



Review of the genus *Palaeothespis* Tinkham (Mantodea: Thespidae), with description of one new species

DE-YAN GE^{1,2,3} & XIANG-SHENG CHEN^{1,2,4}

¹Guizhou Key Laboratory for Plant Pest Management of Mountainous Region, Guizhou University, Guiyang, Guizhou Province, 550025 P. R. China

²Institute of Entomology, Guizhou University, Guiyang, Guizhou Province, 550025 P. R. China

³Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Science, Beijing, 10080 P. R. China

⁴Corresponding author. E-mail: chenxs3218@163.com

Abstract

The Chinese endemic genus *Palaeothespis* Tinkham, 1937 (Mantodea: Thespidae: Pseudomiopteriginae: Pseudomiopterigini), containing 4 species: *P. oreophilus* Tinkham, 1937 (Sichuan: Kangding), *P. pallidus* Zhang, 1987 (Guizhou: Leishan, Daozhen, Libo and Xishui; Yunnan: Lushui), *P. stictus* Zhou & Shen, 1992 (Guizhou: Leishan, Daozhen; Zhejiang: Longquan), and *P. leigongshanensis* Ge & Chen **n. sp.** (Guizhou: Leishan), is reviewed here. The main morphological characteristics of *P. leigongshanensis* Ge & Chen **n. sp.** are described and illustrated. A key to all species of *Palaeothespis* is provided.

Key words: Mantodea, Thespidae, *Palaeothespis*, new species, China

Introduction

The genus *Palaeothespis* was erected by Tinkham (1937) and *Palaeothespis oreophilus* Tinkham, collected from Szetschwan, Tatsienlu (Kangding County, Sichuan Province, China), was designated as the type of this genus. Zhang (1987) described the second species, *P. pallidus*, from Lushui County, Yunnan Province, and Zhou & Shen (1992) described the third species, *P. stictus*, from Fengyang Mountain Natural Reserve, Longquan County, Zhejiang Province. All three species of this genus have been described from the Oriental region, China.

Palaeothespis had been placed in the tribe Palaeothespini of the subfamily Thespininae by Tinkham (1937) for long time, subsequently it was placed in subfamily Miopteryginae of the family Mantidae by Wang (1993). Recently, it was placed in the subfamily Pseudomiopteriginae, family Thespidae (Ehrmann 2002; Otte & Spearman 2005). In agreement with Ehrmann, we also place it in the Pseudomiopteriginae, Thespidae.

The remarkable morphological characteristics of this genus can be listed as follows: body small and slender, head narrowly transverse with distinctive post-ocular humps, eyes oval, prominent. Antennae short in female, longer in male. Pronotum short with well defined supra-coxal expansions, surface of pronotum smooth in male, densely tuberculate in female, lateral margins with small denticles in male and strongly denticulate in female. Male with long narrow tegmina, which extend beyond the tip of abdomen; female apterous, wing pads fused to thoracic segments. Abdominal segments in male narrow with lateral sides parallel, while broad in female with central dorsal portion of segments 3 and 4 raised into a large erect lobe; segments 2 and 5 with somewhat smaller lobes. Fore-femora long and slender, with 4 discoidal spines, 4 external spines and 13 internal spines in male, 11 in female; fore tibiae with 4–7 external spines, 7–13 internal spines. The number of internal and external spines may be different on left and right sides of an individual.