



New placement of the leafhopper genus *Idioceroides* Matsumura (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae: Idiocerinae), with description of a new species

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Abstract

The leafhopper genus *Idioceroides* Matsumura is transferred back to Idiocerinae from Agalliinae where it was erroneously placed. A new species, *Idioceroides sichuanensis* n. sp. is described and illustrated from Sichuan, China. A key is provided to separate the new species from the only other known species, *I. tettigoniformis* Matsumura from Taiwan and the female genitalia for species of the genus are described for the first time.

Key words: Taxonomy, Auchenorrhyncha, morphology, China

Introduction

The leafhopper family Cicadellidae is one of the larger families of the insects with more than 22,000 described species (Dietrich, 2004). They play a significant role in the ecosystem as herbivores and also support a large number of predators and parasitoids which use them as their hosts. The subfamily Idiocerinae is one of the smaller subfamilies of the Cicadellidae with approximately 750 described species. It includes economically important species causing serious losses to mango in certain parts of the Oriental and Australian regions. Idiocerinae mainly breed on trees and shrubs. Species of the subfamily can be recognized by the short and broad head, ocelli on the face, frontal sutures usually extended to or near the ocelli, forewings with a well developed appendix that overlaps distally at rest, and male genitalia with the valve fused to the pygofer and the connective rather T or Y-shaped.

The genus *Idioceroides* was established by Matsumura (1912) with *Idioceroides tettigoniformis* Matsumura as the type species. The species was described based on a single male collected from Taiwan. Matsumura (1912) placed the genus in Idiocerinae. However, Maldonado-Capriles (1976) after examining the male type of the species transferred the genus to Agalliinae because it had a “very narrow appendix of the forewing.....and the ocelli are too high on the face”. Recently two male and one female specimens of the genus were collected from Sichuan, China, representing a new species. Morphological study revealed that the genus belongs to Idiocerinae rather than Agalliinae and is similar to *Tasnimocerus* Ghauri. The new species is described here and the genus is returned to its original placement in Idiocerinae. Information on the female genitalia of the genus is given for the first time.

Material and Methods

The specimens examined were collected from premontane shrubs in Yajiang county, Sichuan, China.