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New species of the owl-fly genus *Suhpalacsa* Lefèbvre from China (Neuroptera: Ascalaphidae)

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Abstract

Two new species, *Suhpalacsa fuscimarginata* **sp. nov.** and *Suhpalacsa fumiala* **sp. nov.** are described. One new combination *Suhpalacsa jianfanglingana* (Yang, 2002) **comb. nov.** is also proposed. A checklist and key to Chinese species of *Suhpalacsa* Lefèbvre are provided.

Key words: Neuroptera, Ascalaphidae, *Suhpalacsa*, new species, China

Introduction

The genus *Suhpalacsa* Lefèbvre, 1842 contains 37 known species and is distributed in the Australian, Oriental and African realms. Four species of this genus are reported in China previously: *Suhpalacsa formosana* Okamoto, 1910 and *S. umbrosa* Esben-Petersen, 1913 from Taiwan, *S. longialata* Yang, 1992 in Hunan Provence and *S. hainana* Yang, 2002 in Hainan Province. Herein two new species, *Suhpalacsa fuscimarginata* **sp. nov.** (Yunnan) and *Suhpalacsa fumiala* **sp. nov.** (Guangxi), are described with new distributional records for *S. longialata* and *S. hainana* given. *Suhpalacsa jianfanglingana* (Yang, 2002) **comb. nov.** is moved from *Acheron* Lefèbvre. Males of this species lack of spines on the basal flagellomeres that are the most important diagnostic character of *Acheron.* Moreover this species has a wing form more concordant with *Suhpalacsa*, than *Acheron*. The male abdomen is much longer than the hindwing in *S. longialata* and *S. hainana*, so we doubt the correct placement of these species in *Suhpalacsa*. However, many species are presently placed in the genera *Suhpalacsa* and *Suphalomitus* Van der Weele and the two genera appear to intergrade. Therefore a larger study of *Suhpalacsa* and *Suphalomitus* is needed before the definition and status of these genera can be determined accurately, so at this time we leave *S. longialata* and *S. hainana* in *Suhpalacsa*.

Material and methods

Terminology of wing venation follows Wang (2003) while genitalic terminology follows Tjeder (1977). The morphological character photos are taken by digital camera and dealt with in Adobe Photoshop®. All type specimens are deposited in Insect Collections of China Agricultural University, Beijing, China (ICCAU). Each material examined was given a database number corresponding to a ICCAU collection code entry. New names are attributed to the first two authors.

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