A new species of *Cercyon* from India (Coleoptera: Hydrophilidae)

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*Cercyon (Cercyon) hebaueri* sp. n. is described from India.

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The genus *Cercyon* Leach, 1817 comprises 255 species and is of world-wide distribution. Ten species [(*Acycreon*) **punctiger** Knish, 1921; *C. (Paracycreon)* **subsolanus** Balfour-Browne, 1939; *C. (Cercyon)* **dilatus** Regimbart, 1903; *C. (C.) lividulus** Orchymont, 1926; *C. (C.) maindroni* Regimbart, 1903; *C. (C.) nigriceps* (Marsham, 1802); *C. (C.) pseudodilutus** Satô, 1979; *C. (Clinocercyon)* **conjiciens** (Walker, 1858); *C. (CL.) indicus** Orchymont, 1926; *C. (CL.) lineolatus* (Motschulsky, 1863)] were recorded from India by Hansen (1999). Five more species [(*Cercyon*) **basirufus**, *C. (C.) tenuepunctus*, *C. (C.) aequalipunctus*, *C. (C.) voluminosus*, *C. (Dicyrtocercyon)* **diversipunctus**] were described from India by Hebauer (2002a, 2002b).

In the J.C. Bowring collection (Natural History Museum, London, U.K.), a specimen of a new species of *Cercyon* was found. It is described here.

*Cercyon (Cercyon) hebaueri* sp. n.

**Holotype. **India, "Bowring. 63•47*" (deposited at the Natural History Museum, London, U.K.). The number 63•47* is a registration number. The specimen came to the museum in 1863.

elytra and humeral tubercles brownish yellow (Fig. 4). Intervals of elytra flat, with shallow regular punctuation, which is smaller than that on head and pronotum and in punctate striae. Ventral side black. Elytral epipleura and apices of abdominal segments dark brown. Legs brownish yellow. Prosternum tectiform and finely carinate medially. Preepisternal elevation narrow (index length/width 3.5), almost parallel-sided, contacting metasternum in a single point. Metasternum with femoral lines reaching its anterolateral portion and almost parallel to mesocoxal cavity. Metasternum does not form a ridge delimiting its anterolateral portion. Metasternal pentagon shiny, with very fine dense punctuation. Epipleura flat, almost horizontal. First segment of abdomen with median carina, 1.5 times as long as second segment. Male genitalia as in Figs 1-3. Apex of genital segment with pale setae. Length 1.9 mm.

Comparison. C. hebaueri is similar to C. terminatus in the body shape, size, and colour of head, but differs in the male genitalia, colour of pronotum, elytra and ventral side, head, but differs in the male genitalia, colour of pronotum, elytra and ventral side. Pronotum and ventral side of C. terminatus are brown to brownish black, elytra yellow to reddish yellow.

Other Indian species of the subgenus Cercyon have no femoral lines (excluding C. nigriceps). C. hebaueri is similar to species of the C. nigriceps group, but differs in the more oval body, colour, wider preepisternal elevation and the male genitalia. The posterior angles of pronotum are not rounded, as distinct from C. nigriceps.

The new species is similar to C. sericatus Hebauer, 2002 from Nepal, but C. sericatus differs in the male genitalia, has much wider preepisternal elevation (index length/width 3) and femoral lines shortened anteriorly (Hebauer, 2002a).

C. hebaueri differs from other small species of Cercyon having femoral lines (C. pygmaeus, C. terminatus, C. nigriceps) in the femoral lines reaching the anterolateral portion of metasternum and almost parallel to mesocoxal cavity rather than directed to the anterior angles of metasternum.

Etymology. This species is named after Dr. habil. F. Hebauer who made a major contribution to the study of Cercyon and is at present the recognized expert on Hydrophilidae.

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References


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