



Descriptions of *Matrona oreades* spec. nov. and *Matrona corephaea* spec. nov. from China (Odonata: Calopterygidae)

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Abstract

Matrona oreades Hämäläinen, Yu & Zhang, spec. nov. (holotype ♂, China, Gansu, Wenxian, Bikou, alt. 950m, 9/13 vii 2005) and *Matrona corephaea* Hämäläinen, Yu & Zhang, spec. nov. (holotype ♂, China, Zhejiang, West Tianmushan, alt. 700m, 8 viii 2007) are described and illustrated for both sexes. These two species differ markedly from the members of the *Matrona basilaris* species group by their sparser venation and absence of bluish-white reticulation at the wing base.

Key words: Odonata, Calopterygidae, *Matrona*, new species, China, *corephaea*, *oreades*

Introduction

Our knowledge of the calopterygid damselflies assigned to the genus *Matrona* Selys, 1853 is still surprisingly inadequate, although they are striking and conspicuous insects. Selys Longchamps (1853) established *Matrona* as a subgenus of the genus *Calopteryx* Leach with *Matrona basilaris* Selys, 1853 from “Nord de la Chine” as the only known species. Later, Selys Longchamps (1888) stated that the type specimens [presently in IRSN, Brussels] of *M. basilaris* came from the Shanghai area and north China. Other named *Matrona* taxa (as given in the original nomenclatorial combination, including type locality) are *Matrona nigripectus* Selys, 1879 from “Khasyia Hills (Bengale)” [Khasia Hills, Meghalaya, India], *Matrona kricheldorffi* Karsch, 1892 from “Omi-shan, p. Kiating, China occidentalis” [Emeishan, Sichuan, China], *Neurobasis (Matrona) basilaris japonica* Foerster, 1897 from “Japan” [Ryukyus, Japan] and *Matrona cyanoptera* Hämäläinen & Yeh, 2000 from “Northern Taiwan, Taipei, Neishwangsi”.

Mature males of these named *Matrona* taxa have an area at the wing base of variable extent, which, when viewed from an oblique angle, appears milky, since the transverse crossveins are bluish white. Otherwise, the wings of mature males are mainly dark, with wing tips often hyaline or subhyaline. Reticulation of the wings is dense or very dense, especially in the hindwings. This *M. basilaris* –group also includes a few undescribed taxa, specimens of which are available in various collections. A thorough revision of this group is needed. It should be noted here that *M. nigripectus*, a taxon possibly restricted to north-eastern India, Burma, Thailand and Laos, is undoubtedly the most widely misinterpreted taxon in the genus. Although its occurrence in southern Yunnan might be expected, this is not yet confirmed; all published records of *nigripectus* (ranked as subspecies of *basilaris*) from several provinces of China appear to be incorrect and refer to other taxa in the *Matrona basilaris* –group (see Hämäläinen 2004), or even to one of the new species described below. We rank *M. nigripectus*, *M. cyanoptera* and *M. japonica* as good species. *M. kricheldorffi*, described from a teneral male and female specimen, appears to be synonym of *M. basilaris*, as originally pointed out by Needham (1930).

The calopterygid material recently collected by the junior authors in China contained two brownish winged *Matrona* species, which differ considerably from *M. basilaris* and its allies. These new species, described below as *M. oreades* spec. nov. and *M. corephaea* spec. nov., have a much sparser venation and they do not have any bluish white crossveins at the wing base.