



A study on the genus *Macroscytus* Fieber, 1860 from China (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Cydnidae)

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Abstract

Eight species of the genus *Macroscytus* Fieber, 1860 are reported from China. Among these is *M. vietnamicus* J.A. Lis, 1991, recorded for the first time from the country; moreover, the occurrence of *M. badius* (Walker, 1867) in its southern parts (Hainan Province) is confirmed. A key to the Chinese species of the genus is provided, along with habitus figures and illustrations of hind legs and the male genitalia. A phenomenon of instability in the cephalic chaetotaxy of *M. aequalis* (Walker, 1867), *M. badius*, *M. popovi* J.A. Lis, 1991, and *M. vietnamicus* J.A. Lis, 1994, are briefly discussed.

Key words: Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Cydnidae, *Macroscytus*, China, faunistics, new records, key to species, cephalic chaetotaxy

Introduction

Species of the genus *Macroscytus* recorded from China have always been a source of problems (Hsiao *et al.* 1977, Josifov and Kerzhner 1978, Lis 1994, 1995). Although a catalogue (Lis 1999, 2006) and a revision (Lis 2000) were recently published, our knowledge on the distribution of *Macroscytus* species in China is still unsatisfactory.

Hsiao *et al.* (1977) treated all previous records of the genus *Macroscytus* from China as representing *M. subaeneus* (Dallas, 1851), with *M. japonensis* Scott, 1874 as its junior synonym. Nevertheless, one year later, Josifov and Kerzhner (1978) suggested that *M. japonensis* was a distinct species, and treated *M. fraterculus* Horváth, 1919, described from Beijing, as its synonym.

In a revision of the Oriental burrower bugs, Lis (1994) reported five species of *Macroscytus* from China, i.e., *M. aequalis* (Walker, 1867), *M. dominiqueae* J.A. Lis, 1991, *M. japonensis*, *M. popovi* J.A. Lis, 1991 and *M. sumatranus* J.A. Lis, 1994. Moreover, *M. subaeneus* has been demonstrated to be distributed only in Indonesia (Flores), Philippines, and Thailand; it was also proven that all its Chinese records were based on misidentifications.

Later, Lis (1995) showed *M. japonensis* to be a composite species consisting of *M. japonensis* and *M. confusus* J.A. Lis, 1995. In a world revision of the genus *Macroscytus*, Lis (2000) listed six species from China, and established *M. sumatranus* as a junior synonym of *M. gibbulus* (Ellenrieder, 1862), and *M. confusus* as a junior synonym of *M. fraterculus*. Thus, finally, six species (i.e., *M. aequalis*, *M. dominiqueae*, *M. fraterculus*, *M. gibbulus*, *M. japonensis*, *M. popovi*) known from China, were included in the catalogue of the Palaearctic Heteroptera (Lis 2006).

In addition, the occurrence of three other *Macroscytus* species in China, i.e., *M. brunneus* (Fabricius, 1803), *M. javanus* Mayr, 1866, and *M. transversus* Burmeister, 1834, is still in question (for details – see Lis 1994, 2000, 2006).

In a revision of the Oriental Cydnidae (Lis 1994) the genus was proposed to be divided into three groups on the basis of its head vestiture (i.e., *australis*-group, *aequalis*-group and *javanus*-group); this division was