



Five new species of *Drymeia* Meigen from the Tibet Plateau, China (Diptera: Muscidae)

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Abstract

Five new species of *Drymeia* Meigen are described from China, namely *Drymeia naticerca* Xue & Xiang, sp. nov., *Drymeia nudiapica* Xue & Zhang, sp. nov., *Drymeia minutifica* Xue & Wang, sp. nov., *Drymeia spinicosta* Xue & Xiang, sp. nov., and *Drymeia pilifemorata* Xue & Wang, sp. nov. A generic diagnosis of *Drymeia* is given along with a key to the males of the 45 species of the genus presently known from China.

Key words: China, Diptera, Muscidae, *Drymeia*, New species

Introduction

The genus *Drymeia* was established by Meigen in 1826, with *Drymeia obscura* Meigen as the single included species. To date, 67 species have been described in the world, of which 40 occur in China. This paper brings the total number of species known from China to 45.

Drymeia is an essentially Holarctic genus. The Nearctic species have been listed by Hockett (1965a, 1965b) and the Palearctic species by Pont (1986). Since then, many species have been described from China, which have been summarized by Xue and Chao (1996). There are a few Oriental species (Pont 1977, 1981; Shinonaga & Singh 1994) and one Neotropical species (Carvalho *et al.* 2005), but the genus is otherwise absent from the Neotropical, Afrotropical and Australasian regions (Pont 1989).

The five new species described in this article are all found in the Qinghai-Xizang (Tibet) Plateau area of China, which is located between 27° and 35° north latitude and 75° and 103° east longitude. It covers an enormous area from the Pamirs and the Karakorum in the west to the Hengduan Mountains in the east, and from the Kunlun and Qilian Mountains in the north to the Himalayas in the south. Politically it consists of the Xizang (Tibet) Autonomous Region, the southern part of Qinghai and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the western part of Sichuan and northwestern part of Yunnan provinces. The major part of the Plateau rises to a height of 4000 metres above sea level, and because of the special features of its natural conditions it has also been termed “the third pole of the world”. The *Drymeia* species found on this plateau are mostly local species with restricted distributions, and are of a variety that fully reflects the unique geological, geographical and biological features of the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau. Although the eastern portion of the plateau has been treated by some authors as belonging to the Oriental Region because it resides in the provinces of Sichuan and Yunnan, the plateau as a whole has a typically Palearctic flora and fauna.