

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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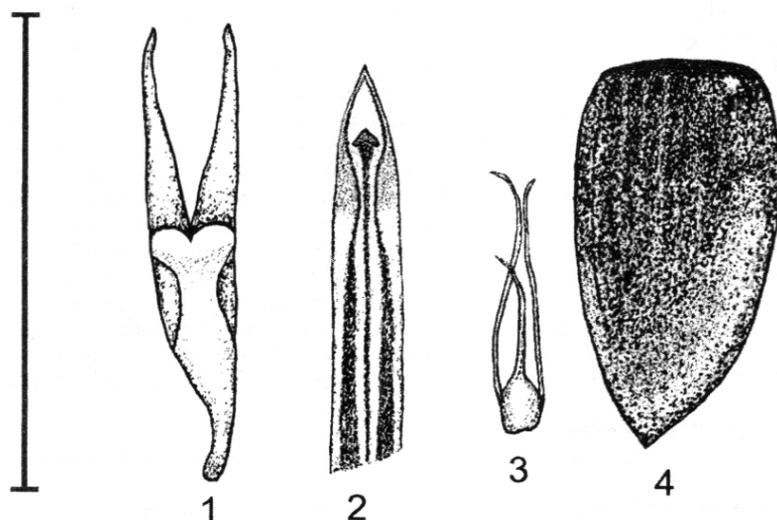
The genus *Cercyon* Leach, 1817 comprises 255 species and is of world-wide distribution. Ten species [*C. (Acycreon) punctiger* Knish, 1921; *C. (Paracycreon) subsolanus* Balfour-Browne, 1939; *C. (Cercyon) dilutus* Regimbart, 1093; *C. (C.) lividulus* Orchymont, 1926; *C. (C.) maindroni* Regimbart, 1093; *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 [*C. (Cercyon) basirufus*, *C. (C.) tenuipunctus*, *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**, "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.

Description. Body oval; dorsal side convex, shiny, without microsculpture. Head and pronotum black, with clear and dense punctation. Clypeus linear. Antennae and maxillary palpi yellow. Last segment of maxillary palpi darker. Pronotum widest at base, moderately narrowed anteriorly, without transverse series of punctures along posterior margin. Sides of pronotum weakly rounded. Lateral margins not continued round posterior angles. Posterior angles of pronotum not rounded. Base of pronotum without border. Scutellum small, black. Elytra dark brown, with nine complete punctate striae. Apex and sides of



Figs 1-4. *Cercyon hebaueri* sp. n. **1**, tegmen with parameres; **2**, penis; **3**, genital segment; **4**, elytra. Scale for figures 1-3: 0.5 mm.

elytra and humeral tubercles brownish yellow (Fig. 4). Intervals of elytra flat, with shallow regular punctation, 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 punctation. 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. 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 preepister-

nal 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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