

# Description of *Haliplus harminae* n.sp. from China (Coleoptera: Haliplidae)

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*Abstract:* *Haliplus harminae* n.sp. is described from the province of Hupeh, China. It is compared with related East Palaearctic species.

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## Introduction

Among the Haliplidae from the collection of the Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique in Brussels and the Senckenberg Museum in Frankfurt am Main four unusual specimens were discovered. The specimens, all four females, lack the pronotal plicae and also the setiferous striole on the dorsal face of the hind tibia. This rare combination of characters was not known to Zimmermann when he wrote his key to the species of Haliplidae of the world (1924). The three specimens in Brussels were identified by R. Mouchamps as *Haliplus brevis* Wehncke, 1880 (preoccupied; replacement name: *H. regimbarti* Zaitsev, 1907). With Zimmermann's key it is only possible to identify the specimens as *brevis* by ignoring an important character as the shape of the metasternal process. When this character is treated properly identification can lead only to *H. mucronatus* Stephens, which is a very different species. Study of a syntype in the British Museum (Natural History) by Mr M. Holmen (pers. comm.) and a syntype in the Wehncke-collection in Paris (Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle) by myself shows that *brevis* is certainly different from the three Brussels specimens, but also from the *brevis* sensu Zimmermann. Which specimens Zimmermann regarded as *brevis* when he wrote his key is not clear. Such material could not be traced in the collection of the Zoologische Staatssammlung in Munich (Mr. M. Holmen, pers. comm.) or in the Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Uni-

versität in Berlin (Dr. F. Hieke, pers. comm.).

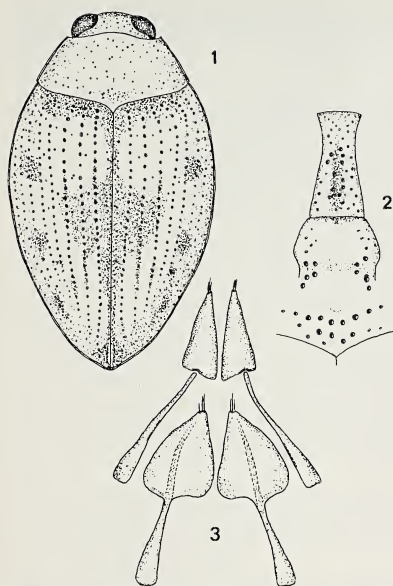
In my opinion the three Brussels specimens and the Senckenberg specimen belong to an undescribed species, named here *Haliplus harminae*.

This new species can be distinguished from related species in the East Palaearctic region as follows:

1. Pronotum with basal plicae . . . . .  
. . . . . species of the subgenus *Haliplus* s. str. sensu Guignot, 1928 (among them *H. regimbarti* Zaitsev (*H. brevis* Wehncke)).  
— Pronotum without basal plicae . . . . .  
. . . . . species partly belonging to the subgenus *Haliplus* s. str. and partly to the subgenus *Liaphlus* Guignot, 1928 . . . . . 2
2. Setiferous striole on dorsal face of hind tibia . . . . . species of the subgenus *Liaphlus*  
— No setiferous striole present. Species of the subgenus *Haliplus* s. str. . . . . 3
3. Elytra with more or less interrupted dark lines, no dark blotches . . . . .  
. . . . . *H. simplex* Clark or *H. zacharenkoi* Gramma  
— Elytra with dark blotches, no clear dark lines . . . . . *H. harminae* n. sp.

***Haliplus harminae* n. sp.**  
(figs. 1-3)

*Holotype* ♀: "China, Prov. Hupeh, Mts. Wu-schan",



Figs. 1-3. *Haliplus harminae*. 1, habitus of holotype; 2, prosternal and metasternal processes of holotype; 3, female genitalia of paratype.

"Senckenberg Museum", "R. Mouchamps det. 63, *Haliplus brevis* Wehn", "Holotype ♀, *Haliplus harminae*, det. B. J. v. Vondel 1989" (in Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Brussels). *Paratypes*: 2 ♀♀ with same data as holotype (in Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Brussels); 1 ♀, "China, Prov. Hupeh, Mts. Wu-schan, "*Haliplus ruficollis* Deg.", "Senckenberg Museum Frankfurt/Main", "Paratype ♀, *Haliplus harminae* det. B. J. v. Vondel 1989" (in Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg, Frankfurt am Main).

### Description of female

Length of body: 2.6 mm, width of body: 1.5 mm. Body widest before the middle, tapering backwards.

Head: Brown, fairly strongly and densely punctured, between the eyes more sparsely punctured. Distance between eyes 1.7-1.8 × the width of one eye. Antennae and palpi yellow.

Pronotum: Yellow-brown. Lateral borders slightly convex in anterior half, finely mar-

gined. Rather sparsely punctured with an almost unpunctured area on the disk, anterior margin more densely punctured, most punctures weakly darkened. No basal plicae present.

Elytra: Yellow-brown with an extended brown maculation on disk and along suture, a vaguely indicated band along base and some marginal blotches (fig. 1). Primary punctures moderately strong, about 36 punctures in the first row. Scattered secondary punctures relatively strong. All punctures darkened, but except in the blotches hardly connected with dark lines. No micropunctuation recognizable (by magnification of 50×).

Ventral side: Body yellow to brown, legs yellow to yellow-brown, coxae hardly darkened. Prosternal process narrowed before front coxae, diverging apically, weakly to fairly strongly grooved in the middle, anteriorly without ridge, moderately punctured. Metasternal process flat or even convex in the middle, besides the sparse punctures at the base with strong punctures on both sides and on posterior part (fig. 2). Metacoxal plates reaching to anterior margin of fifth sternite, strongly punctured except on weakly punctured zone along suture, no spines on hind edge. Fifth and sixth sternite with a row of punctures, seventh (last) sternite strongly punctured. Hind tibia without setiferous striole on dorsal face, longest of two tibial spurs about as long as first tarsal segment. Female genitalia as in fig. 3.

Male: unknown.

**Etymology:** I dedicate this species to my wife Harmina as a small comfort for all the hours during which I studied Haliplidae.

### Acknowledgement

I thank mr. M. Holmen and dr. F. Hieke for their valuable information and dr. L. Baert (Brussels) and dr. R. zur Strassen (Frankfurt am Main) for the opportunity to study and describe this species.

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