



## *Sphedanolestes albipilosus* (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Reduviidae), a new harpactorine species from the Ryukyus and Taiwan

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### Abstract

A new harpactorine assassin bug, *Sphedanolestes albipilosus*, is described on the basis of fresh specimens collected from Ishigaki-jima and Iriomote-jima Islands of the Ryukyu Islands, Japan, and from the Island of Taiwan. This species differs from its closest relative, *S. subtilis* (Jakovlev, 1893) known from mainland China, in having a smaller body, the fourth antennal segment distinctly longer than the third, and a dark longitudinal stripe on each side of the abdomen. Habitat and adult season of this species are notably limited in the Ryukyu Islands.

**Key words:** Reduviidae, Harpactorinae, *Sphedanolestes*, new species, Ryukyu Islands, Taiwan

### Introduction

*Sphedanolestes* Stål, 1867 is one of the largest genera in the reduviid subfamily Harpactorinae; the genus contains more than 180 described species, and is distributed in the Ethiopian, Palearctic, and Oriental regions, including New Guinea (Maldonado Capriles 1990). Although the genus itself has a wide distributional range, most species are limited in the tropical and subtropical regions. In East Asia, only 15 species are so far known (Putshkov & Putshkov 1996; Cai & Yang 2002; Cai *et al.* 2004). Among them, *Sphedanolestes impressicollis* Stål, 1867, the type species of the genus, is the sole representative known from Japan and the Island of Taiwan; it has not been recorded from the Ryukyu Islands up to the present.

Besides a few old specimens in our collection from Japan, since the 1990s an undescribed species of *Sphedanolestes* has been found occasionally from Ishigaki-jima and Iriomote-jima Islands of the Ryukyu Islands and the Island of Taiwan. Interestingly, the habitat of this species seems to be limited considerably in these islands, and the adults were collected only in a short period from May to June.

In the present paper, we describe it as a new member of the genus *Sphedanolestes*, with brief notes on its biology.

### Materials and methods

Male genitalia were soaked in hot 10% KOH solution for about five minutes, then the endosoma was pulled out of the phallosoma with fine forceps. After observation, the genitalia were preserved in a small glass vial with glycerin. Morphological observation and drawing were made under a stereoscopic microscope (Olympus