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Species of *Ammothereva* Lyneborg, 1984 (Diptera: Therevidae: Therevinae: Cyclotelini) from China

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Abstract

The genus *Ammothereva* Lyneborg, 1984 is recorded from China for the first time. Three species, *A. nuda* **sp. nov.**, *A. flavifemorata* **sp. nov.** and *A. brevis* **sp. nov.**, from Northwest China are described as new to science. A key to males of all species of *Ammothereva* is presented, along with a distribution map for the three Chinese species.

Key words: stiletto flies, Cyclotelini, *Ammothereva*, key, new species, China

Introduction

The genus *Ammothereva* Lyneborg, 1984, was erected for a group of 13 species, one as new, and the others as new combinations from *Psilocephala* Zetterstedt 1838, *Thereva* Latreille 1797 and *Neothereva* Kröber 1912 (currently a junior synonym of *Thereva*). Being distributed through the steppes, semi-deserts and deserts of the southern Palaearctic region, the presence of this genus in Northwest China, which shares the same dry climate with Middle Asia, is not unexpected. For the Cyclotelini, this is the second genus recorded for China, after Yang *et al.* (2003) described *Procyclotelus sinensis* Yang, Zhang & An, 2003 from Sichuan Province.

Lyneborg (1984) correctly predicted the possible relationship of *Ammothereva* with the New World genus *Ozodiceromyia* Bigot, 1890. Gaimari & Irwin (2000) placed the genus *Ammothereva* into the *Breviperna*-group of the tribe Cyclotelini in a phylogenetic analysis based on morphological characters. Holston *et al.* (2007) came to the same result in a broader phylogenetic analysis of Therevinae based on molecular data. The genus is the only Old World member of the *Breviperna*-group, and is one of three Old World genera of Cyclotelini. The key presented in Gaimari & Irwin (2000) separates *Ammothereva* from other therevids.

Lyneborg (1984) characterized the genus *Ammothereva* by the following features: male eyes touching or separated by a distance up to 3 times width of anterior ocellus; female frons of varying width, entirely pruinose, without distinct differently colored markings or calli; antenna inserted very low; first flagellomere usually wider than scape; antennal style two-segmented; palpus one-segmented; scutal chaetotaxy (pairs): *np* 3–5, *sa* 1–2, *pa* 1, *dc* 0–2, *sc* 2; macrosetae on thorax often pale; fore and hind femora usually with a few anteroventral setae; tergite 8 a transverse strip for a long distance at middle; inner gonocoxal process absent; gonostylus elongated, often very strong; distiphallus usually long, slender and strongly curved ventrally; dorsal apodeme connected to subepandrial sclerite by a membrane.

Lyneborg (1984) divided the genus *Ammothereva* into two distinct groups. The ***gussakovskiyi*-group** has the following characters: (a) prosternum bare, except in *A. mesasiatica* (Zaitzev, 1970), katapisternum and posterior surface of mid coxa bare; (b) outer gonocoxal process tapering evenly posteriorly; (c) some species with the lateral ejaculatory process present as a large sclerotized ring. The ***poecilopa*-group** has the following characters: (a) long white pile on prosternum, katapisternum and posterior surface of mid coxa; (b) outer gonocoxal process bifurcated