



Review of the genus *Coreodrassus* (Araneae: Gnaphosidae) from China

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Abstract

The formerly monotypic spider genus *Coreodrassus* Paik, 1984, belonging to the family Gnaphosidae, is reviewed. A new species, *Coreodrassus forficalus* **sp. nov.**, is described, and the type species, *Coreodrassus lancearius* (Simon, 1893) is redescribed.

Key words: Gnaphosidae, *Coreodrassus*, taxonomy, new species, northwest China, Xinjiang

Introduction

Gnaphosidae is a large, diverse family, currently containing 114 genera and 2013 species (Platnick 2008). Gnaphosids are predominantly ground-living spiders, which in day hide in silk retreats under stones or surface debris, but sometimes also retreat to rolled-up tree leaves. They are most often collected in ground traps or leaf litter. They are particularly diverse under relatively dry conditions and most species live in temperate regions.

The genus *Coreodrassus* was erected by Paik in 1984 for *C. coreanus* Paik, 1984. When Song *et al.* revised the Chinese gnaphosids (Song, Zhu & Chen 1999) they transferred *Drassodes lancearius* Simon, 1893 to *Coreodrassus*, and thought *C. coreanus* a synonym of *C. lancearius* (Simon, 1893). At the same time, they synonymized *Drassodes potanini* Schenkel, 1963 with *C. lancearius* (Simon, 1893) and formed this new combination. Simon (1893) and Paik (1984) described only the male, while Schenkel (1963) described only the female. In recent years, several Chinese authors have described both sexes (Zhang & Zhu 1983, Guo 1985, Zhang 1987 and Zhao 1993). Since the publication of Song *et al.* (1999), most authors used *C. lancearius* (Simon, 1893) as the valid scientific name of this species. To date, the genus *Coreodrassus* has only one species, namely *Coreodrassus lancearius* (Simon, 1893), distributed in North Asia, including Kazakhstan, northern China, Korea and Japan (Platnick 2008).

In August 2006, we explored the Kanas National Geopark, a National Natural Reserve located at Burqin County, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, northwest China, and collected some gnaphosid spiders by turning over stones. Among the collected specimens, a new species, *Coreodrassus forficalus* **sp. nov.** is recognized and described below. Additionally, we have re-examined *C. lancearius* (Simon, 1893), and revised the generic characters based on the two species.

Material and methods

Terminology is standard for Araneae. All specimens were preserved in 75% alcohol and were examined, drawn and measured under a Tech XTL-II stereomicroscope equipped with an Abbe drawing device. Epigyna