



A new Middle Triassic genus and species of Mylacridae (Blattodea) from China

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Abstract

Shaanxi Entomofauna is important in the study of insect's evolution from Paleozoic to Mesozoic. A new genus and species, *Cathayiblatta longata* **gen. et sp. nov.**, of Mylacridae (Blattodea) from Middle Triassic is described. The new genus and species was found in Tongchuan City, Shaanxi Province of China, and the fossil referred to a new member of Tongchuan Entomassemlage of Shaanxi Entomofauna. The ultrastructure of wing was observed through scanning electron microscope. Comparison was made between the new genus and related genera *Hemimylacris* and *Metaxyblatta*.

Key words. Blattodea, *Cathayiblatta*, new genus, Middle Triassic, Tongchuan, China

Introduction

Hong (1980a), one of the first researchers to study Middle Triassic Blattodea fossil of China, described 1 species, *Triassoblatta phyllopteris* Hong, of Mesoblattinidae. The material was found at Hejiafang Village in Tongchuan City, Shaanxi Province of China. It belongs to Middle Triassic Tongchuan Formation of Shaanxi Entomofauna which was established in 1998 (Hong 1998). This is the first description of Triassic Blattodea from Tongchuan in China.

Lin (1982) described 2 genera and 2 species, *Anusoblatta recta* Lin and *Subioblatta tongchuanensis* Lin, from Hejiafang Village with the same geological age. The two genera were interpreted as Archimylacridae.

In 2006, a well-preserved forewing of Blattodea fossil (part and counterpart) was collected by the first author at Hejiafang Village, Tongchuan City, Shaanxi Province, China. After comparing the morphological characteristics of the fossil with that of Mesoblattinidae (Fujiyama 1973; Fujiyama 1974; Hong 1980a; Lin 1992), Archimylacridae (Lin 1978) and Mylacridae (Hong 1980b; Becker-Migdisova 1962), we propose that it represents a new genus and a new species, *Cathayiblatta longata* **gen. et sp. nov.**, of Mylacridae, a new member of Tongchuan Entomassemlage of Shaanxi Entomofauna. The erection of the new genus can add more information to Shaanxi Entomofauna.

Material and methods

This study is based on one specimen (part and counterpart) housed in the fossil insect collection of Beijing Museum of Natural History, Beijing, China. Line drawings were prepared with the aid of a Leica DFC320 R2 digital camera attached to a LEICA MZ16 stereomicroscope. Observation on the structure of the material was made by the Quanta 200 FEG scanning electronic microscope. Basic terminology follows Kukalova-Peck (1991).