



Redescription of a little known assassin bug *Caunus noctulus* Hsiao (Hemiptera: Reduviidae: Stenopodainae), with special reference to its sexual dimorphism

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Abstract

The stenopodaine assassin bug, *Caunus noctulus* Hsiao, has a distinct sexual dimorphism. In this paper the morphological characters of this species are redescribed based on the holotype and other materials. Illustrations of habitus, head, pronotum, and other structures are provided to facilitate recognition of this little known reduviid.

Key words: Reduviidae, Stenopodainae, *Caunus noctulus*, redescription, sexual dimorphism

Introduction

Caunus Stål is a small genus of Stenopodainae. Sixteen species are known worldwide (Putshkov & Putshkov 1985; Maldonado-Capriles 1990), most of them are distributed in the Ethiopian Region; however, two are Oriental species, *Caunus farinator* Reuter from India and *Caunus noctulus* Hsiao from China (Distant 1904; Hsiao 1977; Hsiao & Ren 1981; Maldonado-Capriles 1990; Putshkov & Putshkov 1996) and Japan (Ishikawa *et al.* 2005). *Caunus noctulus* was described by Hsiao (1977), and the outline figures of ventral surface of posterior portion 6th abdominal segment, 7th abdominal segment, and exposed portion of pygophore of male and posterior portion of 5th abdominal segment, 6th and 7th abdominal segments, exposed portion of first valvifers and first valvulae of female were provided. Hsiao & Ren (1981) illustrated the head and prothorax of male, and hemelytron. This reduviid shows distinct sexual dimorphism. The body plan and the structures of head and thorax are quite different between two sexes. To facilitate the correct identification of this species, we redescribe the male and female, and illustrate the important morphological features of this species in the present paper.

Material and methods

This study is mainly based on the materials kept in the Entomological Museum of China Agricultural University (CAU) and Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Science (IOZ). Male genitalia of the bugs were soaked in hot 10% potassium hydroxide solution for approximately 5 minutes to remove soft tissue, rinsed in distilled water, and dissected under a Motic binocular dissecting microscope. All drawings were traced with the aid of a camera lucida. Morphological terminology mostly follows that of Lent & Wygodzinsky (1979). Measurements were obtained using a calibrated micrometer. All measurements are in millimeters.

Taxonomy

Genus *Caunus* Stål 1866

Caunus Stål 1866: 150, 153; Stål 1874: 84, 87; Distant 1904: 233; Jeannel 1919: 167, 174; Hsiao & Ren 1981: 477; Maldonado-Capriles 1990: 497. Putshkov & Putshkov 1996: 209.