



A review of the genus *Trachelas* (Araneae: Corinnidae) from China

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Abstract

Six species of the genus *Trachelas* from China are reviewed, with descriptions of two new species: *Trachelas fanjingshan* **sp. nov.** and *T. fasciae* **sp. nov.** *Drassodes digitusiformis* (Hu, 2001) is transferred to *Trachelas*, as a junior synonym of *Trachelas alticolus* Hu, 2001. *Trachelas acuminus* (Zhu et An, 1988), *T. japonicus* Bösenberg et Strand, 1906 and *T. sinensis* Chen, Peng et Zhao, 1995 are redescribed and illustrated. A key and a distribution map of Chinese *Trachelas* are provided.

Key words: Spider, new species, new synonymy, identification key

Introduction

The Corinnidae, as recognized at present, contains 80 genera and 956 species worldwide, of which 45 species of 10 genera are recorded from China (Platnick 2009). The Corinnidae are hunting spiders living on the ground or in foliage, and were traditionally distinguished from related families (Liocranidae and Clubionidae) by an armoured carapace and abdomen, and the weak ventral spines on the anterior tibiae (Deeleman-Reinhold 2001). Corinnidae are further characterized by the closely adjacent conical anterior spinnerets having a short, rounded and poorly differentiated apical segment; by the bulbus of the male palp usually lacking a median apophysis, and a strong tendency towards sclerotization in the male abdomen (Bosselaers et al. 2009). Corinnidae is currently subdivided in four subfamilies, Phrurolithinae, Corinninae, Castianeirinae and Trachelinae (Deeleman-Reinhold 2001, Bosselaers & Jocqué 2002). The Trachelinae are distinguished from other Corinnidae by a strong reduction in the number of normal leg spines, the presence, at least in males, of blunt ventral legs cusps on the last three apical segments of the anterior legs (Platnick & Shadab 1974a), and female posterior median spinnerets having four or five cylindrical gland spigots in two rows (Bosselaers & Jocqué 2002, Jocqué & Dippenaar-Schoeman 2006, Bosselaers et al. 2009).

The genus *Trachelas* comprises a world fauna of 88 species (Platnick 2009) and is large and widespread in distribution, especially in the American continents. Its species have characteristically shiny red carapaces and sterna, which contrasts strikingly with a cream or gray abdomen. There is, however, considerable diversity in the genitalia, the shape of the endites, the cheliceral dentition, the distribution of trichobothria, leg spines and ventral cusps. *Trachelas* species are ordinarily found under the loose bark of trees, in rolled leaves, or under objects on the ground (Dondale & Redner, 1982). Presently *Trachelas* is far from homogeneous (Bosselaers et al. 2008, 2009), and a detailed and thorough worldwide revision needs to be done.

The spiders of *Trachelas* in China have never been revised in detail. Previously, four species of *Trachelas* have been described from China. Chen & Zhang (1982) were the first to record Chinese *Trachelas*, “*T. japonica* Yaginuma 1960” (= *T. japonicus* Bösenberg & Strand, 1906) from Zhejiang Province. Subsequently this species was recorded from several locations in China (Hu, 1984; Feng, 1990; Chen & Gao, 1990; Chen & Zhang 1991; Song, Chen & Zhu, 1997; Song, Zhu & Chen, 1999, 2001). Zhu & An (1988) described a new