



***Ancyronyx jaechi* sp.n. from Sri Lanka, the first record of the genus *Ancyronyx* Erichson, 1847 (Insecta: Coleoptera: Elmidae) from the Indian Subcontinent, and a world checklist of species**

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Abstract

Ancyronyx jaechi sp. n. from Kegalle District, Sabaragamuwa Province, Sri Lanka is described. The new species is recognized by a unique combination of the elytral colour pattern, as well as the shape and size of the male sternite IX, the aedeagus, the female ovipositor, and the secondary sexual characters. An updated world checklist of the species of *Ancyronyx* Erichson, 1847 including authority clarification for *A. montanus* Freitag & Balke, 2011 is provided. The distributional area of the genus and its diagnostic characters are discussed. The habitats of *Ancyronyx* species are briefly discussed.

Key words: taxonomy, Spider Water Beetle, Ceylon, *Ancyronyx jaechi*

Introduction

The so-called spider water beetles of the genus *Ancyronyx* Erichson, 1847 belong to the family Elmidae Curtis, 1830 (Coleoptera), subfamily Elminae Curtis, 1830. The tribe Ancyronychini Ganglbauer, 1904 has been erected exclusively for this genus.

The genus was for a long time known only from two species, *Ancyronyx variegatus* (Germar, 1824) and *A. acaroides* Grouvelle, 1896 with strongly disjunct distributional areas in North America and Southeast Asia, respectively. Just in the last two decades, 15 additional species have been described from Southeast Asia by Jäch (1994, 2003, 2004), Freitag and Jäch (2007) and Freitag and Balke (2011). Very recently another new species has been described from Jiangxi Province, China (Bian et al. 2012).

Material and methods

Photographs were taken from a ZEISS Primo Vert inverte microscope equipped with a ZEISS LD Plan-ACHROMAT 20X objective lens (Figs. 2A-F) and an OLYMPUS SZ 40 stereo microscope (Fig. 1), both with digital photo adapter LW Scientific MiniVID DCM310. Photographs were taken at various focus layers and were subsequently stacked using the corrected weighted average function (Figs. 2A-F) and stack function (Fig. 1) of COMBINEZM software (Hadley, 2008) to retrieve images with sufficient depth of focus. The same optical systems we used for the dissection of adult specimens and the detailed material examination.

Morphological terminology used herein mainly follows the Elmidae chapter of the Handbook of Zoology / Coleoptera (Kodada & Jäch, 2005).

The following abbreviations and acronyms were used:

asl above sea level (altitude)
CL calculated length (PL + EL)