



A new species of *Machaerota* Burmeister (Hemiptera: Cercopoidea: Machaerotidae) from China and Laos

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Abstract

A new species of the tube spittlebug genus *Machaerota* Burmeister (Hemiptera: Cercopoidea: Machaerotidae), *M. conicapita* **sp. nov.** (southwestern China: Yunnan; Laos: Borikhane) is described and illustrated. A checklist of *Machaerota* from China and a key to 12 species are provided.

Key words: Hemiptera, Machaerotidae, *Machaerota*, China, Laos, taxonomy, new species

Introduction

The genus *Machaerota* is the largest genus of the family Machaerotidae. It was established by Burmeister in 1835 for *M. ensifera* Burmeister, 1835 from Luzon, Philippines. Maa (1963) published the world monograph of the family Machaerotidae, recording 42 species of the genus *Machaerota* (not 41 species as indicated by the author, see Maa, 1963: 96). Afterward Lu (1982) reported 4 new *Machaerota* species from China. Therefore, prior to this study the genus *Machaerota* included 46 species, of which 93.6% of the species are from Oriental and Australian Regions.

Species of the genus *Machaerota* can be easily distinguished from those in other genera within the tribe Machaerotini by the absence of the lateral spine on the hind tibia, and the normal position of the scutellar process which originates from upper end of postero-inferior margin of the scutellum proper. Another generic character of *Machaerota* thought to be important is that the head is never vertically produced into a head process (Maa 1963). In previously recorded species, only *M. punctatonervosa* Signoret, 1879, with its head conically produced forwards rather than broadly rounded as in its congeners, was considered unusual and unique in the genus, but strongly resembles that of the genus *Grypomachaerota* (Maa 1963). (Note that the species of *Machaerota* differ from those of *Grypomachaerota* by the lacking of the lateral spine on the hind tibia.) In the present paper, we describe and illustrate a new species of *Machaerota* from southwestern China and Laos, whose head is even more strongly produced, not only forwards, but also upwards. With the discovery of this new *Machaerota* species, the description of the genus might need to be partly amended as: head usually convex, seldom produced forwards or upwards.

The morphological terminology follows Maa (1963) and Metcalf *et* Horton (1934).

The specimens used in this study are from the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China (IZCAS) and the Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA (BPBM).