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The discovery of the rare genus *Epimicta* Foerster (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) in China, with a description of a new species

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Abstract

Epimicta sulciscutum sp. nov. from Heilongjiang (North China) is described and illustrated. A key to species of the genus is provided.

Key words: Alysiinae, Dacnusiini, Palearctic, Oriental, parasitoids

Introduction

Epimicta Foerster, 1862, is a small genus in Dacnusiini with four described species from the Palearctic and Oriental region. One of the main diagnostic characters is the presence of striate sculpture on the second tergite and often on basal part of third tergite (Belokobylskij 2005). For a long period, this genus was known from only one species, *E. marginalis* (Haliday) which was recorded in West and East Palearctic regions (Shenefelt 1974; Tobias 1986, 1998). Another Palearctic species, *Synelix rossica* (Telenga), was originally placed in *Epimicta* but was removed to *Synelix* Foerster by Tobias (1986). The second species of this genus, *E. longicaudalis* Tobias, was described from Far East of Russia (Tobias 1998). The other two species in this genus, *E. griffithsi* Wharton and *E. konzaensis* Kula, were both described from the Nearctic region (Wharton 1994; Kula 2005).

The genus *Epimicta* is reported here for the first time from China. One new species, *E. sulciscutum* sp. nov., is described and illustrated. A key to known species of the genus is provided.

Material and Methods

The specimen studied in this paper was recently collected from Northeast China by the author. The methods and terminology follow van Achterberg (1988 and 1993). The digital stereomicroscope system LEICA M205C and KEYENCE VHX-2000E were used for examining and photographing the specimen.

The holotype is deposited in the Beneficial Insects Institute, Fujian Agriculture & Forestry University, Fuzhou, China.

Epimicta Foerster, 1862

Epimicta Foerster, 1862: 225–288 (Type species: *Alysia* (*Dacnusa*) *marginalis* Haliday, 1839); Wharton, 1994: 633–635; Tobias, 1998: 312; Kula, 2005: 78–83.

Type species: *Alysia* (*Dacnusa*) *marginalis* Haliday, 1839.

Diagnosis. Head short and transverse; antenna thick, third antennal segment longer than fourth segment; frons