

## First record of *Phaeochrous hainanensis* Zhang, 1990 from mainland China along with some remarks about its status (Coleoptera, Hybosoridae).

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### ABSTRACT

*Phaeochrous hainanensis* Zhang, 1990, originally described and known up to now only from the Island of Hainan, is recorded for the first time from mainland China. The status of this taxon is also briefly commented.

**Key Words:** China, Hong Kong, Hainan, Hybosoridae, *Phaeochrous*, distribution, status.

### INTRODUCTION

Species of the genus *Phaeochrous* Castelnau, 1840 are primarily found in Asia and Africa (Kral & Löbl 2006; Kuijten 1978; Kuijten 1984), though some species reach the Australian mainland (Kuijten 1978; Keith 2002). Normally identification can only be ascertained by examination of the male genitalia, though there are a very few species that can be reliably identified on external characters only (Kuijten 1978).

The following species and subspecies are reported from China (Kral & Löbl 2006; Kuijten 1978; Kuijten, 1984; Zhang, 1990):

*Phaeochrous borealis* Kuijten, 1984 (Sichuan)

*P. dissimilis vietnamicola* Kuijten, 1978 (Guizhou)

*P. emarginatus davidis* Fairmaire, 1886 (Yunnan)

*P. emarginatus emarginatus* Laporte, 1840 (Guizhou, Guangxi, Yunnan, "Thibet" (?Sichuan))

*P. emarginatus suturalis* van Lansberge, 1885b: 394 (Xizang)

*P. hainanensis* Zhang 1990 (Hainan)

*P. intermedius intermedius* Pic, 1928 (Guizhou)

*P. pseudointermedius* Kuijten, 1978 (Guizhou)

*P. rufus* Pic, 1928 (Jiangxi, Sichuan)

*P. separabilis* Zhang, 1990 (Guangxi, Sichuan, Yunnan)

### METHODS AND RESULTS

*Phaeochrous*-specimens were collected in Hong Kong (# 3 of 26.iv.07 (male); # 11 of 29.iv.07 (male); # 8 of 30.iv.08 (male); # 3 of 5.v.09; # 3 of 8.v.07 (male); # 2 of 12.v.06 (female); # 1 of 14.v.06 (male); # 1 of 17.v.11 (male) and # 2 of 17.v.11 (female) mating pair; # 47 of 18.v.10 (male); # 2 of 22.v.06; # 8 of May 2011 (female); # 9 of May 2011 (female); # 10 of May 2011 (male), Lantau, Wang Tong, all close to bright lights at night) by the second author and identified by the first author, the specimens remaining in their private collections.

All males proved to be *P. hainanensis* we assume that the isolated females also belong to this taxon because they were found in the same restricted area as the males.

*P. hainanensis* was previously known only from the island of Hainan, thus constituting the first record of the species for the continent and, of course, mainland China. The flight period for this species appears to be limited (at least in Hong Kong) to less than a month from the end of April until the end of May.

The true status of this taxon is uncertain as the genitalia of *P. hainanensis* bear a striking resemblance to that of *P. borealis*. This is the most reliable character to separate most taxa in the genus. It is likely that after a larger amount of material becomes available *hainanensis* will be downgraded to a subspecies of, or merely sink in synonymy with, *borealis*. Zhang (1990) made no reference to Kuijten's description of *P. borealis* (1984) and he possibly overlooked it.

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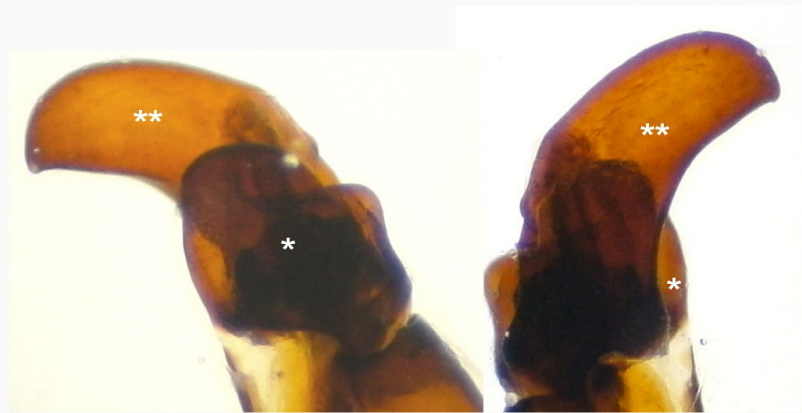
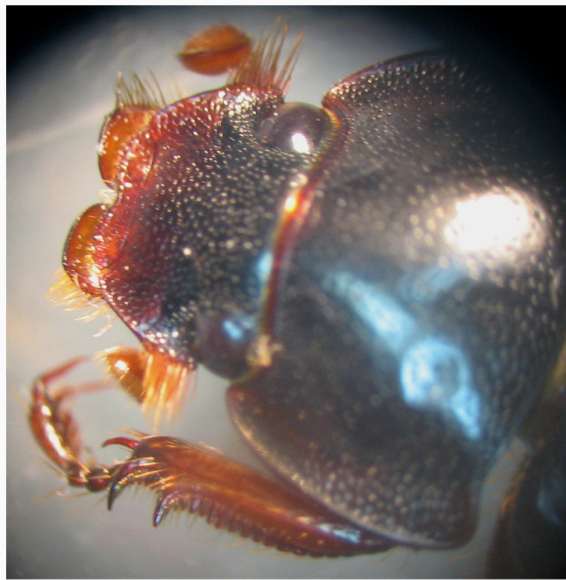
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***Phaeochrous hainanensis*** Zhang 1990.

Top left, 22 May 2006. Top right, 30 April 2008; Bottom left, head and pronotum, 5 May 2009; Bottom centre; right lateral view of parameres; Bottom right; left lateral view of paramere. All Lantau, Wang Tong close to light.