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A new species of *Colilodion* (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Pselaphinae) from China

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A new species of Colilodion (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Pselaphinae) from China. – *Colilodion tetramerus* from Hainan, China is described. Unlike other members of the group, this new species possesses 4-segmented antennae.

Keywords: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Pselaphinae, *Colilodion,* systematics, China.

INTRODUCTION

The monogeneric tribe Colilodionini currently includes five species known from West and East Malaysia, Sabah, and Sumatra (BESUCHET, 1991; LÖBL, 1994). This group shares with Clavigerini and Tiracerini derived characters associated with myrmecophily, such as the presence of trichomes and reduced mouthparts. As in Clavigerini and Tiracerini, it possesses a reduced number of antennomeres and large apical antennal segment. The group is unique in having large gular and prosternal processes, a strongly restricted neck, and trichomes on the anterior margin of the pronotum and on the posterior margin of the head. The distinct basal antennomere and the aedeagus with large basal bulb and free parameres are plesiomorphic characters (NEWTON & THAYER, 1995). The apical antennomere gradually narrowed toward the tip and the elongate second tarsomeres are characters shared with the Pselaphitae (and with most groups of Pselaphinae), and are presumed to be plesiomorphic.

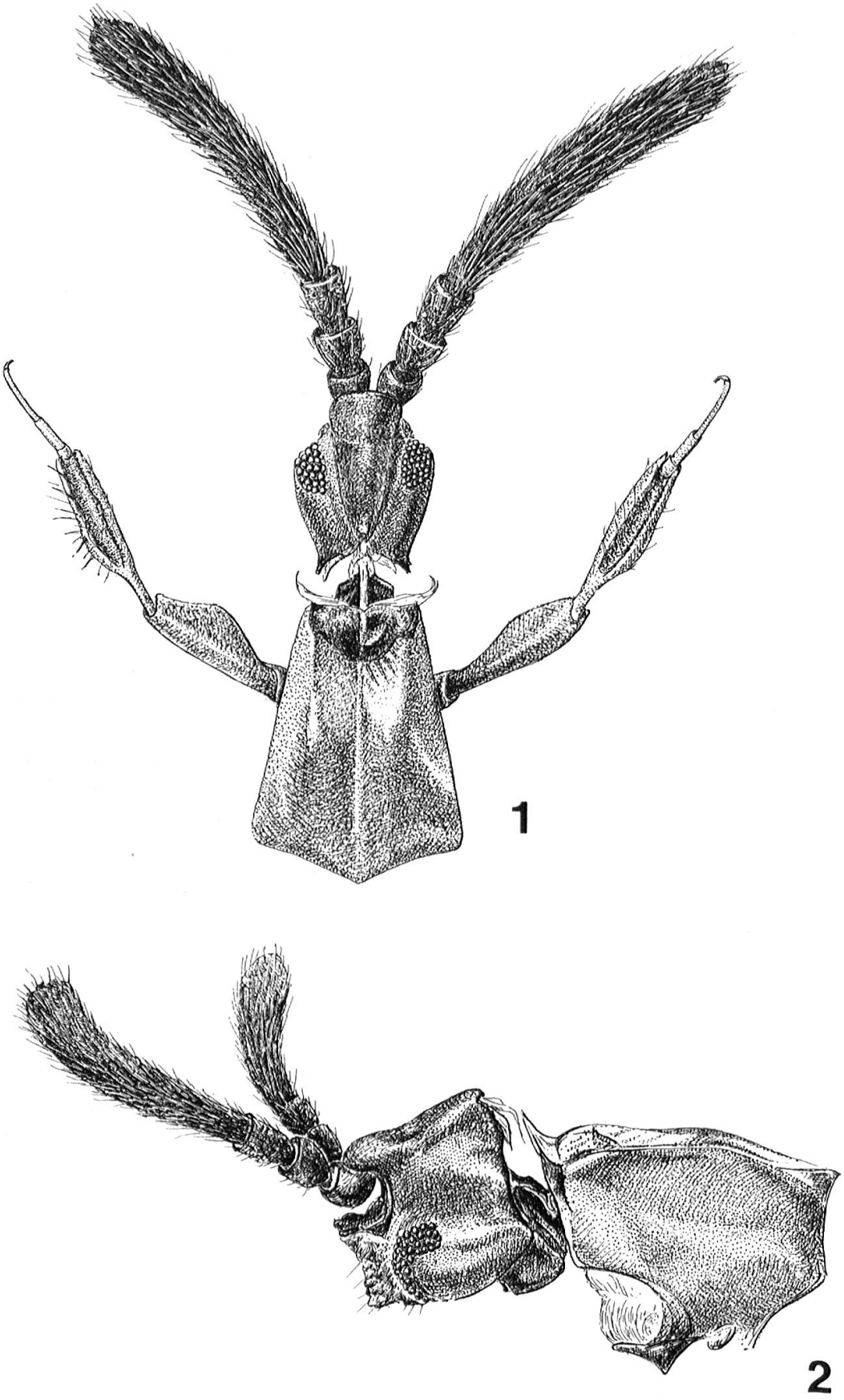
All *Colilodion* have been taken from sifted moist litter in tropical rainforests, and are very rare in collections. The descriptions of these species are based each on a single specimen. Recently, G. de Rougemont donated a collection of pselaphines from China to the Muséum d'histoire naturelle, Geneva. Among them was an additional species of Colilodion, again represented by a single specimen. This species is notable by the antennae which are four-segmented while the previously described species of *Colilodion* have three-segmented antennae.

DESCRIPTION

Colilodion tetramerus sp.n. Figs 1, 2

Holotype (sex not examined): China, Hainan, Ba Wang Ling N. R., 1000m, IV. 1998, leg. J. FELLOWES (Muséum d'histoire naturelle, Geneva).

Length 2.15 mm. Body and appendages red-brown. Body very finely punctate, with pubescence very short and decumbent.



Figs 1 and 2. *Colilodion tetramerus* sp.n., head and pronotum, dorsal and lateral view.

Head 0.30 mm long, including trichomes 0.38 mm long, 0.28 mm wide, 0.43 mm high. Vertex gradually raised and narrowed posteriorly, flattened dorsally, raised high above pronotum. Posterior edge of vertex narrowed to become keel-like below, bearing dorsolateral, dorsomedian, lateral and median trichomes. Two dorsolateral trichomes fairly long, sinuate, diverging, oriented ventrolaterally. Dorsomedian trichomes parallel, short, oriented posteriorly and inflexed slightly ventrally. Lateral trichomes forming a each fairly short rim margining posterior vertexal edge. Median trichome vertical, consisting of row of fairly short setae along median axis of posterior vertexal surface. Frons slightly inflexed, in angle with vertex. Eyes small, not prominent. Tempora compressed above level of eyes, each expanded posteriorly by narrow lamina. Genal ridge absent. Frontoclypeal disc almost vertical, flat, with straight, horizontal upper edge. Gular area sharply separated from postgenae, with low anteriomedian ridge. Gular process 0.08 mm high, with ventral side deeply impressed, posterior side shallowly impressed. Postgenal edges angulate, above level of genal edge in ventral view.

Antennae distinctly 4-segmented. Segment 1 short, visible in dorsal view. Segment 2 slightly larger than segment 1, about as long as wide. Segment 3 elongate, about 1.5 times as long as and slightly narrower than segment 2. Segment 4 large, subcylindrical, curved, gradually stouter apically, 0.75 mm long, 0.13 mm wide, with subapical sensillae situated in a cylindrical protuberance.

Pronotum 0.50 mm long, 0.40 mm wide, gradually narrowed anteriorly. Median groove evenly narrow, sharply delimited, almost reaching basal pronotal edge and extended to anterior edge of pronotal notch. Pronotal notch deep, with oblique lateral walls almost reaching lateral edges of pronotum, smooth at bottom, microsculptured on upper latero-anterior surface. Anterior wall of pronotal notch with median ridge and two admedian incisions. Dorsum rounded laterally, shining, smooth between punctures. Antebasal, inflexed surface microsculptured. Lateral surface shining. Laterobasal lobes distinct. Anteriolateral edges oblique, each bearing conspicuous trichome forming rim oriented dorso-anteriorly and pointed dorsally. Dorso-anterior pronotal edge with fairly long, median trichome oriented anteriorly and curved upward near tip.

Elytra 0.60 mm long along suture, 0.75 mm combined wide. Elytral disc flattened and gradually raised from base to apical third, convexly inflexed in apical third. Discal striae very fine, starting at basal margin. Adsutural and outer striae extended toward apex. Outer and central striae curved, central striae short. Discal pubescence as short as pronotal pubescence. Apical margin with wide trichome. Ante-apical area with row of large, horizontal setae oriented apically. Metathoracic wings fully developed.

Prosternum with large, 0.10 mm high, conic process raising from posterior prosternal edge to level of gular process. Upper side of prosternal process flat, oblique, bearing large trichome oriented dorsally to meet prosternal trichome oriented ventrally. Mesosternal shield and process covered by trichome; anterior mesosternal edge slightly raised, pointed in middle. Anterior metasternal edge hardly raised.

Abdomen without laterobasal protuberances. First visible tergite impressed basally and with two lateral trichomes. Discal microsculpture very fine near apex, absent from most surface; discal pubescence longer than that on pronotum. Following two sternites dull, distinctly microsculptured, with very short pubescence and several longer raised setae. Parasternites flat. Sternites with microsculpture consisting of striae, distinct on first exposed sternite, hardly visible on following sternites.

Tibiae conspicuously narrowed and stalk-like in basal third, with apical two thirds abruptly thickened, bearing conspicuous erect setae on dorsal side. Relative length of metatarsal segments as 1:2:3. Third tarsomere curved.

DISCUSSION

This new species may be readily distinguished from its congeners by the tetramerous antennae and the abruptly narrowed basal portion of the tibiae. It shares with *C. incredibilis* BESUCHET and *C. mirus* BESUCHET the subcylindrical apical antennomeres. These two species are much larger (body lengths 2.9 and 3.0 mm, respectively) and differ conspicuously from *C. tetramerus* by the first exposed tergite having well developed lateral ridges, by the shape of the gular and prosternal processes and of the trichomes, and by the absence of the prosternal trichomes.

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