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FENG ZHANG & MING-SHENG ZHU



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A review of the genus *Pholcus* (Araneae: Pholcidae) from China

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Abstract

A total of 55 species of the genus *Pholcus* occurring in China are reviewed here. Among them, 20 species are new to science: *Pholcus dali* **sp. nov.**, *P. fengcheng* **sp. nov.**, *P. harveyi* **sp. nov.**, *P. huberi* **sp. nov.**, *P. kangding* **sp. nov.**, *P. kunming* **sp. nov.**, *P. mianshanensis* **sp. nov.**, *P. paralinzhou* **sp. nov.**, *P. parayichengicus* **sp. nov.**, *P. phoenixus* **sp. nov.**, *P. saaristoi* **sp. nov.**, *P. shangrila* **sp. nov.**, *P. songi* **sp. nov.**, *P. songxian* **sp. nov.**, *P. sublingulatus* **sp. nov.**, *P. subwuyiensis* **sp. nov.**, *P. yangi* **sp. nov.**, *P. yugong* **sp. nov.**, *P. zhangae* **sp. nov.**, *P. zhuolu* **sp. nov.** One new combination is formed: *Pholcus elongatus* (Yin & Wang, 1981) is transferred from *Spermophora*. One species, *P. opilionoides*, has not yet been found in China.

Key words: pholcid, new species, new combination, identification key

Introduction

The spider family Pholcidae currently contains 85 genera and 999 species (Platnick 2008). They are among the common spiders found indoors and outdoors throughout the world. Members of the family vary in habitus, size and life style. Huber has published many new species and revised most of the genera in the family Pholcidae (Huber 2000; 2001; 2003a, b; 2005a, b; 2007).

Pholcus is the largest genus of the family Pholcidae and currently contains 125 species (Platnick 2008). It is very species-rich and widely distributed in the old world especially. Until now no large revision of this genus has been done. However, Huber (2001) has made a few taxonomic remarks. All members of *Pholcus* are fragile spiders, the body frequently being 4 to 10 mm in length and the legs are up to 30 mm long, thus earning these spiders the common name “daddy long legs”. They generally have a flat, plate-shaped cephalothorax with a black median line, but no thoracic furrow, and an elongate or globose abdomen. The overall coloration of *Pholcus* is generally uniform but often with a darker pattern or markings. The legs are