



On Vietnamese representatives of the ant spider genus *Heradion* (Araneae: Zodariidae)

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Abstract

A new species of the genus *Heradion* Dankittipakul & Jocqué, *H. intermedium* spec. nov., is described based on specimens collected in southern Vietnam. *Heradion paradiseum* (Ono) comb. nov., *H. flammeum* (Ono) comb. nov. and *H. momoinum* (Ono) comb. nov. are here transferred from *Mallinella* Strand. All the *Heradion* species treated in the present study belong to the *H. naiadis*-group which comprises six nominal species known from evergreen hill forests of Thailand and Vietnam. A map showing distribution of the species-group and a key to species of the genus *Heradion* of Vietnam are provided.

Key words: *naiadis*-group, *Mallinella*, taxonomy, zoogeographic distribution, Thailand

Introduction

The study of the Vietnamese spiders belonging to the ant spider family Zodariidae Thorell has a long history. Simon (1904: 273) first described *Suffucia bimaculata* from that country but the species was omitted in the catalogues of Roewer (1942, 1944, 1955). It is uncertain how this species relates to other zodariids because the type material is inaccessible. Moreover, the species description provided by Simon (1904) was based purely on somatic characters that are insufficient to distinguish this taxon from other zodariids known from the area. As such, it is here considered to be a taxonomic enigma and is given the rank of *incertae sedis*. However, the species is currently listed under *Asceua* Thorell by Platnick (2006). Simon (1909) later described another species, *Storena torquata* Simon, 1909. It was originally placed in Walckenaer's genus *Storena* but was later transferred to *Asceua* (Ono 2004b). Hogg (1922) established the genus *Langbiana* for a species collected from Lang-Bian but it was considered a junior synonym of *Mallinella* Strand, 1906 (Jocqué 1991: 61). Ono (2003, 2004a, b) recently described several species of the genera *Asceua* and *Mallinella* from Vietnam. These species are: *A. piperata* Ono; *M. dambrica* Ono; *M. karubei* Ono; *M. nomurai* Ono; *M. septemmaculata* Ono; *M. thinhi* Ono and *M. vietnamensis* Ono. The only species of the subfamily Storenomorphinae Simon, *Storenomorpha paguma* Grismado & Ramírez, was collected from Ha-Tinh and Ngh-An Provinces (Grismado & Ramírez 2004). The discovery of *Akyttara odorocci* Ono from Vietnam is open to discussion, mainly because all of its congeners occur in Africa (Jocqué 1987, 1991). Three *Mallinella* species previously described from Vietnam are here transferred to the genus *Heradion* Dankittipakul & Jocqué, 2004: *H. momoinum* (Ono) comb. nov.; *H. paradiseum* (Ono) comb. nov. and *H. flammeum* (Ono) comb. nov.

The spider genus *Heradion* was recently established for a group of zodariids that inhabits evergreen forests of Southeast Asia (Dankittipakul & Jocqué 2004). The genus can be divided into two species-groups, the