



A new species of the pseudoscorpion genus *Bisetocreagris* from China (Arachnida: Pseudoscorpiones: Neobisiidae)

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Pseudoscorpions were first reported in China when Balzan (1892) recorded *Chelififer* (*Chelififer*) *pekinensis* Balzan (since removed to the genus *Withius* Kew (Beier, 1932)) and *Microcreagris gigas* Balzan. Schawaller (1995) reviewed the state of knowledge of the pseudoscorpion fauna of China (excluding Taiwan) and cited 47 taxa. Song (1996) recorded five soil pseudoscorpions, with simple descriptions and illustrations, some of which have been transferred to other genera or synonymized. Since then, there have been few papers about the systematics of Chinese pseudoscorpions, except for the ten new cave-dwelling species described by Mahnert (2003) and Mahnert (2009). To date, 63 species and 7 subspecies have been reported in China (including Taiwan and Tibet) (Harvey, 2009, Mahnert, 2009). Obviously, this diversity pales in comparison to the nearly 3400 species known globally and must represent only a fraction of the true diversity considering the huge area of China. Therefore, further investigations of pseudoscorpion taxonomy from the vast and remote areas of China are badly needed.

The genus *Bisetocreagris* (subfamily Microcreagrinae) was erected by Čurčić (1983), based on seven species: *B. annamensis* (Beier, 1951), *B. parablothroides* (Beier, 1951), *B. silvicola* (Beier, 1979), *B. furax* (Beier, 1959), *B. klapperichi* (Beier, 1959), *B. philippinensis* (Beier, 1931) and *B. maritima* (Čurčić, 1983). Originally, most were placed in the wastebasket genus *Microcreagris* Balzan, 1892. However, these seven species lacked the distinguishing features of that genus. The genera *Orientocreagris* Čurčić, 1985 and *Pedalocreagris* Čurčić, 1985 were later synonymized with *Bisetocreagris* by Harvey (1999) and Judson (1993). The main diagnostic feature shared by the members of the genus *Bisetocreagris* is the presence of two small setae each on either side of the anteromedian groove of sternite III in the male. Up to now, 25 species and subspecies have been included in the genus, including 9 species and 1 subspecies reported from China (Harvey, 2009).

During examination of material deposited in the Museum of Hebei University (MHBUS), a species belonging to the genus *Bisetocreagris* was found to be new to science. This species is described and illustrated in the present paper.

The specimen was preserved in 70% alcohol. The pattern of description and terminology follow Chamberlin (1931), Harvey (1992) and Judson (2007). Drawings were made with the aid of a prism mounted above eyepiece of a compound microscope. All measurements follow Chamberlin (1931).

The following abbreviations are used in the text. Tactile setae: *b* = basal; *sb* = sub-basal; *st* = sub-terminal; *t* = terminal; *ib* = interior basal; *isb* = interior sub-basal; *ist* = interior sub-terminal; *it* = interior terminal; *eb* = exterior basal; *esb* = exterior sub-basal; *est* = exterior sub-terminal; *et* = exterior terminal.

Bisetocreagris cheni sp. n.

(Figs. 1–13)

Type material. Male holotype: (Museum ID # Ar.-MHBUS-ZJ070804), China, Zhejiang Province, Tonglu County, Mt Tongjun, 29°48'43"N 119°40'54"E, CHEN Zhang-Fu leg., 5 April 1987.

Etymology. The specific name is a patronym in honour of Prof. CHEN Zhang-Fu who collected and donated the specimen.

Diagnosis. The new species is very similar to *Bisetocreagris silvestrii*, but can be distinguished from the latter by its larger size—e.g. in *B. cheni* the chela (with pedicel) is 2.15 mm long, whereas in *B. silvestrii* it is 1.86 mm; the length of palpal movable finger is 1.07 times longer than that of the hand (without pedicel) in the new species, as opposed to 0.92 in *B. silvestrii* (Harvey, 1999)—and the divided galea of the male (undivided in *B. silvestrii*).