

A review of the genus *Parorthocladius* Thienemann from China (Diptera: Chironomidae: Orthoclaadiinae)

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Abstract

The males of three new species of *Parorthocladius* from China *P. concretus* sp. nov., *P. cristatus* sp. nov., and *P. unicentrus* sp. nov. are described and figured. The genus is recorded from the Oriental Region for the first time. A key to the worlds described males of *Parorthocladius* is presented, and the generic diagnosis is emended.

Key words: China, Chironomidae, identification key, new species, *Parorthocladius*

Introduction

Thienemann (1935) established the orthoclad genus *Parorthocladius* and treated the species *Dactylocladius nudipennis* as the type-species. According to Cranston *et al.* (1983, 1986, 1989), the genus has a Holarctic and Afrotropical distribution. However, to date, the five described species are all from the Palaearctic Region (Goetghebuer 1933, 1938; Serra-Tosio 1981; Ashe & Cranston 1990; Sasa & Arakawa 1994; Sasa 1996; Sæther *et al.* 2000).

Sæther *et al.* (2000) transferred two Japanese species, *Hydrobaenus furudoquartus* (Sasa & Arakawa) and *Orthocladius toyamajekus* (Sasa), to the genus *Parorthocladius* as new combinations. According to Makarchenko (personal communication, 28 June 2004), *Parorthocladius tridentifer* Makarchenko is a junior synonym of *Orthocladius* (*Euorthocladius*) *saxosus* (Tokunaga). Serra-Tosio (1981) treated *Parorthocladius nigrinus* (Goetghebuer) as a possible junior synonym of *Parorthocladius nudipennis* (Kieffer), but according to the description and figure in Goetghebuer (1938), the species might not belong to *Parorthocladius* because it lacks an anal point.

Based on material from China, we review the species of *Parorthocladius*. The genus is recorded for the first time from the Oriental Region. Three new species are described. A key to all described adult males of the genus is provided. The generic diagnosis by Cranston *et al.* (1989) is emended.