



A taxonomic review of the grassland leafhopper genus *Aconurella* Ribaut (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae: Deltocephalinae: Chiasmini) from China with the description of two new species

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Abstract

Six species of the genus *Aconurella* Ribaut from China are reviewed including two new records and two new species; descriptions and illustrations of these species are provided. Two new species *A. furcata* **sp. n.** and *A. paradiplachnis* **sp. n.** are described. A key to males of the Chinese species in the genus is also given. *A. orientalis* is considered a junior synonym of *A. prolixa* **syn. n.** and *A. solana* is considered a junior synonym of *A. montana* **syn. n.**

Key words: Hemiptera, Auchenorrhyncha, morphology, new species, China

Introduction

The grassland leafhopper genus *Aconurella* is widespread in the Old World. It was established by Ribaut (1948), with *Thamnotettix prolixa* Lethierry, 1885 as its type species. Species of the genus are difficult to identify, because unlike in most other leafhoppers, the aedeagus is rather conservative in shape and species recognition is based more on differences in other structures of the male genitalia. The genus is readily recognized by the following features: 1) male pygofer side with darkly sclerotized part on posteroventral margin, with spines; 2) subgenital plate with concave lateral margin and attenuated apex, few macrosetae in marginal row; 3) aedeagus shaft movably articulated with base (also in most other genera of the tribe). Vilbaste (1965a) published a checklist of 10 species and Zahniser (2008) published a checklist of 24 species of the genus.

In this paper, the species of *Aconurella* Ribaut from China are reviewed with description of the six included species (two new). New records for two species are given and two new synonyms are made. A key to males from China is provided.

Type specimens and other material examined are deposited in the Entomological Museum of Northwest A & F University (NWAUFU), China Agricultural University (CAU), Nankai University (NKU), and the Shanghai Entomological Museum, Chinese Academy of Sciences (SHEM). Morphological terminology follows Oman (1949) and Zhang (1990).

Taxonomy

Aconurella Ribaut, 1948

Aconurella Ribaut, 1948: 57; Vilbaste, 1965a: 9. Type species: *Thamnotettix prolixa* Lethierry, 1885.

Description. Moderately sturdy, terete. Vertex projecting forward, roundly triangular, angled to face. Ocellus marginal, close to eye. Pronotum almost as long as vertex. Forewing brachypterous to macropterous with four apical cells and two antepical cells.