

A new aberrant species of the genus *Pacrillum* from Nepal (Hydrophilidae: Sphaeridiinae: Megasternini)

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Abstract. *Pacrillum cycrilloideum* sp. nov. from the Nepalese Himalaya is described as an aberrant species superficially resembling the representatives of the Neotropical genus *Cycrillum* Knisch, 1921 in some external characters. The generic placement within the genus *Pacrillum* Orchymont, 1941 is discussed in detail.

Key words. Hydrophilidae, Sphaeridiinae, Megasternini, *Pacrillum cycrilloideum*, new species, Nepal, Himalaya.

Introduction

Pacrillum Orchymont, 1941 is a small sphaeridiine genus containing only three species – *Pacrillum chinense* Orchymont, 1941, *P. manchuricum* Orchymont, 1941, and *P. insulare* Orchymont, 1941. All three species are very similar in their morphology, differing from each other by the coloration of the dorsal surface, appearance of the lateral elytral series and by the male genitalia (HOSHINA & SATÔ 2004). They occur in the Oriental Region (China, Nepal, Philippines) as well as in the East-Palaeartic (China, Japan) (HANSEN 1999, 2004; HEBAUER 2002; HOSHINA & SATÔ 2004).

Recently, the second author found a very odd-looking representative of the tribe Megasternini in the material of Museum für Tierkunde in Dresden (Germany), resembling in many aspects the Neotropical genus *Cycrillum* Knisch, 1921. Closer examination showed that this new species shares the diagnostic characters of *Pacrillum*. In this paper, we describe the species and discuss the systematic position and relationships to *Pacrillum* and *Cycrillum*.

Material and methods

The study is based on the examination of the specimens listed under Type material below, as well as on additional material of related taxa housed in the collections of both authors.