



## A new species of the genus *Tithaeus* from China (Arachnida: Laniatores: Epedanidae)

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### Abstract

The genus *Tithaeus* Thorell, 1891 is newly recorded from China with a new species: *T. drac*, based on specimens collected from Guangxi Province. The new record represents an expansion of 700 km to the northeast of the known range of the genus. The taxonomic status of the genus *Tithaeus* is discussed, based on external and male genital morphology.

**Key words:** Opiliones, Laniatores, *Tithaeus*, new species, China, Indo-Malaysian Region, WWF Ecoregions

### Introduction

Opilionids of the genus *Tithaeus* Thorell, 1891 are usually average-sized, with a body length of 2.5–5.0 mm, and mainly collected under stones and rotting wood, but can sometimes be found in forest leaf litter. Since being established by Thorell (1891) for the Malaysian species *T. laevigatus*, 33 species have been reported from southeast Asia (Indo-Malaysian Region).

*Tithaeus* was placed in the subfamily Phalangodinae of Phalangodidae by Roewer (1912, 1923, 1949). Suzuki (1969a, 1969b, 1972, 1985) followed this placement and described 5 new species from Malaysia and Thailand. Kury (1993, 2003, 2006) transferred *Tithaeus* to the Epedanidae, based on the form of the male genitalia.

Several small, monotypic genera from SE Asia—*Istithaeus* Roewer, 1949 (Borneo), *Kondosus* Roewer, 1949 (Borneo), *Metatithaeus* Suzuki, 1969 (Brunei), *Sterrhosoma* Thorell, 1891 (Sumatra), *Tithaeomma* Roewer, 1949 (Myanmar)—which do not appear to be distinct from *Tithaeus*, apart from tarsal counts and other minor details. The status of these genera therefore requires further study.

To date, 13 species belonging to 12 genera of Laniatores have been reported from China (Li & Song 1993; Zhu & Lian 2006). Based on an examination of the arachnological collections of the Museum of Hebei University (MHBU), the genus *Tithaeus* is here recorded from China for the first time, with a species described as *T. drac* **sp. nov.** Types of the new species are deposited in the Museum of Hebei University, Baoding, China (MHBU). All measurements are given in mm.

### Systematics

#### *Tithaeus* Thorell, 1891

*Tithaeus* Thorell, 1891: 371, type species by original designation: *Tithaeus laevigatus* Thorell, 1891; Loman, 1905: 33; Roewer, 1912: 120 (in part); 1923: 79; 1927: 279; 1949: 44; Banks, 1931: 67; Suzuki, 1969a: 24; 1972: 3.