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Review of the phyline plant bug tribe Auricillocorini from Asia, with descriptions of a new genus and nine new species from Japan, Nepal and Thailand (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Miridae: Phylinae)

TOMOHide YASUNAGA

Research Associate, Division of Invertebrate Zoology, American Museum of Natural History; c/o Nameshi 2-33-2, Nagasaki 852-8061, Japan. E-mail: tyasunaga@amnh.org

Abstract

The phyline plant bug tribe Auricillocorini from Asia is reviewed; 23 species in 6 genera are shown to occur in the Indo-Pacific. A new genus, *Artchawakomius*, is proposed to accommodate two undescribed, morphologically novel species from Thailand. Nine new species are described from Japanese Ryukyus, Nepal or Thailand: *Artchawakomius moteus*, *A. pius*, *Cleotomiris miyamotoi*, *C. yamadakazi*, *Cleotomiroides tobii*, *Wygomiris kaliyaha*, *W. nanae*, *W. ramae* and *Zaratus hidekun*. Photographic images of living individuals are provided for all new species. The female genitalic structures, which have not been employed for classification of the Auricillocorini, are described and figured for six available species. *Wygomiris indochinensis* Schuh, known thus far only from Laos, is found also in Thailand; the female is reported for the first time. A checklist of Auricillocorini and a discussion on phylogenetic relationships for all known genera are provided.

Key words: Miridae, taxonomy, Phylinae, Auricillocorini, new genus, new species, Asia

Introduction

The plant bug tribe Auricillocorini of the subfamily Phylinae was proposed by Schuh (1984), comprising 14 species in 5 genera known principally from the Oriental Region (Schuh, 1995). The members of this tribe are considered basically as Sundaland elements and usually take ant-mimetic body form. Almost nothing is known about the biology, because almost all species were collected by light traps.

No taxonomic study has subsequently argued this compact but unique group since Schuh's work (1984). However, continuing field investigations by the author and his colleagues in several countries in Asia have produced about 100 additional specimens clearly belonging to Auricillocorini. These specimens were found to represent 10 species in 5 genera, including 9 undescribed species, two of which cannot be accommodated by any known genera.

This paper represents part of recent attempt to document the phyline plant bug faunas in Asia, subsequent to Duwal & Yasunaga (2008), Duwal *et al.* (2010), Yasunaga (2010, 2012), and Yasunaga & Schuh (2012) and treats new and little known taxa of the Auricillocorini. A new genus, *Artchawakomius*, is proposed to accommodate two undescribed, morphologically novel species from Thailand. Nine new species are described from Japanese Ryukyus, Nepal or Thailand: *Artchawakomius moteus*, *A. pius*, *Cleotomiris miyamotoi*, *C. yamadakazi*, *Cleotomiroides tobii*, *Wygomiris kaliyaha*, *W. nanae*, *W. ramae* and *Zaratus hidekun*. Female genitalia, which have not been applied to the classification of the Auricillocorini, are described and figured for six available species. Photographic images of living individuals are provided for all new species. *Wygomiris indochinensis* Schuh, which has been known only from Laos, is confirmed also to occur in Thailand; its female is reported for the first time. A checklist of all known taxa of the tribe is included. The phylogenetic relationships of all known genera in the tribe are discussed.