

A new alpine species of the weevil genus *Ceutorhynchus* from China (Coleoptera: Curculionidae)

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Ceutorhynchus sphaerula sp. n. is described from China (Sichuan Province) with a set of perfectly developed morphological characters typical of the alpine and Arctic weevils.

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Ceutorhynchus sphaerula sp. n. (Figs 1, 2)

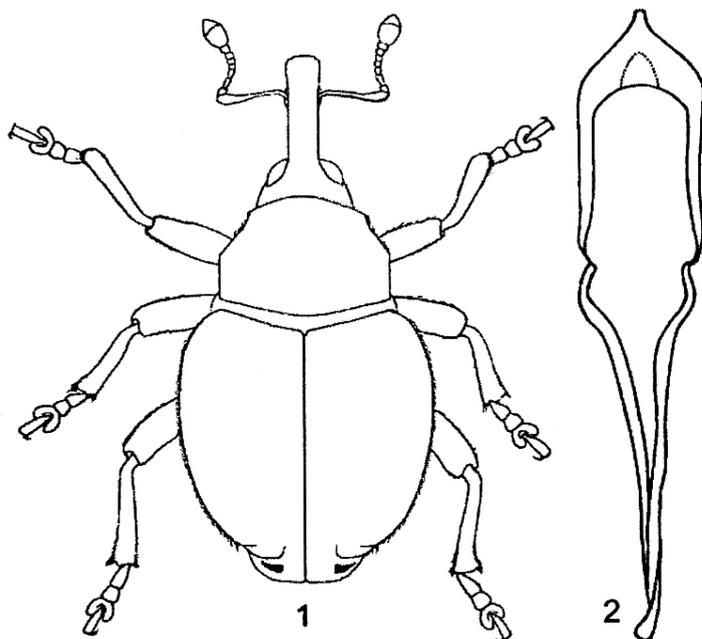
Holotype. ♂, **China**, *Sichuan*, SSW of Shimian, southeastern slope of Mt. 4977 W of Lijipin, 2700-4000 m, 4.VII.2000 (G.E. Davidian) (Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing).

Paratypes. 2 ♂, 2 ♀, as above (3 paratypes in Zoological Institute, St. Petersburg).

Description. *Male*. Rostrum 1.36-1.40 times as long as pronotum, strongly and almost evenly (somewhat more strongly at base) curved, parallel-sided, subcylindrical, 0.87-0.90 times as wide as fore femur and 1.10 times, as fore tibia at apex. Dorsal surface of rostrum evenly convex in cross-section, not carinate; in basal part, almost matt, with dense, fine, partly obliterated punctures and short striolae; in apical part, moderately to strongly shining, with sparse minute punctures. Sides in basal part matt, with 2 irregular rows of larger elongate punctures above antennal scrobe; ventral margin of antennal scrobe continuing beyond antennal insertion as weak fold. Antennae inserted at 0.42-0.43 length of rostrum from apex, rather short. Scape with apical part moderately roundly swollen. Funicle 7-segmented, moderately thickening apically. First segment of funicle twice as long as wide, obconical, strongly widening apically; 2nd segment 0.7 times as long as 1st, twice as long as wide; 3rd and 4th segments of subequal lengths, slightly oblong; 5th segment about as long as wide, 6th and 7th slightly transverse. Club ovate, very short, compact, 1.35 times as long as wide. Setae on segments of funicle fine, moderately long, semi-erect. Eyes broadly rounded-triangular, small, very weakly convex, with dorsal margin not reaching frons level in lateral view. Frons weakly and evenly convex, densely punctate; punctures mostly elongate, merging in places. Occipital carina occasionally prolonged throughout frons to base of rostrum.

Pronotum 1.36-1.45 times as wide as long, with base obtuse-angularly produced posteriorly in the middle, sides in basal half subparallel, in apical half moderately and somewhat convexly converging to shallow constriction separating short apical part. Apical edge not raised, weakly produced anteriorly, with shallow median emargination of varying width. Disc moderately and regularly convex both in cross-section and longitudinally. Lateral tubercles obsolete. Median sulcus ill-defined, occasionally reduced to faint basal and apical depressions. Punctuation very dense, shallow, rather fine, pupillate, punctures merging in places. Scutellum minute but well-visible, almost leveling with elytral surface. Base not margined; punctuation reaching basal edge and leaving no smooth line at base. Fore coxae separated by less than width of antennal club. Anterior margin of prosternum deeply roundly emarginate in the middle; rostral channel shallow, limited by low obtuse convexities; precoxal zone as long as the constricted apical part. Mesepimera clearly visible dorsally.

Elytra 1.11-1.15 times as long as wide, with completely rounded humeri and obsolete preapical prominences, deeply angularly emarginate at base, widest slightly before middle, strongly and evenly convex dorsally. Striae broad and deep, entire, with round punctures separated by own diameter; margins of striae smoothed. Discal striae straight at base, 1st stria occasionally slightly incurved to scutellum. Intervals strongly convex, arcuate in cross-section, weakly shining, finely and sparsely punctate, with sparse minute granules on sides and a few sharper granules on preapical prominences. Odd-numbered intervals, except sutural one, slightly wider and noticeably more strongly convex than even-numbered intervals. Basal margin narrow, lacking smooth bare edging but slightly raised at bases of 4th and 6th intervals.



Figs 1, 2. *Ceutorhynchus sphaerula* sp. n., male: 1, general view; 2, aedeagus dorsally.

Legs moderately long; femora mutic, weakly gradually widening from base to somewhat behind middle; hind femur as wide as middle and slightly wider than fore femur. Tibiae noticeably widening and outcurved apically, weakly angularly widened at apex. Spines of apical comb not extending on outer margin of tibia. Middle and hind tibiae with sharp medium-sized mucro. Tarsi short; 1st segment about 1.5 times as long as wide, 2nd as long as wide, weakly widening toward apex, rounded at sides; 3rd segment slightly longer than, and twice as wide as 2nd, weakly rounded at sides. Claw-segment rather broad, weakly widening apically, by slightly more than half of own length projecting beyond lobes of 3rd segment. Claws simple.

Metasternal suture not visible on background of rather coarse punctation of sides of thorax. Anal ventrite with moderately deep rounded depression along entire length; sides of depression moderately swollen, highest in middle of length; apical margin of ventrite noticeably produced in the middle. Pygidium moderately transverse, weakly convex, densely punctate. Aedeagus (Fig. 2) with narrow sclerotized lateral areas, short, with sides slightly concave before pointed apex.

Body black except for brown trochanters and dark brown antennae. Pubescence fine, short, uniform, subrecumbent, yellowish, moderately dense, forming no pattern on dorsal surface. Underside moderately densely and uniformly clothed with short-oval greyish scales.

Female. Rostrum 1.49 times as long as pronotum, noticeably more curved in basal than in apical half, slightly narrowing behind antennal insertion and in apical half, obsolete flattened in apical half. Antennae inserted at 0.47 length of rostrum from apex.

Body length 1.70-1.95 mm.

Comparison. The new species differs from all congeners in the perfect expression of the full set of characters typical of the Arctic and alpine weevils: the completely wanting humeral calli, strongly and evenly convex dorsally body, strongly convex elytral intervals, and entirely black body except for the dark brown antennae. The uniform, moderately coarse punctation, obsolete median sulcus, not raised apical margin, and lack of the lateral tubercles are additional distinctive characters of the new species. No close relationships of *C. sphaerula* sp. n. can be speculated so far.

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