

Records of *Ceruchus minor* (Coleoptera, Lucanidae) from Henan and Hubei Provinces in Central China

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Ceruchus minor was originally described by TANIKADO and OKUDA (1994, p. 7) from the Qinling Mountains in southern Shaanxi. It was additionally recorded later from the Micang Shan Mountains of northeastern Sichuan and the Daba Shan Mountains of northern Chongqing Shi (IMURA & ARAYA, 2006, p. 82). Very recently, I was able to examine two male specimens of the same species collected from Henan and Hubei Provinces as recorded in the following lines.

Specimens examined. 1♂ (16.7 mm in length including mandibles), Baotianman [宝天曼] Nature Reserve, 33°31'N / 111°56'E, 1,500-1,750 m in altitude, on the Fu'niu Shan Mountains, in Neixiang Xian, of western Henan, Central China, 10-V~6-VII-2006; 1♂ (16.1 mm in length including mandibles), below pass between Muyu [木鱼] and Yazikou [鴨子口], 1,800-1,850 m in altitude, in Shennongjia Linq, of western Hubei, Central China, 6-IV-2007, Y. NAGAHATA leg.; both the specimens are preserved in the collection of Y. IMURA.

Remarks. The Baotianman specimen is the largest of all the known materials of *C. minor*, with the head remarkably hypertrophic, front angles of the pronotum not strongly protruded anteriorly, posterior part of the pronotal lateral sides apparently convergent towards the hind angles, and the elytral surface a little more coarsely punctured. The Shennongjia one is also very large in the size though the head is not so remarkably hypertrophic, with the front angles of the pronotum less strongly protruded anteriorly, central part of the pronotal lateral sides hardly sinuate, and the elytral suture a little more shallowly impressed. Male genitalic features are almost identical with those of the nominotypical subspecies in both the specimens. Anyway, it would be better to suspend judgment on their taxonomic account until we can examine more specimens.

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References

- IMURA, Y., & K. ARAYA, 2006. New records of *Ceruchus* and *Aesalus* (Coleoptera, Lucanidae) from China. *Kogane, Tokyo*, (7): 81-86.
- TANIKADO, M., & N. OKUDA, 1994. Two new species of the genera *Ceruchus* and *Platycerus* (Coleoptera, Lucanidae) from the Qinling Mountains in Shaanxi Province, Central China. *Gekkan-Mushi, Tokyo*, (278): 3-9. (In Japanese, with English title and description.)