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Taxonomic study of the typhlocybine leafhopper genus *Alebroides* Matsumura (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae) in China

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Abstract

The present paper treats 20 species of the typhlocybine genus *Alebroides* Matsumura from China, among which two species new to science are described: *A. parafuscus* **n. sp.** and *A. muzitaneus* **n. sp.**; three new synonymies are reported: *A. aurantinus* Cai & Shen, 1999 is a junior synonym of *A. rubicundus* Ishihara, 1953; *A. taibaiensis* Chou & Zhang, 1987 is a junior synonym of *A. yanglinginus* Chou & Zhang, 1987 and *A. qinlinganus* Chou & Zhang, 1987 is a junior synonym of *A. falcatus* Sohi & Dworakowska, 1979; five species are new records for China. A key to all Chinese *Alebroides* species is provided, including 6 species reported occuring in China with specimens unavailable for this study except *A. shokanus* Matsumura.

Key words: Homoptera, Auchenorrhyncha, Empoascini, morphology, taxonomy, distribution

Introduction

The leafhopper genus *Alebroides* belongs to the tribe Empoascini of Typhlocybinae and was originally established by Matsumura (1931) based on the type species *A. marginatus* Matsumura. It is well represented in the temperate zone of the Oriental Region and the adjacent parts of the Palaearctic Region, with its centre of diversity in the mountainous area of mainland SE Asia (Dworakowska, 1997). *Alebroides* is characterized by the slightly produced or rounded vertex anterior margin, stalked third apical cell of the forewing and the branched vein CuA of hindwing with the branching point at or basad of the coalescence of CuA with MP". All *Alebroides* species documented feed on Compositae and Urticaceae except a few that were found infesting *Primula*, *Begonia* and other ornamental plants, as well as potato. To date, 75 species have been reported worldwide (Dworakowska, 1997).

The Chinese *Alebroides*, studied by Matsumura (1931), Dworakowska (1970, 1979, 1982, 1997), Chou & Zhang (1987), Cai & Shen (1999), comprise 21 species to date. During our work on the Chinese typhlocybine specimens from two insect collections, two new species of *Alebroides* were found and are described below, and three new synonymies are proposed. In addition to the new species, five species are newly recorded for China and a key to all Chinese *Alebroides* species is provided except *A. shokanus* because of its unconfirmed systematic status within this genus and unknown male genitalia.

Material and methods

The materials studied are deposited in the Entomological Museum, Northwest A & F University, Yangling, Shaanxi, China (NWAFU), China Agricultural University (CAU) and the Natural History Museum, London (BMNH) as indicated under each species. The methods and terminology used in this work follow Zhang (1990) except for the nomenclature of wing, for which we follow Dworakowska (1993).

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