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A taxonomic review of the polymorphic assassin bug genus *Rihirbus* Stål (Hemiptera: Reduviidae: Harpactorinae)

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Abstract

Two species in the genus *Rihirbus* Stål are recognized, redescribed and illustrated. The diagnosis of the genus is slightly modified. The deposition information of Miller's type specimens is corrected. *Rihirbus trochantericus* Stål is newly recorded from Cambodia, Laos, Nepal, Thailand, and Vietnam. A key for the identification of species of *Rihirbus* is provided. The sexual dimorphism and polymorphism of this genus are briefly noted.

Key words: Reduviidae, *Rihirbus*, Miller's type specimens, Oriental Region

Introduction

The harpactorine genus *Rihirbus* was erected by Stål in 1861 for accommodation of *Rihirbus trochantericus* Stål. The members of this genus are easily distinguished from other harpactorines by their anterior tibiae with incurved apices and armed with a long tooth (Figs 1, 2, 4, 14, 15, 17). They are common species in tropical and subtropical forest ecosystems. The biology and behaviour of *Rihirbus trochantericus* has been reported by Bhat *et al.* (2013) and they suggested that this species is a potential biocontrol agent for suppression of the mosquito bugs, *Helopeltis* spp., a pest of cashew in India.

Eight specific names of this genus have been included in Maldonado-Capriles' (1990) catalogue: the type species of the genus *R. trochantericus* Stål, 1861, *R. sinicus* Hsiao & Ren, 1981, and another six names established by NCE Miller in 1941. As the species of this genus exhibit distinct sexual dimorphism and polymorphism, it is easy to misidentify the members. Miller described each of his species based on a single specimen and gave too much importance to the colour patterns as diagnostic characters, which can vary greatly in members of this genus. Based on Miller's descriptions, especially the figures, Cai & Yang (2002) synonymized all Miller's species with *R. trochantericus* Stål. In Miller's (1941) original descriptions, he mentioned that the type specimens of the species he described were deposited in the Federated Malay States Museums, except one species, and those data were cited by some other authors (e.g. Aukema *et al.* 2013). In our recent examination of reduviid types in The Natural History Museum, London we found all Miller's types of this genus and can confirm their synonymy with *R. trochantericus*. For the correct identification of the species in this genus, we redescribed the two valid species, correct the type information for Miller's species, slightly modified the diagnosis of the genus and briefly discuss the sexual dimorphism and polymorphism in the valid species.

Material and methods

This study is mainly based on the materials kept in the Natural History Museum, London (BMNH), Entomological Museum of China Agricultural University (CAU), China National Zoological Museum of Institute of Zoology,