



A new Oriental genus of Iassini leafhoppers (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae: Iassinae) with description of four new species

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Abstract

Sinojassus **gen. nov.** of tribe Iassini is described based on: two new species from China, *S. loberus* Dai, Zhang & Zhang **sp. nov.** (type species), *S. aspinus* Dai, Zhang & Zhang **sp. nov.**; one new species from China and Thailand, *S. compressus* Dai, Zhang & Zhang **sp. nov.**; and one new species from Vietnam, *S. webbi* Dai & Dietrich **sp. nov.** Detailed morphological descriptions, illustrations and a key to species are provided. The new genus resembles *Coriojassus* Evans, *Hyalojassus* Evans and *Trocnadella* Singh-Pruthi in the structure of the male genitalia. The style has an elongate apodeme and short apophysis, the connective is absent, and the aedeagus is simple, without processes, and connected to other parts of the genitalia by membranous ligaments. A key to Oriental genera of Iassini is also provided.

Key words: Auchenorrhyncha, morphology, taxonomy, distribution

Introduction

Leafhoppers constitute one of the largest families of insects, with more than 22,000 described species (Oman *et al.*, 1990; Dietrich, 2005). Iassinae is one of the 25 subfamilies of leafhoppers and comprises seven tribes with over 2000 species in 146 genera worldwide (Oman *et al.*, 1990; Dietrich, 2005). Iassini is the second largest tribe of Iassinae with over 570 species in 38 genera worldwide (Abdul, 1998; Blocker & Webb, 1990, 1992; Blocker, 1982, 1990; Coelho, 1999; DeLong, 1982; Dietrich & Vega, 1995; Dietrich, 1993; Felix & Mejdalani, 1998; Knight & Webb, 1986; Knight, 1983; Kuoh, 1986; Linnavuori & Quartau, 1975; Metcalf, 1966; Viraktamath, 1979, 2006; Wilson, 1981). Iassini *sensu* Dietrich (2005; including junior synonym *Hyalojassini* Evans) may be distinguished from other tribes of Iassinae by the following combination of features: head rounded in profile, without sharp transition between crown and face; ocelli not or only partially visible in dorsal aspect; hind wing with veins RP and MA confluent distally (a few New World genera currently placed in Iassini have these veins separate distally); female second valvulae slender with a few widely spaced dorsal teeth distally. Most described genera consistent with this definition of Iassini are Neotropical, but most of the described species of this tribe are distributed in the Old World tropics. Species in the tribe are, as far as is known, exclusively arboreal. Many tropical species are associated with trees in the family Fabaceae, particularly acacias but Holarctic species are recorded from hosts belonging to various other plant families and no host plant information is available for a majority of species.

During ongoing studies on Chinese Iassinae, we discovered three new species of Iassini with several peculiar features that justify their placement in a new genus. Study of recently collected material from Thailand and Vietnam housed at the Illinois Natural History Survey revealed the presence of a fourth new species that is similar to the above three species in external morphology.