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Two New Localities of *Eocnides fragilis* (Coleoptera, Trechinae), with Brief Notes on its Habitats

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Eocnides fragilis S. UENO (1989, p. 14, figs. 1–3) is a hygrophilous trechine beetle originally described from Lake Xiajijie Hai in the Zechawa Valley of Jiuzhaigou in northern Sichuan, Southwest China. Several additional specimens of the same species were collected in the summer of 1993, when I had an opportunity to visit the type locality, but no other specimens were found by the lakes and streams in its vicinities. This is rather surprising, since the beetle is fully winged and capable of flight. Besides, this species is taxonomically important in view of the fact that the type species of the genus, *E. assamensis* JEANNEL (1954, p. 11, fig. 1; UENO, 1989, pp. 14, 16) from Assam, has been known from only a single female and cannot be easily reobtained under the present political situation.

Early in the autumn of 1998, I made a collecting trip to Southwest China including northern Sichuan and collected a fairly large number of trechine beetles, among which were found a series of specimens of *E. fragilis* from two different localities. One of them, Lake Chang Hai, lies at the upper part of the Zechawa Valley not so far from the type locality, but the other locality, the Munigou He River, is about 65 km distant to the south-southwest beyond the watershed ridge of the Min Shan Mountains and is utterly different in environmental condition from the other two. It is therefore worth recording it to illustrate the habitat range of this interesting trechine beetle.

Specimens examined from the new localities. 11 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀, Chang Hai, 3,020 m alt., Jiuzhaigou, Jiuzhaigou Xian, N. Sichuan, SW. China, 28–VIII–1998, S. UENO, M. SATÔ, Y. NISHIKAWA & T. KISHIMOTO leg.; 2 ♂♂, Munigou He River, 2,670 m alt., Muni Xiang, Muni Zhen, Songpan Xian, N. Sichuan, SW. China, 3–IX–1998, S. UENO & M. SATÔ leg. All preserved in the collection of the Department of Zoology, National Science Museum (Nat. Hist.), Tokyo.

Bionomical notes. At the type locality, Lake Xiajijie Hai, *Eocnides fragilis* usually dwells under stones partially immersed in the water at the lower edge of the lake, in coexistence with numerous bembidiines. At Lake Chang Hai which lies in the *Abies* zone, the trechine beetle lives under heaps of small slabs whose lower parts are immersed in the water and also in fissures of weathered rocks at the level of the water surface. In these places, therefore, the habitats of the beetle are stable except in the rainy season, when the water level of the lakes may rise to some extent.

At the Munigou He River, on the contrary, the habitat of the *Eocnides* is subject to occasional floods. The two specimens obtained were found from beneath stones lying at the water edge of a barren gravelly bank of the river, which had been washed by a very recent flood. Many bembidiines were found in the same habitat and readily took wing. Though we never saw flight of *Eocnides*, this trechine beetle must also fly away when the river rises fast after heavy rains. Otherwise, it cannot survive in such an unstable habitat as the Munigou He, a tributary of the Min Jiang River. It is possible that *Eocnides fragilis* is widely distributed along the eastern edge of the Tibetan Plateau due to its flying ability, but that its habitats are rather restricted to certain particular places for some unknown reasons.

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