

A new species of the genus *Thalassaphorura* from East China (Collembola: Onychiuridae)

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Abstract

A new onychiurid species, *Thalassaphorura qixiaensis* **sp. nov.**, is reported from Jiangsu Province of East China. Morphologically, it is very similar to the widely-spread and definitely parthenogenetic species *Th. encarpata* (Denis, 1931). The new species is gamogenetic and differs from the latter in labial palp and proximal setae. A key to the Chinese species of the genus is given.

Key words: Collembola, Onychiuridae, *Thalassaphorura qixiaensis* **sp. nov.**, key, China

Introduction

In 1949, Bagnall set up the genus *Thalassaphorura* for the species *Onychiurus thalassophila* Bagnall 1937. According to Weiner (1996) and Pomorski (1998), the genus is characterized by the numerous simple vesicles of postantennal organ, presence of seta d_0 on head, 7 labral setae, and remnant of furca represented only by 2+2 setulae arranged in a square posterior to a small area of fine granulation. So far, among the 34 known species in the genus of the world (Pomorski *et al.* 2006), four were reported from China (Tamura & Zhao 1997, Yue & Yin, 2000, Zhao *et al.* 1997): *Th. dinghuensis* (Lin & Xia, 1985) from Guangdong, *Th. orientalis* (Stach, 1964) from Nanjing, *Th. tamurai* (Yue & Yin, 2000) from Shanghai, and *Th. yodai* (Yosii, 1966) from Yunnan. The present paper describes a new species of the genus from Nanjing, Jiangsu Province in East China.