



A new genus of cricket (Orthoptera: Gryllidae; Gryllinae) from East Asia

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The small cricket, *Gryllus nipponensis*, was described from Japan (Shiraki, 1913), but its generic position was uncertain. It was placed in *Gryllulus* Uvarov, 1935 (Shiraki *et al.*, 1950), and then *Modicogryllus* Chopard, 1961 (Chopard, 1961). Japanese authors included *Gryllus nipponensis* in the genus *Comidogryllus* Otte & Alexander, 1983 based on the shape of head and the acoustic pattern of the species (Ichikawa *et al.*, 2000; Ichikawa *et al.*, 2006). Later it was shown that *Gryllus nipponensis* was not congeneric with Australian species of *Comidogryllus* and placed it in *Modicogryllus* with uncertain subgeneric position (Storozhenko & Paik, 2007).

Recently Gorochov (2001) treated *Comidogryllus*, with ten species from Australia (Otte & Alexander, 1983), and *Pezoloxoblemmus* Karny, 1907, with two species from Madagascar (Otte, 1994), as junior subjective synonyms of *Loxoblemmus* Saussure, 1877 based on the shape of male genitalia. According to Gorochov (2001) in *Loxoblemmus* the shape of the male head varies from rounded or almost rounded to distinctly oblique with characteristic rostral projection. This characteristic is not important for generic rank since the head shape varies owing to the agonistic behaviour. Species with globular heads and lacking agonistic behaviour are known mainly from Australia and Madagascar, i.e. in the regions isolated for long time from Africa and Asia, in which the true *Loxoblemmus* with distinctly oblique head and strong agonistic behaviour are common. It is quite possible that the species with male globular head from Madagascar (formerly *Pezoloxoblemmus*) and Australia (formerly *Comidogryllus*), as well as *Loxoblemmus globiceps* Gorochov, 2001 from Vietnam may be regarded as distinct subgenera of the genus *Loxoblemmus*, but more data are needed to solve this problem, including the study of acoustic patterns and DNA analysis. Nevertheless it is possible to erect a new genus for the species from Far East based on the morphological characters only. The description of a new genus is given below.

Genus *Comidoblemmus* Storozhenko & Paik, gen. nov.

Type species: *Gryllus nipponensis* Shiraki, 1913, here designated.

Gender. Masculine.

Description. Body small for Gryllinae, dark grey with blackish marks. Head small, globular. Ocelli in frontal view are situated as a high triangular. Interspace between antennal sockets 1.8–1.9 times as broad as antennal socket. Clypeal suture distinct along the whole length, almost straight. Male mandibles not enlarged. Outer tympana large, elongated; inner tympana small, oval. Pronotum transverse, 1.3 times as broad as long. Tegmina in male reaching 7–8th tergites, in female 5th tergite; hind wings vestigial. Hind tibiae with four dorsal movable spines on each side and three pairs of apical spurs. Ovipositor shorter than hind femur.

Male genitalia. Epiphallus with two lateral projections on posterior margin and deep transverse excision between them, the excision broadly rounded, almost straight; ectoparamers small, apical inner lophi of ectoparamers narrow with hook-like apex; spermatophore sac medium-size.

Diagnosis. *Comidoblemmus* gen. nov. may be distinguished from all known genera of subfamily Gryllinae by having only four dorsal movable spines on each side of hind tibiae (five–seven spines in other Gryllinae) and similar in this aspect with the genera of the subfamily Nemobiinae (with three–four dorsal spines). Male genitalia similar with *Loxoblemmus* (sensu Gorochov, 2001), but in the latter genus the middle part of posterior margin of epiphallus between lateral projections is deeply sinuate and forming a pair of short projections or one median subsquare projection.