

A Critical Note on the Description of *Ishidaterechus jianensis*  
LI et CHEN (Coleoptera, Carabidae)

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**Abstract** LI and CHEN's description of *Ishidaterechus jianensis* is criticized. It is concluded that the species belongs neither to *Ishidaterechus* nor to its close relatives, even if it could be a member of the Trechinae.

A new scientific journal was recently founded at Changchun in Northeast China. It is the natural science series of the "Journal of Northeast Normal University," the first number of which is said to have been published in May 1990, though it has not reached our hands until quite recently. This number is devoted to the so-called "regional ecological geography" and collects 28 papers on various subjects of soil zoology. The seventh of these articles is entitled "The geographical distribution of soil beetles in Jilin Province" and was written by collaboration of five authors, CHEN Peng, LI Jingke, YIN Xinqin, ZHONG Weiyuan and ZHAO Hongyin. Its main subject is to record 136 species of beetles from Jilin Province with their collecting data, but the paper also contains descriptions of 4 "new species," *Ishidaterechus* [sic] *jianensis* (p. 61), *Domene chenpengi* (p. 66), *Lathrobium jingyueticus* (p. 67), and *Indalus* [sic] *hanconglingensis* (p. 72). The authorship of the first and third species is attributed to LI and CHEN, while that of the second and fourth to LI alone, but I strongly suspect that all the descriptions were actually prepared by LI Jingke.

As is readily known from the fact that two of the four generic names involved are misspelled, their descriptions are extremely poor and quite inadequate for depicting diagnostic characters of the so-called "new species." Besides, I cannot but strongly doubt the accuracy of identification of many of the species listed. For example, *Dyschirius igai* is recorded from the western suburbs of Changchun (p. 61), but since this small scaritine is an apterous humicolous species strictly localized on mountains of Southwest Japan, its occurrence in Northeast China is not possible unless artificially transplanted. In short, I cannot help expressing, with much regret, that the authors or one of the authors is incompetent as a taxonomist of the Coleoptera.

It is not the purpose of this paper to check the descriptions of all the four species described by LI and CHEN. To do it is beyond my ability, even though all seem to me very insufficient and erroneous. What I am going to take up here is the description of a so-called trechine beetle, *Ishidaterechus jianensis*, which comes in my specialty. In the first place, I will reproduce its original description followed by its English translation below.

(p. 61)

※4. *Ishidaterechus jianensis* sp. nov. Li. et Chen

体长3.0mm。全体红褐色，足暗红褐色。体近似日本产 *I. kobayashii* S. Veno。但前胸背板后半部与前半部相比不显著变窄。头部两侧近平行，长度与前胸背板近于相等，背面有细微的横皱状刻纹。头部背面中央纵隆起，两侧在触角基部之间纵凹陷。两触角基部的头背中央部有一浅横沟。触角后方的头侧部有2根长刚毛。触角伸达鞘翅的肩部后方。前胸背板向后方渐变窄，前角钝圆，前缘较直稍内凹，侧缘边明显深色，后角直角，有一根长刚毛，后缘直线状。前胸背板中央，尤其是在后半部，有一明显的纵沟，另外，在前角稍后方处也有一根长刚毛。鞘翅肩部具有4个等距离刚毛点，鞘翅上的纵沟仅在会合缝处有2条较完整，其余的在中央部消失。小盾片缩小在鞘翅缝中看不见。

(p. 62)

正模1♀，1989. VI. 2，吉林省集安市榆林乡，杂木林。苏志刚采。

*Ishidaterechus*属是真正的洞穴性或土栖性甲虫。文献记载仅分布日本。

*Ishidaterechus* [sic] *jianensis* sp. [sic] nov. LI. [sic] et CHEN

Body 3.0 mm in length. Whole body brown, legs dark brown. Body form similar to [that of] *I. kobayashii* S. VENO [sic], but the pronotum is not much less narrowed in posterior half than in anterior half. Both sides of head nearly parallel, its length nearly equal to [that of] pronotum, with minute transverse wrinkles on the dorsal surface. Dorsal surface of head longitudinally convex in middle, and longitudinally concave on each side between the insertions of antennae. Frons with a shallow transverse furrow at the middle between the bases of antennae. Lateral parts of head each with 2 long setae behind antenna. Antennae extending to behind shoulders of elytra. Pronotum gradually narrowed towards the posterior part, front angles obtuse and rounded, apex almost straight and slightly emarginate, lateral borders evidently darkened at the edges, hind angles rectangular, each with a long seta, base rectilinear. Pronotal disc with a distinct longitudinal furrow, especially in posterior half, and besides, a long seta present a little behind each front angle. Elytra with 4 equidistantly ranged umbilicate pores at the humeral part, only 2 dorsal longitudinal furrows near suture almost complete, others disappearing even at middle. Scutellum reduced and not perceptible though present on the suture of elytra.

Holotype 1 ♀, 2. VI. 1989, Yu-lin Xiang, Ji-an Shi, Ji-lin Sheng, coppice, collected by SU Zhigang.

The genus *Ishidaterechus* [sic] comprises either troglobiontic or soil-living beetles. According to literature, it is distributed only in Japan.

Though not exceedingly short, this description informs us of almost nothing of taxonomic importance. It does not mention anything about pubescence on the body surface, condition of eyes and frontal furrows, structure of buccal organ, details of elytral striation and chaetotaxy, and conformation of protibiae, all of which bear primary importance in classifying trechine beetles. Besides, the authors do not appear to have seen any of the important literature dealing with *Ishidatrechus* (not "*Ishidatrechus*," of course) and its close relatives (UÉNO, 1956, 1987, 1989; JEANNEL, 1962; CASALE & LANEYRIE, 1982), and may have placed their species at the side of *Suzuka kobayashii* only because of similarity in body form, which they may have judged from my illustration of the Japanese species given in the second volume of "The Coleoptera of Japan in Color" (1985, pl. 16, fig. 19). If they had seen my 1989 paper, they should have known that *kobayashii* is now classified in an independent genus, *Suzuka*, and that the genus *Ishidatrechus* is restricted to its type species, *nitidus*.

On the other hand, several parts of their description clearly deny the possibility that the species belongs to either *Ishidatrechus* or *Suzuka*. In these Japanese genera, the humeral set of marginal umbilicate pores is not aggregated, both the front and hind angles of pronotum are acute and salient, and the pronotal base is distinctly emarginate, while in "*I.*" *jianensis*, the four pores of the humeral set of marginal umbilicate pores are "equidistantly ranged," the front angles of pronotum are "obtuse and rounded," the hind angles are "rectangular," and the pronotal base is "rectilinear." Further, the legs of "*I.*" *jianensis* are said to be darker in coloration than the body, but in most trechines including *Suzuka* and its relatives, the legs are more or less lighter than the body or concolorous with the latter at the most.

Thus, "*I.*" *jianensis* is not a member of the *Ishidatrechus* lineage. If its description were accompanied with illustrations, we could know something more about the beetle. From the poor description alone, however, it is impossible even to assume its identity. It may belong to the subfamily Trechinae, but its true systematic position remains unknown until the type specimen is re-examined by an experienced specialist. Incidentally, an undescribed name, *Ishidatrechus yulinsis* CHEN et LI (p. 41) or *Ishidatrechs* [sic] *Yulinsis* [sic] (p. 44), appears in the fifth article of the same journal. If it is a relative of "*I.*" *jianensis*, it is doubtlessly not a member of the *Ishidatrechus* lineage, either.

In closing this brief paper, I wish to express my deep indebtedness to Dr. Yûki IMURA and Mr. Seiji MORITA for kindly notifying me of the publication of the new journal in question, and to Professor Gentaro IMADATÉ and Dr. SHI Jialan for their kind help in checking my translation of the Chinese original description of *Ishidatrechus jianensis*.

#### 要 約

上野俊一: *Ishidatrechus jianensis* の記載に対する批判. — 1990年5月に出版された東北師大

学报自然科学版の第1号に、李景科と陈鹏の共著で発表された *Ishidatrechus jianensis* の記載を綿密に検討した結果、たとえこの種がチビゴミムシ亜科に属するものだとしても、*Ishidatrechus* や近縁の *Suzuka* とはまったく無関係であることが明らかになった。ただし、チビゴミムシ類の分類には不可欠な特徴の記述がほとんどすべて欠落しているうえに、全形図も部分図もつけられていないので、その正体を推定することはできない。必要な文献さえ参照せずに当て推量で新種を記載するような行為は、分類学以前の問題として糾弾されるべきである。この一文には、問題の種の処遇に関する見解を示すことのほかに、不見識な著者に対する強い警告の意味もこめられている。

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