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Discovery of the genus *Paraleuctra* (Plecoptera: Leuctridae) from Palearctic China, with description of *P. qilianshana* sp. nov.

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Abstract

A new species of the genus *Paraleuctra*, *P. qilianshana* sp. nov., is described from Mt. Qilianshan, Gansu Province, China. The new species is the first representative of *Paraleuctra* discovered in the Palearctic Region of China. The new species is compared with its regional congeners.

Key words: Plecoptera, Leuctridae, *Paraleuctra*, new species, China

Introduction

Paraleuctra Hanson, 1941 is a well-defined genus since the works of Zwick (1977), Stark & Kyzar (2001), and Shimizu (2000). There are twenty three *Paraleuctra* species currently recognized (Baumann & Stark 2009; Harper 1977; Illies 1966; Okamoto 1922; Shimizu 2000; Li et al. 2010; Du & Qian 2012; Stark & Kyzar 2001; Zhiltzova 1974, 2003; Zwick & Sivec 1980; Zwick 2010). In China, four species of *Paraleuctra* are known (Yang & Yang 1995, Li et al. 2010, Du & Qian 2012 and Chu 1928). *Paraleuctra orientalis* Chu was additionally treated by Wu (1938, 1940, 1949). The above four species were all described from the Oriental zoogeographical region of China (Zhang 1997). The genus *Paraleuctra* is not currently known from the Palearctic zoogeographical region of China. In the present paper, a new species of *Paraleuctra* is described from Mount Qilianshan, the highest peak of the Qilian Mountains, a range that forms the northeastern escarpment of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, a portion of the Palearctic Region of China.

Material and methods

The type material was collected by sweep net and is deposited in the Entomological Museum of China Agricultural University (CAU), Beijing, and the Henan Institute of Science and Technology (HIST), Xinxiang, respectively, and all of the specimens are preserved in 75% ethanol after SEM examination. The micrographs were taken using a FEI Quanta 200 Field Emission Environmental Scanning Electron Microscope (ESEM-FEG). The morphological terminology follows that of Stark & Kyzar (2001).

Paraleuctra qilianshana Li & Yang, sp. nov.

(Figs. 1–19)

Male. Forewing length 6.3–6.5 mm. Wings light brown, veins dark and venation typical of genus. Body color generally dark brown to black (Fig. 1). Terga 8–10 with distinctly sclerotized anterior margin. Tergum 9 with a sclerotized rod like median spot (Fig. 2). Vesicle of anteromedian margin of sternum 9 tongue-shaped and circular