



Two new *Rhitymna* species (Araneae: Sparassidae) from Hainan Island, China

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Abstract

Two new species of the genus *Rhitymna* are described from Hainan Island (southern China): *Rhitymna tangi* **sp. nov.**, *Rhitymna macilenta* **sp. nov.** Morphological descriptions and illustrations of the two new species are given. The type specimens of those new species are deposited in the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing (IZCAS) and in college of Life Sciences, Hubei University in Wuhan (HBU).

Key words: New species, endemism, taxonomy, diagnosis, hunting spiders

Introduction

The genus *Rhitymna* was established by Simon (1897) and revised by Jäger (2003). Currently, a total of 17 *Rhitymna* species are known worldwide (Platnick 2012), among them *Rhitymna verruca* (Wang 1991) was recorded and first described from China (Platnick 2012).

Hainan is a tropical island located in the South China Sea separated from the mainland by the Qiongzhou Strait, which is 18–40 km wide and 80 km long (Fig. 5). Endowed with a wealth of natural resources that include tropical forests, mountains, mangroves, and beaches, Hainan is recognized as one of the most biologically diverse regions in the world (Stone & Wall 2003). Due to its isolation, Hainan Island is well known for the high level of endemism in many taxa (Song *et al.* 2002).

An extensive faunal survey of Hainan Island over a period of five years (2007–2011) was carried out by the Hubei University. Recent fieldwork has yielded two new species of *Rhitymna*: *Rhitymna tangi* **sp. nov.** and *Rhitymna macilenta* **sp. nov.**

Material and methods

Specimens were examined with an Olympus SZX16 stereomicroscope; details were further investigated with an Olympus BX51 compound microscope. All illustrations were made using an Olympus drawing tube. Male palps were examined and illustrated after dissection from the spider bodies. Photos were made with a Canon G10 digital camera (14.7 megapixels) mounted on an Olympus SZX16 stereomicroscope. The digital images depicting the habitus and genital morphology were a composite of multiple images taken at different focal planes along the Z axis and assembled using the software package Helifocus 3.10. Left appendages (e.g., palps, legs, etc.) were depicted unless otherwise stated. Most hairs and macrosetae were usually not depicted in the palp and epigynum drawings.

Leg measurements are shown as: total length (femur, patella, tibia, metatarsus, tarsus). Number of spines are listed for each segment in the following order: prolateral, dorsal, retrolateral, ventral (in femora and patellae ventral spines are absent and fourth digit is omitted in the spination formula).

Abbreviations: ALE—anterior lateral eyes; AME — anterior median eyes; AW—anterior width of prosoma; CH—clypeus height; E—embolus; EI—embolus indentation; Fe—femur; Mt—metatarsus; OL—opisthosoma