



## A revision of *Malaxella* Ding & Hu (Hemiptera: Delphacidae) with description of a new species

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### Abstract

The endemic delphacid genus *Malaxella* Ding & Hu (Hemiptera: Fulgoromorpha: Delphacidae) from China is reviewed and two species, including a new species, *M. tetracantha* n. sp. (southern China: Hainan) are recognized. The genus and the species are described and illustrated. A key to the species of the genus is also provided.

**Key words:** Tropidocephalini, taxonomy, Auchenorrhyncha, Fulgoromorpha, planthopper

### Introduction

The genus *Malaxella* was established by Ding & Hu (in Ding *et al.* 1986) for *M. flava* Ding & Hu from Yunnan and Guangdong, China. It belongs to the tribe Tropidocephalini in the subfamily Delphacinae and is easily recognized from other genera of the tribe by the orange body color without markings, by the vertex having percurrent submedian carinae uniting at apex, and by the asymmetrical opening of the male pygofer. Chen (2003) studied the diversity of Tropidocephalini from China and considered *Malaxa aurunca* Yang & Yang, 1986 as a junior synonym of *Malaxella flava* so at present only the type species is known. In this paper, we redescribe the genus and the type species, describe a second species and provide a key to aid in recognition of the species.

### Materials and methods

The specimens studied in this study are deposited in the Entomological Museum, Northwest A & F University, Yangling, Shaanxi, China (NWAUFU). The body measurements of macropters are from apex of vertex to tip of abdomen. All measurements are in millimeters (mm). The methods and morphological terminology in this paper follow those of Ding (2006).

### Results

#### *Malaxella* Ding & Hu

*Malaxella* Ding & Hu in Ding *et al.*, 1986: 419

Type species. *Malaxella flava* Ding & Hu, in Ding *et al.* 1986. by original designation