



## ***Azumamiris vernalis*: a new genus and species of Mirini from central Japan (Heteroptera: Miridae: Mirinae)**

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### **Abstract**

*Azumamiris*, a new genus of mirine plant bug, is established to accommodate a new species, *A. vernalis*, which has occasionally been found in central Honshu, Japan. This univoltine mirine was confirmed to be associated with a gramineous dwarf bamboo, *Pleioblastus chino* (Fr. et Sav.) Makino, and the adults appear only in early May. The final instar nymph is also diagnosed and described. The present new genus is assumed to be allied to *Stenotus* Jakovlev known from the Old World and to continental Chinese *Elthemidea* Zheng. A key to the genera under discussion is provided.

**Key words:** plant bug, new taxa, relationship, *Stenotus*, *S. binotatus*, *Elthemidea*, *Creontiades*, seasonality, bamboo, etymology, distribution, key

### **Introduction**

Our continuing efforts to clarify the Japanese mirine plant bug fauna have recognized 176 nominal species in the tribe Mirini, the most species rich plant bug tribe in Japan. More than nine-tenths of the species are now estimated to have previously been the subject of recent publications (e.g., Yasunaga, 2001; Yasunaga et al., 2002; Yasunaga & Schwartz, 2005).

Through a courtesy of Dr K. Takahashi, I recently obtained eighty specimens of a unique mirine species, which at first sight reminded us of a certain member of the genus *Stenotus* Jakovlev, *S. binotatus* (F.). However, close examination revealed that any known mirine genera cannot accommodate this species.

Herein, I describe the new genus and species, *Azumamiris vernalis*, offer habitus images of both adults and final immature forms, discuss the relationship of this new genus to other mirine genera, and provide a key to these genera.

### **Material and methods**

All type specimens designated in this study were collected in May 2009 by Dr K. Takahashi, and will be deposited in the collections of American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) and Tomohide Yasunaga collection, Nagasaki 852-8061, Japan (TYCN). Dried specimens were examined in general but the final instar nymphs are kept in 80% ethyl alcohol. In the description of the species, colors of the dried specimens are indicated within square brackets, because the colors of some parts are liable to fade rapidly after death. Terminology of the genitalia principally follows Schwartz & Footitt (1998) and Yasunaga & Schwartz (2007). Measurements are given in millimeters. The measurements for final instar nymphs may be a little greater than those of actual living material as alcoholic specimens were measured. Digital images of live individuals were taken with a Canon EOS Kiss Digital camera body plus a Canon-Olympus mount adapter and an Olympus Macrophoto System (Auto Extension Tube with 50 mm macrolens and T10 Ringflash).