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

JUNLAN LI & WENJUN BU*
Institute of Entomology, College of Life Sciences, Nankai University, Tianjin 300071, China
*Corresponding author

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.