

**Contributions to the knowledge of the ‘*Staphylinus*-complex’
of China (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Staphylinini).
Part 22. The genus *Tasgius* Stephens, 1829, Section 1**

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Abstract. The paper deals with the species of the subgenus *Tasgius* s. str. of the genus *Tasgius* Stephens, 1829, known to occur at present on the territory of the People’s Republic of China. *Tasgius praetorius* Bernhauer, 1915 is redescribed and a lectotype is designated for it. Three species are described as new: *T. pugio* sp. nov. (Gansu), *T. congener* sp. nov. (Gansu) and *T. venustus* sp. nov. (Xinjiang). Each species is described, illustrated and all available distributional and bionomic data are given.

Key words. Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Staphylininae, *Tasgius*, taxonomy, new species, redescription, description, distribution, mainland China, Palaearctic Region

Introduction

This is the first paper dealing with the species of the subgenus *Tasgius* s. str. of the genus *Tasgius* Stephens, 1829 of the People’s Republic of China. For the concept of the subgenera of *Tasgius* see SMETANA & DAVIES (2000). Previously only one species, *T. praetorius* Bernhauer, 1915, was known from mainland China. Three additional, new species are described in this paper. It is expected that further species of the subgenus will be found in mainland China.

Materials and methods

The acronyms used in the text when referring to the deposition of the specimens are as follows:

- ASC Aleš Smetana Collection, Ottawa, Canada;
- BMNH Natural History Museum, London, U.K. (M. Barclay);
- FMNH Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois (Jim Boone, Alfred Newton);
- MHNG Muséum d’Histoire Naturelle, Genève, Switzerland (Dr. G. Cuccodoro);
- NHMW Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien, Austria (H. Schillhammer);
- NMPC National Museum, Praha, Czech Republic (Jiří Hájek).