



The genus *Nicostratus* Distant from China (Hemiptera: Miridae: Deraeocorinae)

JING-YANG XU & GUO-QING LIU

Institute of Entomology, College of Life Sciences, Nankai University, Tianjin 300071, China. E-mail: liugq@nankai.edu.cn

Abstract

Two species are recognized, including a new species, *Nicostratus frontmaculus*, from Menghai, Yunnan Province, China. Photographs of the species and illustrations of genital structure are given, and distributional records of all species are provided. A key to the world species is provided. Type specimens of the new species are deposited in the Institute of Entomology, College of Life Sciences, Nankai University, Tianjin, China.

Key words: Hemiptera, Miridae, Deraeocorinae *Nicostratus*, new species, China

Introduction

Nicostratus, a small genus in the Miridae, was established by Distant (1904) based on *Nicostratus balteatus* Distant from Ceylon. Subsequently, more species have been added by Distant (1909), Ballard (1927), China & Carvalho (1951), Hsiao & Ren (1983), and Linnavuori (2004). Distant (1904) assigned this genus to the subfamily Capsinae, division Cyllocoraria. Carvalho (1952) transferred the genus to Phylinae: Hallocladini. Then Schuh (1974) transferred the genus to Deraeocorinae: Surinamellini, based on its strongly toothed tarsal claws and the male genitalia.

Distant (1904, 1909) recorded three species, from Sri Lanka and India. Ballard (1927) described *N. monomoriiformis* from males collected from southern India. China & Carvalho (1951) described two more species, *N. minor* China & Carvalho and *N. luteus* China & Carvalho, from Borneo and Thailand, and synonymized *N. monomoriiformis* Ballard with *N. princeps* Distant. *Nicostratus sinicus* from China was described by Hsiao & Ren (Hsiao & Ren 1983), based on female specimens only. Finally, Linnavuori (2004) described *Nicostratus myrmecophilus* Linnavuori, from Iran; this is the first species to be described from the Palaearctic Region.

In this paper, another species, *Nicostratus frontmaculus* **sp. nov.**, is described. The male characters of *N. sinicus* Hsiao & Ren, and habitus figures and illustrations of the male genitalia of these two species from China are provided.

The eight species now known are keyed.

Material and methods

All illustrations of genitalia were made from temporary slide mounts in glycerol, using an Olympus SZ-ST microscope. Dorsal and lateral view photographs were made with a Nikon SMZ1000 apparatus.

Type specimens (male holotype, one male and one female paratype) are deposited in the insect collection of the Institute of Entomology, College of Life Sciences, Nankai University, Tianjin, China.

All measurements are in millimeters.