



## Discovery in the caves of Guangxi, China: three new troglobitic species of *Tribasodites* Jeannel (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Pselaphinae)

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### Abstract

Three new species of *Tribasodites* Jeannel are described and illustrated based on recently collected material in the caves of Guangxi Province: *T. bedosae* Yin and Li, **sp. n.**, *T. deharvengi* Yin and Li, **sp. n.** and *T. tiani* Yin and Li, **sp. n.** A key to Chinese troglobitic pselaphine species and a checklist of *Tribasodites* are presented.

**Key words:** Staphylinidae, Pselaphinae, Batrisini, *Tribasodites*, taxonomy, troglobite, key, checklist, Guangxi, China

### Introduction

*Tribasodites* Jeannel currently comprises seven described species scattered in Japan, India and China, historically reviewed by Zhao *et al.* (2010a, 2010b). Some members are found associated with ant colonies (Nomura 1986; Zhao *et al.* 2010a, 2010b), while others are free-living species commonly encountered in root mats, grass and various kinds of leaf debris on the forest floor. To date, no troglobitic species of *Tribasodites* has been previously recorded.

Compared to the European and American troglobitic pselaphine fauna (Besuchet 2008; Hlavač 2008; Hlavač & Jalžić 2009, 2010; Hlavač & Lakota 2004; Hlavač *et al.* 1999, 2008; Jeannel 1950, 1954; Nonveiller & Pavićević 2001; Barr & Steeves 1963; Chandler 1992; Chandler & Lewis 2008; Chandler & Reddell 2001; Park 1951, 1960, 1965), China is poorly studied despite a huge number of known caves in the karst areas of the south and southwest of the country. The first and only known Chinese troglobitic pselaphine, *Batrisodellus callissimus* Nomura & Wang, 1991 was described only recently, based on specimens collected from limestone caves in Guilin, Guangxi. A new genus *Tribasodellus* was later established for that species (Yin *et al.* 2011).

In August 2011, a small series of pselaphines were sent to us for identification by Ming-Yi Tian (SCAU, China). The beetles were collected during a survey of subterranean fauna in several selected karst areas of Guangxi in April, 2010, conducted by Louis Deharveng (the Paris Museum of Natural History, MNHN), Ming-Yi Tian, Anne Bedos (MNHN) and You-Bang Li (Guangxi Forestry Bureau, Nanning) (Tian 2010). The examination of the specimens revealed three new troglobitic species of *Tribasodites*. The purpose of this paper is to describe the new species with illustrations, to provide a key to the known troglobitic pselaphine species of China and to give a checklist of *Tribasodites* species.

### Material and methods

A slash (/) is used to separate lines on the same label, and a double slash (//) is used to separate different labels. The foveal terminology follows Chandler, 2001 (except for using 'ventrite' instead of 'sternite'). The new species and those covered in the checklist are listed in alphabetical order. Measurements were made based on a random sample of the specimens available for each species. All measurements are in millimeters.