

## A new species of the genus *Tonsilla* (Araneae: Amaurobiidae) from mountains of Sichuan, China

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### Abstract

A new species of Coelotinae from mountains of Sichuan, China, *Tonsilla defossa* **sp. nov.**, is described and illustrated. The new species can be distinguished from other *Tonsilla* species by the thick patellar apophysis and the fishtail-shaped conductor in male, and by the strongly reduced atrium and the hidden spermathecal heads in female.

**Key words:** Taxonomy, Coelotinae, epigynum, pedipalpus, biodiversity hotspots

### Introduction

The Coelotinae spider genus *Tonsilla* was established with 3 species from China (Wang & Yin 1992). At present a total of 7 species is known worldwide, which all are recorded from central and southwest China (Anhui, Guizhou, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangxi and Sichuan) (Platnick 2006; Wang 2003). On one expedition to mountains of Sichuan in 2005, a formerly undescribed *Tonsilla* species was discovered. In the current paper, a detailed description of the new species is provided.

Sichuan Province is located in the Upper Yangtze Valley in the southwest part of the country. It covers an area of 569,000 square kilometers and is bordered by the provinces of Gansu and Shaanxi to the north, Guizhou and Yunnan to the south, the Tibetan Autonomous Region to the west, Qinghai to the northwest, and Chongqing Municipality to the east. The mountains of Sichuan are one of 25 biodiversity hotspots (Myers *et al.* 2000). Illegal hunting, overgrazing and firewood collection in history has already heavily threatened the biodiversity of this region. However, the construction of the several hundreds water dams, are some of the primary threats to biodiversity in this region.