini and *Hydrovatus*, on the basis of some morphological similarities between the two taxa. The status and composition of the Hydrovatini are thus at present partly open.

Since SHARP'S (1882a) monograph of the Dytiscidae, no work dealing with all recognized *Hydrovatus* species has been published.

Regionally delimited works of special importance are those of RÉGIMBART (1895b), GUIGNOT (1945a, 1959a) and OMER-COOPER (1957, 1963, 1965) dealing with Africa and Madagascar, FRANCISCO-LO (1979) and ZAITZEV (1972) dealing with Europe and the Palearctic, RÉGIMBART (1899b) and VAZIRANI (1970b) dealing with the Oriental region, WATTS (1978) dealing with Australia and finally YOUNG (1956, 1963), who discussed the situation in America. Subgrouping of the genus is in the present work reviewed on p. 76.

My over-all aims with the present revision are:

- a) To provide a complete taxonomic survey of *Hydrovatus* with diagnoses and descriptions of all recognized taxa and keys for their determination (adults).
- b) To provide a classification of Hydrovatini on the basis of a comparative character analysis, including an evaluation of morphological features met with in adults of Hydrovatini and a number of other hydradephagan groups.

## 2. Material and methods

The study material, which consists of about 11100 adult specimens, comes from a number of institutions and private collections. These are referred to in the text by the following abbreviations:

AMS	– Albany Museum, Grahamstown, South Africa
AMSA	– Australian Museum, Sydney, Australia
ANIC	– Australian National Insect Collection, Canberra, Australia
ASC	– Academia Sinica, Beijing, China
BBM	– Bishop Museum, Honolulu, USA
BNM	– Nasionale Museum, Bloemfontein, South Africa
BMNH	– British Museum (Natural History), London, UK
CAS	– California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, USA
CMNH	– Carnegie Museum, Pittsburg, USA
coll. Balke & Hendrich	– Berlin, Germany
coll. Bilardo	– Varese, Italy
coll. Brancucci	– Basle, Switzerland
coll. Foster	– Ayr, Scotland
coll. Nakane	– Chiba-shi, Japan
coll. Nilsson	– Umeå, Sweden