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The spiders of the genus *Wolongia* Zhu, Kim & Song, 1997 from China (Araneae: Tetragnathidae)

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Abstract

Seven new species of spiders of the genus *Wolongia*, all from China, are described. This genus previously included only three species, also only known from China. The new species are: *Wolongia bicruris* n. sp., *Wolongia bimacroseta* n. sp., *Wolongia eromera* n. sp., *Wolongia foliacea* n. sp., *Wolongia mutica* n. sp., *Wolongia renaria* n. sp., and *Wolongia tetramacroseta* n. sp. Descriptions of the seven new species and diagnoses for all ten species in the genus are given. In addition, we provide distributional data and an identification key to the species.

Key words: taxonomy, morphology, Gaoligong Mountains, Araneoidea

Introduction

Tetragnathidae is one of the spider families with a high number of described species, currently includes 957 species in 47 genera with a worldwide distribution (Platnick 2013). As defined by Álvarez-Padilla & Hormiga (2011), members of this family are orb-weaving spiders and usually differ from other araneoids by their "...somewhat simpler male pedipalps with only one tegular apophysis and having the conductor and embolus coiling together, by their spinneret spigot anatomy, which usually lacks aciniform spigots over the anterior surface of the posterior median spinnerets, ... a flat epigynum when present....and by their web building behaviors..." Most of the species diversity of the family is concentrated in the tropics, although some genera, like *Leucauge* white, 1841 and *Tetragnatha* Latreille, 1804, are widely distributed (Dimitrov *et al.* 2008).

Currently 96 species in 17 genera of tetragnathids are known from China; among these, the genera *Wolongia*, *Dianleucauge* and *Nanningia* have been recorded only from China (Platnick 2013). Cantor (1842) reported the first Chinese tetragnathid species, *Tetragnatha aenea*, in Zhejiang Province. Subsequent papers about Chinese tetragnathids were published by scholars from both Chinese and overseas such as Cambridge (1871), Tanikawa (1992, 1995), Zhu & Wen (1978), Wang (1991), Song (1987) and Zhu, Kim & Song (1997). A detailed and systematic study of Chinese tetragnathids was made by Zhu, Song & Zhang in 2003 in the monograph, *Fauna Sinica: Arachnida: Araneae: Tetragnathidae*, which reported 111 species in 20 genera including *Herennia*, *Nephila* and *Nephilengys* (the latter three genera are now classified in Nephilidae).

The genus *Wolongia* was established by Zhu, Kim & Song (1997). Up to now, only three species have been described (Platnick 2013): *W. guoi* Zhu, Kim & Song, 1997 from Sichuan, Hubei and Shanxi; *W. wangi* Zhu, Kim & Song, 1997 from Shanxi and *W. odontodes* Zhao, Yin & Peng, 2009 from Yunnan. While examining the specimens collected from the Gaoligong Mountains (Yunnan Province, southwest China) by the Sino-American Expeditions (1998–2008), seven new species and two known species, including one new record from the province, have been identified. A review of all ten species of the genus *Wolongia* is presented in this paper.