



## A review of the Oriental grassland leafhopper genus *Platyretus* Melichar (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae: Deltocephalinae)

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### Abstract

The genus *Platyretus* is redescribed and a key to the five included species is given. The new species described are *Platyretus brevipennis* Wu & Zhang sp. nov. (from China), *P. gangeticus* Viraktamath & Webb sp. nov. (from north India and China), *P. javanicus* Viraktamath & Webb sp. nov. (from Java) and *P. sudindicus* Viraktamath & Webb sp. nov. (from south India). The type species *P. marginatus* Melichar and the new species are described and illustrated along with a key to recognize them. *Platyretus pseudocinctus* Heller & Linnavuori and *Platyretus himalayanus* Distant are not treated as they are considered as not belonging in this genus. The former probably belongs to an undescribed deltocephaline genus and the latter is a member of Evacanthinae.

**Key words:** Homoptera, Auchenorrhyncha, new species, morphology, distribution

### Introduction

The leafhopper subfamily Deltocephalinae is the largest of the 40 subfamilies of the family Cicadellidae, constituting more than 5000 species in the world. The Deltocephalinae *sensu* Oman *et al.* (1990), are diverse and feed on a variety of plants including grasses, herbs, shrubs and trees. *Platyretus* Melichar, was described by Melichar (1903) with *Platyretus marginatus* Melichar as its type species from Sri Lanka. Later, five species in addition to *P. marginatus* were associated with the genus. These include *P. albosignatus* Distant (1918), *Platyretus cinctus* Melichar (1905), *P. connexus* (Distant, 1918), *P. himalayanus* Distant (1918), *P. pseudocinctus* Heller & Linnavuori (1968) and *P. tricolor* (Walker, 1851). However, some of these species have been removed from *Platyretus* to other genera - *P. albocinctus* to the genus *Scaphoideus* Uhler (Webb & Viraktamath, 2007), *P. connexus* to the Evacanthinae genus *Onukia* Matsumura (Rao, 1989), and *P. tricolor* along with its junior synonym *P. cinctus* to the genus *Nataretus* Theron (Theron, 1980). Examination of the male genitalia of *P. pseudocinctus* reveals that it too belongs to a new deltocephaline genus and that of *P. himalayanus* to the subfamily Evacanthinae. Thus the genus *Platyretus* at present is represented only by its type species.

During recent studies on Deltocephalinae of Asia, we came across four new species of *Platyretus* that adds India, China and Java to its Sri Lankan distribution. We describe these species in this paper along with the redescription and illustration of the male genitalia of the type species.

The abbreviations used for the institutions where the material used in this study is deposited are as follows.