



Six new species of the genus *Balta* Tepper (Blattaria, Pseudophyllodrominae) from China

YANLI CHE, LI CHEN & ZONGQING WANG¹

College of Plant Protection, Southwest University, Beibei, Chongqing 400716, China

¹Corresponding author. E-mail: zqwang2006@126.com

Abstract

The following six new species of *Balta* are described and illustrated: *B. spinea*, *B. spinescens*, *B. barbellata*, *B. dissecta*, *B. curvirostris*, *B. jinlinorum*. A key to all species from China is provided for separation.

Key words: Blattellidae, cockroaches, Dictyoptera, key, taxonomy

Introduction

The cockroach subfamily Pseudophyllodromiinae Vickery & Kevan was recently reviewed by Roth (2003) and includes 63 genera. Pseudophyllodromiinae differs from Blattellinae in that males have the genital hook on the right side and females do not rotate the oothecae prior to deposition. One pseudophyllodromiine genus, *Balta* Tepper, is a large, widespread genus considered by Princis (1969) to contain 83 species. Asahina (1985) and Roth (1989a, 1990, 1991, 1993a) transferred 12 species to *Balta* from *Margattea*, *Stenectoneura*, *Allacta*, *Onychostylus*, *Lupparia* and *Ceratinoptera*. Grandcolas (1994) described one species from Saudi Arabia. Roth (1991, 1993b, 1996, 1997, 1998) transferred 8 species from *Balta* to five other genera: *Jacobsonina*, *Pseudoblata*, *Carburnneria*, *Sorineuchora* and *Sliferia*. Thus, at present, *Balta* contains 88 species worldwide (Beccalloni, 2007).

The closely related genera *Balta* and *Lupparia* Walker are distinguished by the size of the apical triangle of the hind wing (*Balta* spp. with small apical triangle), but they are otherwise similar in venation of the hind wing, front femur type, and asymmetrical tarsal claws (Roth, 1991). Therefore, some difficulty exists in discriminating these two genera. However, we accept the separation of the two genera as proposed by Roth (1991). In the present paper, six species of *Balta* new to science are described from China. In addition, a revised diagnosis to this genus is given that supplements the diagnosis compiled by others.

Material and methods

Terminology used in this paper mainly follows Roth (2003). All the drawings were made with the aid of a Motic SMZ-168 microscope. Type specimens are deposited in the Insect Collection of Southwest University, Beibei, China.

Balta Tepper, 1893

Mareta Bolívar, 1895: 371.

Supellina Chopard, 1921: 760.

Allactina Hebard, 1929: 18.