

New and little-known species of *Meligethes* Stephens, 1830 from China (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae)

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Abstract. The genus *Meligethes* Stephens, 1830 (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae, Meligethinae) comprises several anthophagous species attacking a wide range of wild and cultivated flowering plants. We describe four new species from China (*Meligethes chlorocupreus* sp. nov., *M. difficiloides* sp. nov., and *M. abditus* sp. nov., members of the *M. difficilis*-group; *M. bocaki* sp. nov., a member of the *M. planiusculus*-group), and provide distributional or ecological data on other Chinese species – *Meligethes* sp. cf. *praetermissus* Easton, 1957 and *M. kaspanyani* Kirejtshuk, 1984. An updated provisional check-list of Chinese *Meligethes* of about 60 species is presented.

Key words. Coleoptera, Nitidulidae, *Meligethes*, new species, China, host-plants, check-list

Introduction

Meligethes Stephens, 1830 is the largest genus of Nitidulidae; it includes some 600 pollen-eating species, whose larval stages are associated with flowers of several families (in systematic order according to CRONQUIST (1988): Aizoaceae-Mesembryanthemaceae, Sterculiaceae, Cistaceae, Brassicaceae, Capparaceae, Rosaceae, Fabaceae, ?Proteaceae, Boraginaceae, Rubiaceae, Verbenaceae, Lamiaceae, Campanulaceae, Asteraceae, and ?Poaceae). Most species are distributed in the Palaearctic and Afrotropical regions, with more than 200 and probably more than 300 species, respectively. A world-wide revision of the genus is in progress (AUDISIO, in prep.).

All known western Palaearctic species (147 total) have been recently revised by AUDISIO (1993), while the eastern Palaearctic species have been recently revised by KIREJTSHUK (1992).