



On the subfamilial assignment of *Platybunoides* (Opiliones: Eupnoi: Phalangiidae), with the description of a new species from China

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Abstract

Platybunoides Šilhavý, 1955, currently included in the subfamily Platybuninae Staręga, 1976, is reassigned to Phalangiinae Latreille, 1802 for the absence of ventral spur in proximal segment of chelicerae, the absence of ventral thorns on pedipalpal femur, and the presence of distomesal bump on pedipalpal patella and tibia. A new species, *Platybunoides songi* **sp. nov.**, from Liupan Mountain, Ningxia, China, is described and can be recognized by having a large ocularium, unarmed pedipalps, hairs being restricted to ventral femur, and the presence of a small bump distally on prolateral femur.

Key words: Phalangiidae, taxonomy, Liupan Mountain, China

Introduction

The family Phalangiidae Latreille, 1802 currently contains 47 genera and 408 species (Pinto-da-Rocha & Giribet 2007). Members of this family have a soft or leathery body and relatively long legs (Cokendolpher *et al.* 2007). It is currently subdivided into four subfamilies (i.e., Phalangiinae Latreille, 1802, Platybuninae Staręga, 1976, Oligolophinae Banks, 1893 and Opilioninae C.L. Koch, 1839).

The genus *Platybunoides* Šilhavý, 1955 was erected based on the type species, *P. argaea* Šilhavý, 1955 (only with the male holotype), from Erciyas dağı (Turkey). The genus was secondarily placed in the subfamily Phalangiinae by Šilhavý (1965). Later, Staręga (1976) suggested that *Platybunoides* should belong to the new subfamily Platybuninae which was erected by himself. Although Platybuninae was not accepted by all opilionologists at that time (e.g., Martens 1978), Staręga (1981) again mentioned the same species in the list of Platybuninae. Later, Crawford (1992) and Kury (2011) followed the designation of Staręga, and placed *Platybunoides* in the same subfamily.

While examining the harvestmen specimens collected from Liupanshan National Natural Reserve, Ningxia, China, a new *Platybunoides* species was found and describe here as *Platybunoides songi* **sp. nov.** Based on this material and published references the placement of *Platybunoides* is reassessed.

Material and methods

BLI follows Staręga (1972). It is abbreviated from “Beinlängenindex” (index of legs length) and is the relation of the femur I length to the carapace width. Carapace width was measured between the incisions of coxae II and III. The glans orientation surface follows Cokendolpher (1985). The cross-sectional shape of the truncus and glans refer to Martens (1978). The specimens were preserved in 75% ethanol and were examined and drawn under a Leica M165c stereomicroscope equipped with drawing tube. Further details were studied using a compound microscope (Nikon YS100). The type specimens of the new species were deposited in the Museum of Hebei University, Baoding, China (MHBU). All measurements are given in mm.