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New Species of the Spider Genus *Pholcus* (Araneae: Pholcidae) from China

ZHIYUAN YAO¹ & SHUQIANG LI^{1,2}

¹Key Laboratory of Zoological Systematics and Evolution, Institute of Zoology,
Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100101, P. R. China

²Corresponding author: lisq@ioz.ac.cn



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ZHIYUAN YAO & SHUQIANG LI

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Abstract

The spider genus *Pholcus* Walckenaer, 1805 is highly diverse in China. In this study we describe 35 new species: *Pholcus abstrusus* **sp. nov.**, *P. aduncus* **sp. nov.**, *P. agilis* **sp. nov.**, *P. alpinus* **sp. nov.**, *P. bailongensis* **sp. nov.**, *P. bantouensis* **sp. nov.**, *P. bing* **sp. nov.**, *P. brevis* **sp. nov.**, *P. chang* **sp. nov.**, *P. cuneatus* **sp. nov.**, *P. decorus* **sp. nov.**, *P. dieban* **sp. nov.**, *P. ganziensis* **sp. nov.**, *P. huapingensis* **sp. nov.**, *P. imbricatus* **sp. nov.**, *P. jiaotu* **sp. nov.**, *P. kui* **sp. nov.**, *P. lijiangensis* **sp. nov.**, *P. liui* **sp. nov.**, *P. liutu* **sp. nov.**, *P. mao* **sp. nov.**, *P. mirabilis* **sp. nov.**, *P. obscurus* **sp. nov.**, *P. ovatus* **sp. nov.**, *P. shuangtu* **sp. nov.**, *P. tongi* **sp. nov.**, *P. tuoyuan* **sp. nov.**, *P. tuyan* **sp. nov.**, *P. undatus* **sp. nov.**, *P. wangi* **sp. nov.**, *P. xiaotu* **sp. nov.**, *P. yi* **sp. nov.**, *P. yuantu* **sp. nov.**, *P. yunnanensis* **sp. nov.** and *P. zhui* **sp. nov.** In addition, we provide new illustrations for 45 known species.

Key words: Taxonomy, morphology, pholcid, cave, biodiversity

Introduction

Pholcidae, the eighth largest spider family (Huber 2011; Platnick 2011), has a worldwide distribution, but most of the biodiversity is concentrated in the tropics and subtropics (Huber 2003a; Huber 2005a). Pholcid spiders occupy a wide range of habitats in a variety of ecosystems, e.g., in buildings, under rocks, in crevices, in caves, in leaf litter, and in webs between trunks and twigs of trees (Huber 2005a). Huber (2000, 2001, 2003a, 2003b, 2003c, 2005b, 2005c, 2009a, 2011) reported a large number of new species and revised many genera in this family.

Pholcus, the largest genus in Pholcidae, can be diagnosed by the following three characters: male chelicerae usually with three pairs of apophyses (proximal lateral, proximal frontal, and distal frontal); bulb usually with uncus and appendix; epigynum usually strongly sclerotized and with 'knob' (Huber 2011). The genus has recently been studied by several authors. Huber (2001) made a few taxonomic remarks. Dimitrov and Ribera (2007) and Dimitrov *et al.* (2008) revised and analyzed cladistically the Macaronesian *Pholcus* species. Senglet (2008) reported 15 *Pholcus* species from Iran and Afghanistan. Zhang and Zhu (2009a) reviewed 55 *Pholcus* species from China. Huber (2011) offered a major revision of the genus and presented 254 species in 29 species groups.

Seventy-four *Pholcus* species were recorded from China before the current work (Li & Wang 2011; Peng & Zhang 2011a, 2011b; Platnick 2011), of which only 14 species were collected from caves in Guizhou (4), Hainan (2), Hebei (5), Henan (1), Liaoning (1) and Yunnan (1) (Zhu *et al.* 1983; Song & Zhu 1994; Tong & Li 2009, 2010;