



Two new species of the crab spider genus *Talaus* (Araneae: Thomisidae) from Yunnan Province, China

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Abstract

This paper describes 2 new species of the crab spider genus *Talaus* (Thomisidae: Thomisinae, Talaini) from the Gaoligong Mountains, Yunnan Province, China: *T. dulongjiang* sp. nov. and *T. niger* sp. nov. Detailed morphological characters, photos and illustrations of copulatory organs, and a distribution map for the species are presented.

Key words: Taxonomy, Thomisidae, *Talaus*, new species, Gaoligong Mountains

Introduction

The genus *Talaus* was established by Simon (1886) for the species *T. triangulifer* Simon, 1886 based on a single female specimen from Sumatra. Over the next two decades, six additional species were added to the genus, two each by Simon (*T. limbatus* Simon, 1895, *T. semicastaneus* Simon, 1909), Pickard-Cambridge (*T. oblitus* O. P.-Cambridge, 1899, *T. opportunus* (O. P.-Cambridge, 1873)), and Thorell (*T. elegans* Thorell, 1890, *T. nanus* Thorell, 1890). As the original descriptions were generally inadequate and, with the exception of those by Pickard-Cambridge, not accompanied by illustrations, the genus was poorly known. *Talaus* remained unstudied for almost a century (Thorell 1895; Platnick 2008), until the species *T. samchi* Ono, 2001 and *T. xiphosus* Zhu & Ono, 2007 were included recently. The record from Guangxi (Zhu & Ono 2007) was the first evidence of its presence in, China. According to present knowledge, *Talaus* is restricted to Southeast Asia, with the exception of the enigmatic *T. limbatus* Simon, based only on juvenile specimens from South Africa.

Simon (1895) stated the characteristics of *Talaus*: cephalothorax short and very convex, especially near the rear edge. The dorsal shield of prosoma is as broad as long, almost parallel-sides and widely truncated at the front and rear (see also Murphy & Murphy 2000). The diagnosis for this genus given by Zhu & Ono (2007) becomes incomplete when our new species are considered. The revised genus diagnosis is as follows: ALE > PLE > AME > PME. Tubercles of ALE and PLE divided. Male palp usually with VTA and RTA, some with DTA, the embolus long spiniform; epigyne slightly sclerotized, some with posterior hood, copulatory ducts tube-shaped, spermathecae reniform.

The Gaoligong Mountains of Yunnan Province is a biodiversity hotspot of the world which is rich in Thomisidae. In recent years, one new thomisid genus and about 20 new species have been reported from this region (Tang *et al.* 2006, 2007, 2008; Yang *et al.* 2006). The species described here were discovered while examining thomisid specimens from the joint biodiversity survey of the Gaoligong Mountains, conducted by the California Academy of Sciences (CaAS) and the Hunan Normal University (HNU) from 1998 to 2007.