

Three new species of *Neolethaeus* Distant (Hemiptera: Lygaeoidea: Rhyparochromidae: Lethaeini) from China, with a key to the Chinese species

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Abstract

Three new species, *Neolethaeus densus* sp. n., *Neolethaeus maculacellus* sp. n., and *Neolethaeus distinctus* sp. n. are described from China. Photographs of the new species and illustrations of genital structures are given. A key to all Chinese species is included.

Key words: new species, Hemiptera, Rhyparochromidae, Lethaeini, China

Introduction

Neolethaeus was established by Distant (1909) based on the species *Neolethaeus typicus* Distant from Burma. Subsequently, more species have been added by Distant (1914), Hesse (1925), Scudder (1962, 1963), Woodward (1963, 1968), Mukhopadhyay (1988), and Slater & O'Donnell (1999). Ashlock (1964), Scudder (1967, 1970), and Zheng & Zou (1981) transferred many species from *Lethaeus* to *Neolethaeus*, based on characters of pronotum with a distinct collar. Until now, 24 species have been included in this genus (Slater & O'Donnell, 1995, 1999).

Five species have been recorded from China (Barber, 1958; Hidaka, 1962; Zheng & Zou, 1981) previously. Three species are described as new in this paper.

Nearly all species of *Neolethaeus* Distant distributed in tropical and subtropical area of Oriental, Afrotropical and Australian Regions. Some species intruded in eastern Palaearctic Region, such as Japan, Korea and north area of China. Many individuals of the genus from China were collected by light trap, showing phototropism, other biological characters unknown.