



A remarkable new genus of Nirvanini (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae: Evacanthinae) from Southeast Asia

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Abstract

Draconirvana, **gen. n.**, is described and illustrated based on a single new species *D. siamensis*, from Thailand. The new genus is morphologically intermediate between Evacanthini and Nirvanini but is placed in the latter tribe based on its depressed form and the incomplete longitudinal carina on the face.

Key words: Homoptera, Auchenorrhyncha, morphology, phylogeny, Thailand

Introduction

Nirvanini is a small tribe of leafhoppers largely confined to tropical rainforests, but including important pests of sugar cane and horticultural crops (Viraktamath and Wesley 1988), and at least one invasive species of Indomalayan origin (*Sophonia orientalis* (Matsumura)) that has become established on the Atlantic island of Madeira, French Polynesia, and the U.S. states of Hawaii, California, Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia and Florida (Webb & Viraktamath 2004 and unpublished data). Taxonomic reviews of the tribe have been published recently for the faunas of India (Viraktamath and Wesley 1988), Taiwan (Huang 1989), and the Neotropical region (Dietrich 2004), and for the tropical Asian species described by C. F. Baker (Viraktamath 1992). Eleven genera and approximately 100 species have been recorded from the Indomalayan region. Nirvanini was included by Oman et al. (1990) in subfamily Nirvaninae, but that subfamily was treated as a junior synonym of Evacanthinae by Dietrich (2004).

A recent biodiversity inventory in Thailand yielded specimens of a remarkable new species that cannot be accommodated in any known genus and appears to be morphologically intermediate between Evacanthini and Nirvanini. The species is therefore placed in a new genus, described below.

Material and methods

Genitalia preparations were made by removing the entire abdomen, soaking overnight in 10% KOH solution, rinsing repeatedly with distilled water, and immersing in glycerine. Genitalia preparations were then stored in microvials pinned beneath the specimens. Habitus photos were taken using a Microoptics digital macrophotography system (Visionary Digital) and photos of genitalia were taken using a Micropublisher digital camera (Q-Imaging) mounted on an Olympus BX 41 microscope. In some cases, images taken at multiple focal planes were combined using CombineZP software (Hadley 2010). Drawings were made by tracing over printed photographs.

Morphological terminology follows Dietrich (2004, 2005). Specimens are deposited in the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) and Queen Sirikit Botanical Garden, Chiang Mai, Thailand (QSBG).