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Two new species of the genus Xizicus, 1993 (Orthoptera: Tettigoniidae: Meconematinae) from Xizang, China

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Abstract

In this paper two new species of the genus Xizicus from Xizang, China are described, Xizicus (Axizicus) spinocercus Jiao & Shi sp. nov. and Xizicus (Axizicus) xizangensis Jiao & Shi sp. nov. The type specimens are deposited in the Museum of Hebei University.

Key words: Orthoptera, Meconematinae, Xizicus, new species, Xizang, China

The Qinghai-Xizang Plateau is one of global hotspots of biodiversity, as Xizang is an important part of it, however, there are few reports about Xizang katydid fauna. Liu & Bi (1994), Jin (1995), Gorochov et al. (2005), Mao et al. (2009), Bian et al. (2012), Wang et al. (2012a, 2012b) reported some new genera and species of Meconematinae from Xizang, Liu & Jin (1994) recorded some species in Xizang. To date with 8 genera 15 species of Meconematinae are known from Xizang. These species are distributed at relatively low elevations, such as: Xigazē Diqu and Nyingchi region, and most are endemic species for Xizang.

The genus Xizicus was established by Gorochov in 1993, with type species Xizicus fascipes Bey-Bienko, 1995, including two subgenera, Xizicus and Eoxizicus. Gorochov (1998) established the genus Axizicus, but later Gorochov et al. (2005) considered Axizicus as a subgenus of the genus Xizicus. Gorochov (2002) established the subgenus Furcixizicus. At present, the genus Xizicus includes four subgenera, Xizicus, Eoxizicus, Furcixizicus, Axizicus and about 50 species (Eades et al., 2013). The subgenus Axizicus comprises more than 8 species (Gorochov et al., 2005).

In this paper two new species of Xizicus from Xizang, China are described, Xizicus (Axizicus) spinocercus Jiao & Shi sp. nov. and X. (Axizicus) xizangensis Jiao & Shi sp. nov.. The type specimens are deposited in the Museum of Hebei University.

Subgenus Xizicus (Axizicus) Gorochov, 1998

Axizicus: Gorochov, 1998, Zoosystematica Rossica, 7: 113. Xizicus (Axizicus): Gorochov et al. 2005. Oriental Insects, 39: 76. Type species: Xizicus (Axizicus) sergeji (Gorochov, 1998).

Subgeneric diagnosis. Body small. Head hypognathous. Fastigium verticis conical, slightly furrowed in midline. Apical segment of maxillary palpi nearly as long as subapical one. Pronotum not so long, humeral sinus distinct. All femora without spines on ventral margin, protibial tympana open on both sides. Tegmina long, hind wings considerably longer than tegmina. Male tenth abdominal tergite without any paired hind processes, but sometimes with very small ones widely separated from each other. Cerci simple, almost without any processes, apex slightly flattened. Subgenital plate simple, with a pair of styli. Genitalia nearly wholly membranous.