

TAXONOMIC AND NOMENCLATURAL NOTES ON THE GENUS *BLAPS*
FABRICIUS, 1775 (COLEOPTERA: TENEBRIONIDAE) FROM CHINA

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Summary. The tenebrionid species *Nalepa acuminata* (Li et Ren, 2022) is transferred to the genus *Blaps* Fabricius, 1775: *Blaps (Nalepa) acuminata* Li et Ren, 2022, **comb. n.** This name automatically becomes a junior homonym of *Blaps* (s. str.) *acuminata* Fischer von Waldheim, 1820. We propose a new name for *Blaps (Nalepa) acuminata* (Li et Ren, 2022) to eliminate this homonymy: *Blaps (Nalepa) lirenorum* Nabozhenko et Chigray, **nom. n.** The species, erroneously interpreted by Chinese authors in the “Fauna Sinica” as “*Blaps waschana*” belongs in fact to the subgenus *Ablapsis* Reitter, 1887 (possibly a new species) based on the shape of parameres. Redescription of images of type specimens of *Blaps* (s. str.) *waschana* Schuster, 1923 are given, as well as the lectotype of this species is designated.

Key words: darkling beetles, Blaptinae, taxonomy, new combinations, new name, lectotype designation.

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Резюме. Вид жуков-чернотелок *Nalepa acuminata* (Li et Ren, 2022) перенесен в род *Blaps* Fabricius, 1775: *Blaps (Nalepa) acuminata* (Li et Ren, 2022), **comb. n.** Это название автоматически становится младшим омонимом *Blaps* (s. str.) *acuminata* Fischer von Waldheim, 1820. Мы предлагаем новое название для *Blaps (Nalepa) acuminata* (Li et Ren, 2022) для элиминации этой омонимии: *Blaps (Nalepa) lirenorum* Nabozhenko et Chigray, **nom. n.** Вид, ошибочно интерпретируемый китайскими авторами в «Fauna Sinica» как “*Blaps waschana*” на самом деле относится к подроду *Ablapsis* Reitter, 1887 (возможно, к новому таксону) на основании строения параметров. Даны переписание и изображения типовых экземпляров *Blaps* (s. str.) *waschana* Schuster, 1923, а также обозначен лекстотип этого вида.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Blaps* Fabricius, 1775 is very diverse in China. Chinese members of the genus were revised by Ren *et al.* (2016) who registered 70 species and three subspecies in the country. Chigray & Kirejtshuk (2023) transferred *Ablapsis* Reitter, 1887 (with the type species distributed in China) as a subgenus in the genus *Blaps*. Thus, the list of Chinese species has been expanded by one more species. Recently, *Nalepa* Reitter 1887 was also downgraded to a subgenus within the genus *Blaps* based on molecular genetic analysis and morphological features (Zhang & Li, 2025). As a result all previously described species of *Nalepa* (Li *et al.*, 2022) are also interpreted now as *Blaps*. In addition, some new species were described in recent publications (Zhang & Li, 2025; Zhang *et al.*, 2026, Li *et al.*, 2026). It should be mentioned that *Blaps ratalaria* Ren et Wang, 2001 was synonymized with *Blaps (Nalepa) cylindracea* Reitter, 1887, which was omitted in the catalogue (Nabozhenko & Chigray, 2020) where it is listed as a valid species. Thus, the number of *Blaps* species in China currently reaches 82 species and three subspecies.

After examination of type specimens of *Blaps* (s. str.) *waschana* Schuster, 1923 we found that the species redescribed and figured under this name in the monograph of Ren *et al.* (2016) distinctly belongs to the subgenus *Ablapsis* based on the shape of the aedeagus (Ren *et al.*, 2016, plate VIII, figs 19–21), and externally differs from *B. waschana* in the structure of the pronotum, elytra and tibiae. Below we present a redescription of *B. waschana* and add nomenclature changes in the subgenus *Nalepa*.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The examined material is deposited in HNHM – Hungarian Natural History Museum (Budapest, Hungary).

Specimens were cleaned in an ultrasonic bath VBS-1D and either mounted onto transparent plates. Beetles were examined using binocular microscopes Micromed MC-4 Zoom Led. Beetle photographs were taken using a Canon EOS 5D Mark IV camera body, a Canon MP-E 65mm f/2.8 Macro Lens, and a Canon Macro Twin Lite MT-26EX-RT flash. Stacking was done using Stackshot 3X with enlarged macro rails s/n 3734. The photosystem was installed on a Kaiser Copy Stand RS 1 reproduction machine. Images were stacked using Helicon Focus 7.7.4 Pro software. Figures are not scaled.

TAXONOMY

Subfamily Blaptinae Leach, 1815

Tribe Blaptini Leach, 1815

Genus *Blaps* Fabricius 1775

Subgenus *Nalepa* Reitter 1887

NOTES. Unfortunately, Zhang & Li (2025) did not take the necessary steps to clearly indicate their intentions to transfer the seven previously described species to the subgenus *Nalepa*, did not list them, and did not add comb. nov. or comb. resurr. (for the type species of *Nalepa* originally described in the genus *Blaps*). ICZN (1999) does not require adding **comb. n.** in such cases. The authors merely mentioned that the subgenus *Nalepa* includes eight species and listed seven of them in the genus *Blaps* on the phylogenetic tree (Zhang &

Li, 2025, Fig. 1). Such actions could formally be considered a new combinations, but due to this nomenclature oversight, the species *Nalepa acuminata* Li et Ren, 2022 was not mentioned by Zhang & Li (2025) (due to the lack of samples for molecular phylogeny) and are not transferred to the genus *Blaps*. Here, we correct this error and transfer it to the genus *Blaps*; the original description and figures (Li *et al.*, 2022) fully support the necessity of this combination: *Blaps (Nalepa) acuminata* (Li et Ren, 2022), **comb. n.** This name automatically becomes a junior homonym of *Blaps* (s. str.) *acuminata* Fischer von Waldheim, 1820. We propose a new name for *Blaps (Nalepa) acuminata* (Li et Ren, 2022) to eliminate this homonymy: *Blaps (Nalepa) lirenorum* Nabozhenko et Chigray, **nom. n.** The name is derived from names of two colleagues, Xiu-Min Li and Guo-Dong Ren, who described this species originally.

Subgenus *Blaps* Fabricius 1775

Blaps waschana Schuster, 1923

Figs 1, 2

TYPE MATERIAL EXAMINED. Lectotype (HNHM), ♂, hereby designated: Szetschwan, Waschan, Exp. Stötzner / Heller / *waschana* / Sammlung A dr.Schuster / Paratypus, *Blaps waschana* Schuster 1923 / Mus. Budapest. Paralectotype (HNHM), ♂: Szetschwan, Waschan, Exp. Stötzner / Heller / *waschana* / Sammlung A dr.Schuster / *Blaps waschana* Schust., Dr Z. Kaszab det., 1957.



Fig. 1. *Blaps waschana*, lectotype, male. A – habitus, dorsal view; B – habitus, lateral view; C – head and pronotum; D – labels.

REDESCRIPTION OF MALE. Body dark brown, mat, moderately slender.

Head. Anterior margin of epistoma emarginated at middle, lateral margins slightly emarginate, almost straight. Lateral margins of genae rounded at eyes and at epistoma, straight at middle. Lateral margins of head with smoothed slight emargination between epistoma and genae. Head widest at level of eyes and temples. Head 1.46 times as wide as interocular distance. Antennae elongated, antennomere 8 reaching base (basal margin) of elytra when directed backwards. Punctuation of head fine, moderately dense (punctures 2–3 times as short as interpuncture distance), punctuation of genae denser (distance between punctures subequal to diameter of one puncture).

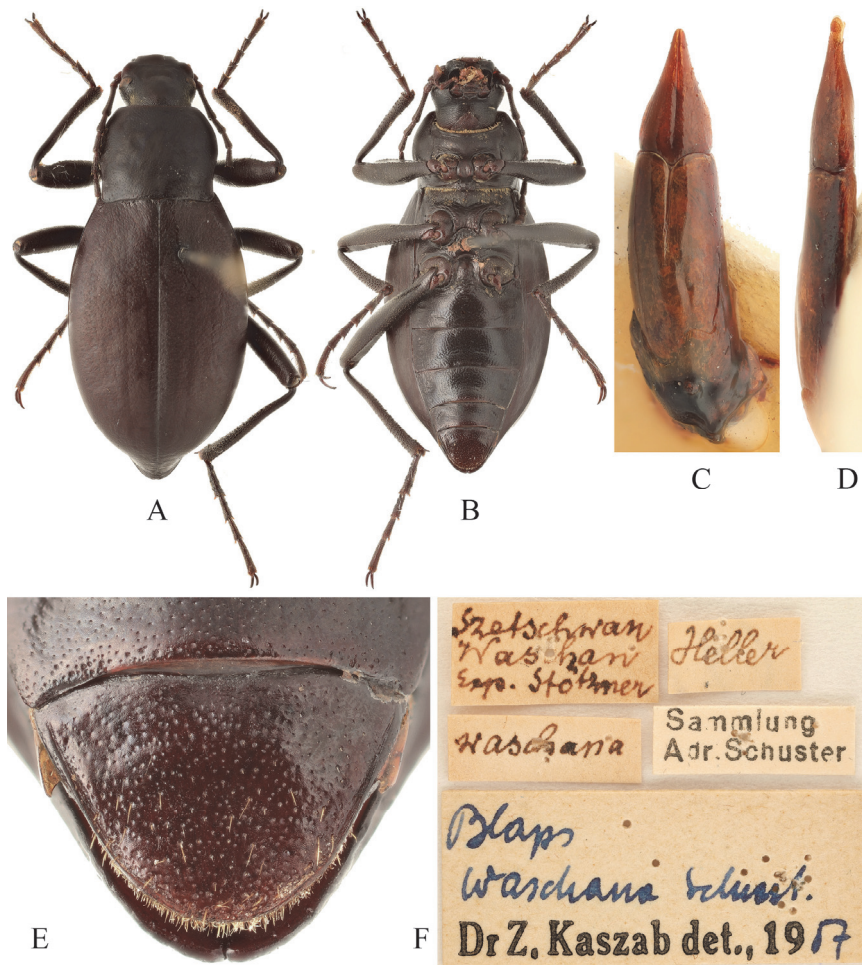


Fig. 2. *Blaps waschana*, paralectotype, male. A – habitus, dorsal view; B – habitus, ventral view; C – aedeagus, dorsal view; D – aedeagus, lateral view; E – last abdominal ventrite; F – labels.

Prothorax. Pronotum transverse (1.13 times as wide as long), widest at anterior third, 1.53 times as wide as head. Ratio of pronotal width near anterior angles, at widest part and at base as 6.5 : 7.1 : 4.7. Anterior margin of pronotum moderately emarginated, lateral margins of pronotum moderately rounded at middle and weakly emarginated near anterior and posterior angles, basal margin of pronotum slightly rounded, near basal angles barely noticeable emarginated. Lateral margins and all angles of pronotum thin beaded, middle of anterior margin and base not beaded. Punctuation of pronotum fine and smoothed, interpuncture distance as 2–4 diameters of one puncture. Prothoracic hypomera with wrinkles, covered with small and sparse granules. Prosternum with fine smoothed wrinkles.

Pterothorax. Elytral disc weakly convex, elytra moderately elongate (1.55 times as long as wide), widest at middle, 3 times as long and 1.5 times as wide as pronotum, 2.3 times as wide as head. Caudal extension of elytra (mucro) absent. Elytra with fine smoothed wrinkles, covered with rare smoothed and barely noticeable punctures. Lateral inflected margins of elytra visible from above only in basal third or half. Epipleura with fine smooth superficial wrinkles. Mesoventrite with smoothed wrinkles, small granules and light hairs, intercoxal process between the mesocoxae with coarser wrinkles.

Legs slender, thin and long. Metatibia S-shaped.

Abdomen. Hair tuft between abdominal ventrites 1 and 2 absent. Abdominal ventrites 1–3 with smoothed wrinkles, ventrites 3–5 covered with simple punctures. Abdominal ventrite 5 completely beaded except for base, its apical half covered with long sparse light setae.

Genitalia. Aedeagus moderately C-curved. Lateral sides of parameres moderately rounded in basal half and slightly emarginate (dorsal view), almost straight in apical half, apex of parameres narrowly rounded and sharp.

COMPARATIVE DIAGNOSIS. This species is most similar to *Blaps miranda* X.-M. Li, 2026 (Zhang *et al.*, 2026) and *B. ovalis* X.-M. Li, 2026 (Li *et al.*, 2026) in the body shape, absence of hair brush between male abdominal ventrites 1 and 2, slender legs and very similar shape of the aedeagus, but differs from the first species in the longer pronotum, the shape of prosternal process (with tooth apically in *B. miranda* vs. rounded, without tooth in *B. waschana*), lateral margins of elytra rounded at base (widely emarginated in *B. miranda*) and much shorter antennae, which are reaching third of elytral length in *B. miranda*; from the second species in the pronotum, widest at anterior third and widely emarginated lateral edges of the pronotum (the pronotum is widest at middle, with straight lateral edges in *B. ovalis*). In addition, *B. waschana* has pro- and mesotibiae straight and much thinner, than in *B. ovalis*.

NOTES. The species interpreted as “*Blaps waschana*” by Ren *et al.* (2016) and belonging to the subgenus *Ablapsis* is a new taxon in our opinion. We leave the opportunity to describe it to our Chinese colleagues, since we do not have the appropriate material for an accurate description.

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