



Taxonomy of *Margattea* Shelford, 1911 from China (Dictyoptera: Blattaria: Blattellidae)

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Abstract

Margattea spinifera Bey-Bienko, 1958, and *M. limbata* Bey-Bienko, 1954, are redescribed and illustrated, and four new species: *M. producta*, *M. multipunctata*, *M. mckittrickae*, *M. concava*, **spp. nov.** (Blattaria, Blattellidae), are described from Xizang Zang Autonomous Region, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Yunnan and Hainan province, China. A key to the males is included.

Key words: Blattaria, Blattellidae, Pseudophyllodrominae, *Margattea*, new species, China

Introduction

The family Blattellidae originated from the Mesozoic family Mesoblattinidae Handlirsch, 1906, and the oldest representatives are known from the earliest Cretaceous of Siberia (145 Ma) (Vransk 1997, 1999, 2008a; Vransk and Ansoerge 2007; Vransk *et al.* 2002). Living genera are much younger, perhaps of the Tertiary origin (Vransk 2004, Anisytukin *et al.* 2008), but with the oldest still living genus being *Blattella* Caudell, 1903 recently recorded in the Mesozoic (96 Ma) French amber (Vransk 2008b).

Blattellidae, erected by Karny in 1908, is a large family, widely distributed, and contains about 223 genera, 2175 species (Princis 1962–1971, Roth 2003). Most species in Blattellidae are small cockroaches not usually more than about 1cm in length. And they are mostly secretive, primarily nocturnal typically ground-dwelling insects that hide by day in cracks and crevices, among decaying vegetation, etc. Some, however, live on foliage (Cedric Gillott, 1980). Some can be found on bamboo and ruderal. Two of them are major pest species, *Blattella germanica* L., 1767, and *Supella longipalpa* (Fabricius, 1798); both prefer warm, humid surroundings, such as restaurants and domestic kitchens, and also appear in vehicles, for example, trains and ships. Species in Blattellidae are usually oviparous.

The genus *Margattea* was erected by Shelford (1911). Bey-Bienko (1938, 1954, 1957, 1958) described 7 species, of which 6 were also reported from China, (*M. minuta* Bey-Bienko, 1957, became a *nomen nudum* (a female of *M. spinifera* Bey-Bienko, 1957). In 1957, he reported *M. ceylanica* (Saussure, 1868), which was described from Ceylon, Java, Borneo, and Krakatau, also from China. Princis (1969: 682, 1971: 1162) list 44 species of *Margattea* occurring in Asia, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Pacific, and Africa. He synonymized *Kuchinga* Hebard, 1929, with *Margattea* Shelford, 1911, *M. inconspicua* Bey-Bienko, 1954, with *M. punctulata* Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1893, and transferred *M. inermis* Bey-Bienko, 1938, to *Sundabalta* Hebard, 1929.

Roth (1989: 206) revised the genus and provided generic diagnosis. He indicated that in the original descriptions of known species, twelve species were based on both sexes, seventeen on males and fifteen on