



Five crab spiders of the Genus *Lysiteles* from Yunnan Province, China (Araneae: Thomisidae)

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Abstract

This paper describes five species of spiders of the genus *Lysiteles* (Araneae: Thomisidae) from the Gaoligong Mountains, Yunnan Province, China. Included are three species new to science, *L. davidi* sp. nov., *L. conicus* sp. nov. and *L. dentatus* sp. nov., and two new records for China, *L. ambrosii* Ono, 2001 and *L. bhutanus* Ono, 2001, both originally described from Bhutan. Detailed morphological characters, photos and illustrations of body and copulatory organs of these five species are presented.

Key words: Taxonomy, new species, new records, Gaoligong Mountains

Introduction

The genus *Lysiteles* was established by Simon for his new species, *L. catulus* Simon, 1895 which was based on a female specimen from India. Spiders of this genus were mainly found from South East Asia. In recent years, Ono studied the species of *Lysiteles* and described 23 species (Ono 1979, 1980, 1988, 2001; Ono *et al.* 1990). At present, 39 species are included in this genus (Platnick 2007). Of these, 19 have been reported from China (Song *et al.* 1997; Hu 2001; Zhu *et al.* 2004; Zhang *et al.*, 2006): *L. amoenus* Ono, 1980, *L. anchorus* Zhu *et al.*, 2004, *L. badongensis* Song & Chai, 1990, *L. coronatus* (Grube, 1861), *L. dianicus* Song & Zhao, 1994, *L. digitatus* Zhang *et al.*, 2006, *L. hongkong* Song *et al.*, 1997, *L. inflatus* Song & Chai, 1990, *L. kunmingensis* Song & Zhao, 1994, *L. linzhiensis* Hu, 2001, *L. maior* Ono, 1979, *L. mandali* (Tikader, 1966), *L. minimus* (Schenkel, 1953), *L. minusculus* Song & Chai, 1990, *L. quiae* Song & Wang, 1991, *L. saltus* Ono, 1979, *L. silvanus* Ono, 1980, *L. torsivus* Zhang *et al.*, 2006, *L. wenensis* Song, 1995.

The Gaoligong Mountains of Yunnan Province lie in the southwest of China. This region is a biodiversity hotspot of the world (Conservation International 2007) with a diverse biota, distinct from and ancestral to that of the eastern Himalayas (Li *et al.* 1999). While examining thomisid specimens from the Sino-American joint biodiversity survey of the Gaoligong Mountains, conducted by the California Academy of Sciences (CAS) and Hunan Normal University (HNU) from 1998 to 2006, 3 new species of *Lysiteles* and 2 previously described but new to China were identified and are described in this paper.

Spiders of this genus are small thomisids with a total length of 2.0–4.5 mm that inhabit grasses, shrubs, tree foliage and leaf litter. The genus *Lysiteles* is poorly defined, currently based only upon somatic characters: AER equals to PER, both of AER and PER recurved, ALE>PLE>AME>PME. prosoma longer than wide, swollen, with long setae, indistinct cervical grooves, radial grooves and fovea (Ono 1988), and female