

## A New Synonymy in the Genus *Indoquedius* BLACKWELDER, 1952 and Critical Comments on the Pertinent Paper (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Staphylininae, Staphylinini, Indoquediina)

Aleš SMETANA

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Central Experimental Farm, K. W. Neatby Bldg.,  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C6, Canada

YAN, LI & ZHENG (2017) published a paper, in which they described a new species *Indoquedius qiuae*, based on two male specimens taken at Heizhugou Forest park, Ebian County, Sichuan. In the description the authors compared the new species to *I. nonparallelus* ZHAO & ZHOU, 2010, but in the attached key to species the new species keys out in the couplet with *I. bicornutus* ZHAO & ZHOU, 2010. The key difference is the paramere of the aedeagus, apex of which in *I. bicornutus* does not protrude beyond that of median lobe, whereas in *I. qiuae* it protrudes much beyond that of median lobe (see Figs. 5–7).

It is amazing that everything what possibly could go wrong actually went wrong in this paper, mainly because the authors were not aware of the information published after 2010, as it is apparent from their list of references. Had their information been up to date, they would have immediately recognized that the aedeagus of their “new species” was remarkably identical to the one illustrated for *I. bicoloris* SMETANA, 2014 (SMETANA, 2014: 183, Fig. 44), a species quite variable in body coloration. Based on the descriptions and aedeagus illustrations of *I. qiuae* YAN, LI & ZHENG, 2017 and *I. bicoloris* SMETANA, 2014, *I. qiuae* is hereby declared a junior synonym of *I. bicoloris* (**Syn. nov.**).

The lack of up to date information also affected the data presented in the Introduction and, in far more damaging way, in the key to the Chinese species of *Indoquedius*. In the Introduction the authors claim that twenty-two species “were known in the world before this study”. In fact thirty-nine species are at present known (BRUNKE *et al.*, 2015: 22). The authors further declare that eleven species have been reported from China, while the correct number is twenty when Taiwan is included.

The key to species is entirely useless and misleading and it makes me wonder why the authors felt competent enough to present such a key, while, I am sure, they have never seen a good number of the species included in the key. In agreement with the statement in the Introduction the key contains eleven species, which means that nine (!) species are missing. Those are mostly species I described or recorded from China in 2014 and 2015 (see SMETANA, 2014 & 2015), but they also missed *I. leigongshanus* LI, TANG & ZHU, 2007. *Indoquedius aculeus* ZHAO & ZHOU, 2010 in the key is a junior synonym of *Indoquedius juno* (SHARP, 1874) (SMETANA, 2015: 16) and *I. praeditus* (SHARP, 1889) has not been reliably recorded from China at present (SMETANA, 2014: 173).

What remains to be said? Firstly, papers like this one are detrimental for the taxonomic studies that already face impediment “by unfounded beliefs, anthropomorphic feeling, inadequate information of decision holders, and threatened by the activities of some zoologists and conservationists” (LÖBL, 2017). Secondly, the appearance of this paper in print shows how important proper peer review, obviously lacking in this case, is for preventing publication of improper information (see also SMETANA, 2009). This paper would never had any chance to move past proper peer review.

### References

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