



Revision of the east Asian genus *Achelipoda* Yang, Zhang & Zhang, 2007 (Diptera: Empididae: Hemerodromiinae) including designation of a neotype for *Achelipoda pictipennis* (Bezzi, 1912) and descriptions of six new species

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Abstract

The genus *Achelipoda* Yang, Zhang & Zhang, 2007 (Diptera: Empididae: Hemerodromiinae) is revised. The original type of *Achelipoda pictipennis* (Bezzi, 1912) from Taiwan has been lost and a neotype is designated to clarify the concept of the species. Full descriptions and keys are provided and six new species are described: *A. kanaklua* sp. n., *A. kharkhema* sp. n., and *A. ngamlailai* sp. n. from Thailand; *A. vietnamensis* sp. n. from Vietnam; *A. tumida* sp. n. from Singapore and *A. subobscura* sp. n. from Indonesia. The relationships of *Achelipoda* with other *Chelipoda*-like Hemerodromiinae are discussed.

Key words: Diptera, Empidoidea, Empididae, Hemerodromiinae, *Achelipoda*, Asia, new species, key, distribution, *Chelipoda*

Introduction

The hemerodromiine empidid *Chelipoda pictipennis* Bezzi, 1912 was described from Koshun, Formosa (Taiwan) and although assigned to *Chelipoda* Macquart, it is rather atypical of that genus with anomalous wing venation in which both the anal vein and anal cell are absent and vein CuA₂ is long, reaching the posterior margin of the wing. In most examples of *Chelipoda*, the anal cell is present and usually also the anal vein while CuA₂ terminates far short of the wing margin. In the Oriental Catalogue (Smith 1975) *C. pictipennis* was listed under *Cephalodromia* Becker, 1914, but as pointed out by Sinclair & Cumming (2006), *Cephalodromia* should correctly be assigned to the Mythicomyiidae rather than Empididae and both Sinclair & Cumming (2006) and Plant (2007) considered that *C. pictipennis* should be tentatively placed in *Chelipoda* pending a proper analysis of the currently taxonomically confused group of *Chelipoda*-like taxa (Plant 2005, 2007, 2008, Sinclair & Cumming 2006) in which it undoubtedly belongs. However Yang *et al.* (2007) erected a new genus, *Achelipoda* Yang, Zhang & Zhang to accommodate *C. pictipennis*. The type of *C. pictipennis* was apparently lost during military action in 1956 at the Hungarian Natural History Museum (Boros 1957, Földvári & Papp 2007, L. Papp & M. Földvári pers. com.) and Yang *et al.* (2007) based their generic diagnosis on Bezzi's original description supplemented with observations on two or three undescribed species from China's Hainan Island (D. Yang pers. com.)

This work describes six new species of *Achelipoda* and clarifies the identity of *Achelipoda pictipennis* by designation of a neotype. A more detailed diagnosis of the genus *Achelipoda* is provided as part of an ongoing study to elucidate the diversity and phylogeny of the hemerodromiine tribe Chelipodini and its relationships to the Hemerodromiini (Plant, 1993, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009).