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Autor: Brancucci, Michel
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A new species of *Platambus* Thomson, 1860 from China, with notes on the subgenus *Agraphis* Guignot, 1954 (Coleoptera, Dytiscidae)

by Michel Brancucci

Abstract. *Agraphis* Guignot, 1954, the subgenus of *Platambus* Thomson, 1860, is briefly discussed and one new species, *Platambus (Agraphis) wangi* sp.nov., is described from Hubei (China). Including this new species, the subgenus *Agraphis* now comprises seven species. A female specimen from Vietnam which represents a new species is mentioned.

Key words. Coleoptera – Dytiscidae – *Platambus* – *Agraphis* – China – new species

Introduction

As stated in my last paper (BRANCUCCI 2004) on the subgenus *Agraphis* Guignot, 1954 of the genus *Platambus* Thomson, 1860, six species can be assigned to this group (see BRANCUCCI 1988, 1990, 1991; NILSSON 2003a,b). The new species described here is the seventh and is very closely related to *P. (A.) kempi* (Vazirani, 1970) and *P. (A.) sawadai* (Kamiya, 1932). Also in the material which I received for study from the Natural History Museum, Vienna (NMW), I found a further new species from Vietnam belonging to the subgenus *Agraphis*. Unfortunately the single specimen is a female and a description is deferred until further material becomes available.

Material and Methods

The material examined in this study is deposited in the Natural History Museum, Vienna (NMW) and the Natural History Museum, Basel (NMB).

Description

Platambus (s.str.) *wangi* sp.nov.

(Figs 1–7)

Material examined. Type material: Holotype ♂ (NMW): China, Hubei, Shennongjia Forest Distr., 10 km E Muyu, Chaiqui, 1600 m, 9.X.2004, leg. Schönmann & Wang (CWBS 522). 9 paratypes (2 ♂ and 4 ♀, NMW; 1 ♂ and 2 ♀, NMB) with the same data as holotype. 2 paratypes (1 ♂, NMW; 1 ♂, NMB): China, Hubei, Shennongjia Forest Distr., 3 km N Muyu, Duanjiang, 1300 m, 10.X.2004, leg. Schönmann & Wang (CWBS 524). 1 paratype ♀ (NMW): China, Hubei, Shennongjia Forest Distr., 20 km SE Muyu, 850 m, 14.X.2004, leg. Schönmann & Wang (CWBS 522).

Further material studied: China, Yunnan, Chuxiong Pref., Da Shui Go riv., nr. Banjiu, 10 km N Yipinglang, 27.XI.1999, ca. 1700 m, leg. Schönmann & Wang (CWBS 522) (1 ♀, NMW). [This specimen is very similar to the specimens of *P. (A.) wangi* sp.nov. but its identity can only be confirmed by study of a male.]

Description. Body elongate-oval, distinctly convex, completely black with a bronze lustre (Fig. 1).

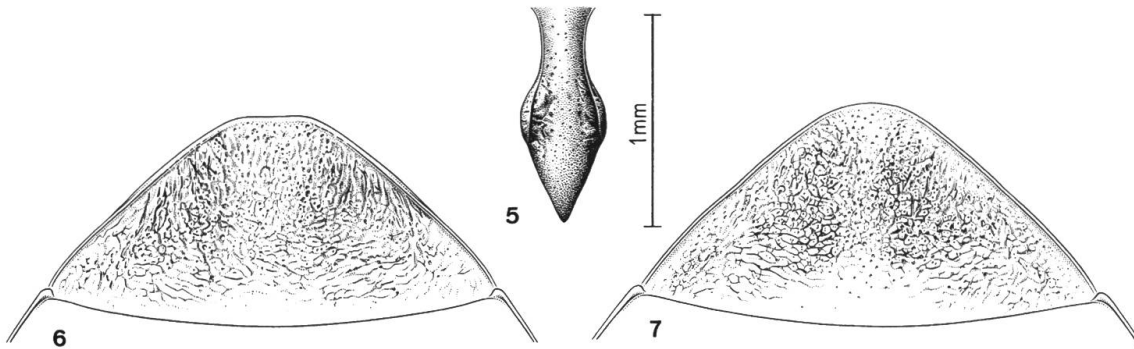


Figs 1–4. *Platambus wangi* sp.nov.: 1, habitus; 2–3, aedeagus in lateral and dorsal views; 4, left paramere (in the sense of MILLER & NILSSON 2003).

Head black with a bronze lustre, anterior part of vertex and labrum ferrugineous. Microstructures coarse; reticulation consisting of medium-sized polygonal meshes, irregular in size, with 1–3 small punctures on their inner sides and numerous larger punctures on many of the intersections, particularly numerous on disc. Row alongside eyes oblique and clypeal grooves rounded, both consisting of large and confluent punctures. Antennae testaceous, joints elongate, the fifth 2 times as long as broad.

Pronotum black, shining with a bronze lustre. Reticulation consisting of polygonal meshes, irregular in size; meshes with 1 to 3 minute punctures on their inner sides and numerous large punctures at the intersection of the meshes, particularly numerous at sides and on disc. Anterior and posterior borders somewhat wrinkled particularly at sides. Anterior row of punctures complete, only narrowly interrupted on disc; punctures large, the confluent punctures grouped and leaving spaces free. Posterior row broadly interrupted on middle; punctures large and strongly confluent at sides, forming short and deep wrinkles. Lateral margin distinctly bordered with some punctures alongside the grooves.

Elytra black, with a distinct bronze lustre. Epipleura completely black. Reticulation consisting of slightly impressed polygonal meshes, with 1–5 (mostly 2) minute punctures within them and with larger punctures at the intersection of the numerous



Figs 5–7. *Platambus wangi* sp.nov.: 5, prosternal process; 6, anal sternite ♂; 7, anal sternite ♀.

meshes. Rows of punctures complete, reaching the base; punctures very large, mostly not confluent. Interspaces filled with very large and numerous punctures.

Underside black. Prosternal process lanceolate, short, flattened. Metasternal wings short and narrow. Metacoxae coarsely structured, strongly punctured, almost wrinkled. Metacoxal process elongate with a deep middle furrow and deep, coarse metacoxal lines. Metatrochanters narrowly rounded. Metafemora microreticulate with medium-sized punctures along posterior margin. Ventral surface of metatibiae microreticulate with a row of very large punctures. Sternites 2, 3 and 4 superficially reticulate with numerous medium-sized punctures particularly on disc.

♂. Protarsi and mesotarsi slightly dilated, with numerous small rounded pads. Anal sternite coarsely sculptured; posterior margin rounded and finely bordered posteriorly. Aedeagus, in lateral view, elongate, slightly broadened in apical part, then suddenly tapered at apex and ending in a very short point (Fig. 2); in dorsal view it is narrow, evenly tapered from base on apical part and narrowly rounded at apex (Fig. 3). Basal part of parameres transverse, apical part thin, only 1.6 times as long as base (Fig. 4).

♀. Similar to ♂. Anal sternite coarsely structured with deeply impressed meshes and medium-sized punctures. Posterior margin narrowly rounded and not distinctly bordered.

Measurements: Holotype: TL = 7.80 mm, TL-h = 7.10 mm, TW = 4.30 mm. Paratypes (♂ and ♀ do not differ in size): TL = 7.20–8.40 mm (7.86 mm, n = 10), TL-h = 7.00–7.60 mm (7.23 mm, n = 10), TW = 4.20–4.50 mm (4.35 mm, n = 10).

Distribution. China (Hubei and probably Yunnan).

Derivatio nominis. Dedicated to one of the collectors, Mr. Wang.

Differential diagnosis. *Platambus (Agraphis) wangi* sp.nov. is very close to *P. (A.) sawadai* and to *P. (A.) kempfi*. It can be easily distinguished from *P. (A.) sawadai* by the series of smaller puncturations of the elytra, in which the punctures are distinctly larger and more numerous than those in the homologous series in *P. (A.) sawadai*. Furthermore, the elongate form of the body and the distinctly more numerous punctures in the large puncturation of the elytra distinguish the new species from *P. (A.) kempfi*. Finally, the aedeagus is very characteristic but is reminiscent of that of *L. kempfi*. It is broadened apically in lateral view but much less so than in *P. (A.) kempfi*, and is broadened apically in dorsal view whereas it is practically flattened in *L. kempfi*.

Platambus (Agraphis) sp.

Material examined. Northern Vietnam, 180 km SW Hanoi, Than Hoa, Ben. En. Nat. Park, ca. 400 m a.s.l., 15.VI.2000, collector unknown.

Remarks. One specimen of a small species closely related to *P. (A.) micropunctatus* Nilsson, 2003 has been collected in Vietnam. It undoubtedly belongs to a new species. However, as the single specimen is a female, I prefer to wait until further material becomes available. In habitus it is very similar to *P. (A.) micropunctatus* but is somewhat larger, 6.6 mm, against 5.5 mm for *P. (A.) micropunctatus*. The puncturation of the elytra is reduced, and the larger punctures are small and sparse.

List of the world *Platambus (Agraphis)*

<i>P. (A.) kempfi</i> (Vazirani, 1970)	India (Darjeeling Distr., Sikkim) E Nepal (Mure)
<i>P. (A.) khukri</i> Brancucci, 1990	Nepal (Bagmati)
<i>P. (A.) micropunctatus</i> Nilsson, 2003	China (Guangdong)
<i>P. (A.) punctatipennis</i> Brancucci, 1984	China (Fujian)
<i>P. (A.) regulae</i> Brancucci, 2004	N Vietnam (Hoang Lien Son) Laos (Xam Nua)
<i>P. (A.) sawadai</i> (Kamiya, 1932)	Japan
<i>P. (A.) wangi</i> sp.nov.	China (Hubei, ?Yunnan)

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Author's address:

Dr. Michel Brancucci
Naturhistorisches Museum Basel
Augustinergasse 2
CH-4001 Basel
SWITZERLAND
E-mail: michel.brancucci@bs.ch
&
Universität Basel
Institut für Natur-, Landschafts- und Umweltschutz (NLU)
Biogeographie
St Johannstrasse 10
CH-4056 Basel
SWITZERLAND

