



## Revision of the pilophorine plant bug genus *Pherolepis* Kulik, 1968 (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Miridae: Phylinae)

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### Abstract

*Pherolepis* Kulik is reviewed. Seven species are recognized, of which three species, *Pherolepis longipilus*, *P. nigrinus*, and *P. robustus* are described as new. Habitus photographs, illustrations of male and female genitalic structures, and scanning electron micrographs of morphological structures are provided. The key of *Pherolepis*, and extensive host and distributional information is provided. All type specimens are deposited in the Institute of Entomology, Nankai University, Tianjin, China.

**Key words:** Heteroptera, Miridae, Phylinae, Pilophorini, *Pherolepis*, new species, China

### Introduction

*Pherolepis* Kulik, 1968, is known as a small genus in the subfamily Phylinae, and was erected for the two East Russian species. The type species of the genus is *P. atrans* Kulik that was subsequently synonymized with *Neocoris aenescens* Reuter by Kerzhner (1970).

Kerzhner (1970) synonymized *Pherolepis* with *Hypseloecus* on the basis of the similarity of the body shape and the male genitalic structures, and transferred the two species to *Hypseloecus*. He also described two new species *fasciatus* and *kiritshenkoi* in the genus *Hypseloecus*. Schuh (1989) reviewed *Hypseloecus* and thought that the four species, placed in *Hypseloecus* by Kerzhner (1970), do not belong to genus *Hypseloecus* on the basis of vestitures on head and pronotum and other characters. Therefore, he reinstated *Pherolepis* Kulik as valid genus and replaced these four species.

We have examined the specimens belonging to the genera *Pherolepis* and *Hypseloecus* of China, and found that the genus *Hypseloecus* could be distinguished from the genus *Pherolepis* by the relatively smaller size and more oval shape of body, the presence of scalelike setae on the head, pronotum, propleuron, meso- and metepisternum, the distinctly reddish coloration of dorsum. So we support Schuh (1989), who considered the genus *Pherolepis* to be distinct from *Hypseloecus*. Bao-Ying Qi (1996) recorded *P. amplus* in his paper which reported the predatory miridae of Nei Mongol Autonomous Region of China.

In this paper, seven species of *Pherolepis* are treated, with three species described as new to science. A key for identification of *Pherolepis* is given. The digital habitus figures, illustrations of the male and female genitalia, and scanning electron micrographs of morphological structures of five species are also provided. Detailed host and distributional information is listed for material examined, including number and sex of specimens.

### Materials and methods

All genitalic illustrations were made from temporary slide mounts in lactophenol, using an Olympus SZ-ST