

Article



The genus *Scobura* Elwes & Edwards, 1897 from China, with descriptions of two new species (Lepidoptera: Hesperiidae)

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Abstract

The skipper genus *Scobura* Elwes & Edwards, 1897 is reviewed as it occurs in China. *Polytremis flavinerva hainana* Gu & Wang is transferred to the genus *Scobura* and raised to the species level, i.e., *S. hainana* (Gu & Wang, 1997), comb. nov. *Zographetus hainanus* Gu & Wang, 1997, syn. nov. and *Scobura youngi* Devyatkin, 2004, syn. nov. are considered to be synonyms of *Scobura cephaloides kinka* Evans, 1949, and *S. hainana* (Gu & Wang, 1997) respectively. Two new species from South China, *S. stellata* sp. nov. and *S. parawoolletti*, sp. nov. are described and illustrated. The female genitalia of *S. cephaloides kinka*, *S. coniata* and *S. hainana* are described for the first time. A key to the 14 species of the genus is provided. Adults and genitalia of eight Chinese species and *S. woolletti* (Riley, 1923) from Borneo are illustrated and a brief description of each Chinese species is given.

Key words: Zhejiang, Guangdong, Hainan, taxonomy, skipper, Scobura stellata, Scobura parawoolletti

Introduction

The skipper genus *Scobura* Elwes & Edwards, 1897 is a small group of Hesperiidae distributed from North India to the Sunda Islands, Indonesia. Evans (1949) recognized seven species in the genus, of which two occur in China. Devyatkin (2002) described one new species from Vietnam. Later, he revised the species complex of *S. coniata* Hering, 1918, and recognized five species (Devyatkin, 2004). As a result, the genus consisted of 12 species (Evans, 1949; Devyatkin, 2002; 2004).

In the course of our study on systematics of Chinese Hesperiidae, we found that *S. coniata* Hering, 1918, from Zhejiang recorded by Tong (1993) and Chou (1994), is actually *S. lyso* Evans, 1939 (Devyatkin, 2004); *Polytremis flavinerva* Chou & Zhou, 1994 is a synonym of *S. coniata* Hering, 1918 (Devyatkin & Monastyrskii, 1999); *Zographetus hainanus* Gu & Wang, 1997, is a new synonym of *S. cephaloides kinka* Evans, 1949. Meanwhile, we consider that *Polytremis flavinerva hainana* Gu & Wang, 1997, which was described from a single male specimen from Hainan, certainly belongs to the genus *Scobura*, but differs from its related species *S. coniata* in wing pattern and genitalic features; it should be treated as a separate species. *S. youngi* Devyatkin, 2004, from Tianjingshan, Guangdong Province, is considered conspecific with *S. hainana* (Gu & Wang, 1997) on the basis of wing pattern and genitalia, and therefore, *S. youngi* is treated as a junior synonym of *S. hainana*. In the present study, eight species are recognized from China, two of which are described as new.

Materials and Methods

Specimens examined are mainly in the collection of the South China Agricultural University (SCAU), Guangzhou, except the holotype of *Polytremis flavinerva* Gu & Wang deposited in the The Research Institute