

Four new species of the genus *Coelotes* (Araneae: Amaurobiidae) from China

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Abstract

Four new Coelotinae species are reported: *Coelotes capacilimbus* spec. nov., *C. conversus* spec. nov., *C. indistinctus* spec. nov. and *C. introhamatus* spec. nov. A detailed description and illustrations of each new species are presented and differences with related species are discussed. A distribution map of all four new species is provided.

Key words: Taxonomy, Coelotinae, epigynum, pedipalpus, spider

Introduction

As one of the earth's 12 “mega-diverse” countries, China is taking the third place for biodiversity in the world and the first in the Northern Hemisphere (McNeeley et al. 1990). More than 30,000 species of advanced plants and 6347 species of vertebrates are recorded in China, representing 10 and 14 percent, respectively, of the world's total (State Environmental Protection Agency 1998). However, in spiders only 3101 species, 7 % of the known species of the world, were recorded in China based on a calculation by the present authors (data unpublished). This is mainly due to the short history of study on Chinese spiders, although the first Chinese spider taxonomist, Dr Wang Feng-Chen (1906–1978) started to study Chinese spiders in 1934. An intensive study on the taxonomy of Chinese spiders is expected in the future.

Coelotes is the most diverse spider genus in the Coelotinae. At present a total of 132 *Coelotes* species is known worldwide, among which 42 are recorded from China (Platnick 2006). However, the current genus *Coelotes* is not monophyletic, and further studies on the phylogeny of known *Coelotes* species will be necessary.