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A new Asian genus of the tribe Elicini (Hemiptera: Fulgoromorpha: Tropicuchidae) with two new species from Vietnam

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Abstract

A new genus *Connelicita* **gen. nov.** with 2 new species (*C. backyensis* **sp. nov.** and *C. haiphongensis* **sp. nov.**) of Tropicuchidae Elicini from Vietnam are described and illustrated. The Chinese species *C. lungchowensis* (Chou et Lu, 1977) **comb. nov.** is transferred into this new genus from the genus *Sassula* (Nogodinidae). A key to species of the new genus distributed in North Vietnam and China (Guangxi) is provided.

Key words: Fulgoroidea, planthoppers, taxonomy, new taxa, Vietnam, China

Introduction

The tribe Elicini Melichar, 1915 was originally erected in the family Lophopidae Stål, 1866 for 6 genera as Elicaini Melichar, 1915 (sic) (Fig. 1). When Fennah (1978) reestablished the tribe Bladinini Kirkaldy, 1907 in the family Nogodinidae Melichar, 1898, he transferred them as a subtribe (Elicina) of nogodinid Bladinini with only 2 genera: *Elica* Walker, 1857 and *Conna* Walker, 1857. In Bladinini, he separated Elicina Melichar, 1915 from Gaetuliina Fennah, 1978 (with 10 genera) according to a more or less distal junction of Pcu and A1 in the clavus of the forewing. A few years later, Fennah (1984) recharacterized the nogodinid subtribe Gaetuliina and transferred 18 genera in it from the family Issidae Spinola, 1839. Finally, Gnezdilov (2013) rejected Fennah's separation of Elicina and Gaetuliina (Fennah, 1984) and synonymized the two subtribes in the Tropicuchidae Stål, 1866. Accordingly, this taxon was reevaluated and moved to the tribal rank in the subfamily Elicinae Melichar, 1915. Figure 1 presents a graphical summary of this historical review of Elicini since establishment by Melichar (1915) as provided by FLOW (Bourgoin, 2015).

Currently, the tropiduchid Elicini contains 29 genera and 123 species (Bourgoin, 2015) and it is widely but disjunctly distributed across all ecoregions of the globe, except in the Palearctic. In Asia, the tribe is represented by a few genera: *Elica* the type genus of the group, and *Conna* from Malaysia, *Indogaetulia* Schmidt, 1919 from Indonesia and Vietnam, and *Pucina* Stål, 1866 from India, Java and Australia. In the present paper, we describe a new Asian Elicini genus, *Connelicita* **gen. nov.** with two new species and to which we transfer one species previously described in the genus *Sassula* Stål, 1870 (Nogodinidae: Varciini—Fennah, 1978).

Material and methods

Material. The studied specimens belong to the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China (IZCAS), Tianjin Museum of Natural History, Tianjin, China (TMNH) and the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France (MNHN).