



The identity of the oriental leafhopper genera *Cyrta* Melichar and *Placidus* Distant (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae: Stegelytrinae), with description of a new genus

CONG WEI^{1,2}, M.D. WEBB² & YALIN ZHANG^{1,3}

¹Key Laboratory of Plant Protection Resources and Pest Management, Ministry of Education, Entomological Museum, Northwest A & F University, Yangling, Shaanxi, 712100, China. E-mails: Congwei@nwsuaf.edu.cn; yalinzh@nwsuaf.edu.cn; the senior author was a visiting scholar of The Natural History Museum, London, UK, from March of 2006 to March of 2007

²Department of Entomology, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, South Kensington, SW7 5BD, London, UK.

E-mail: m.webb@nhm.ac.uk

³Corresponding author. E-mail: yalinzh@nwsuaf.edu.cn

Abstract

The identities of the Oriental leafhopper genera *Cyrta* Melichar and *Placidus* Distant are reviewed, and *Cyrta* is placed as a senior synonym of *Placidus*. The following new combinations and new species are proposed for *Cyrta*: *C. brunnea* (Kuoh) **comb. n.**; *C. dentata* (Zhang & Wei) **comb. n.**; *C. flosifronta* (Zhang & Wei) **comb. n.**; *C. furcata* (Li & Zhang) **comb. n.**; *Cyrta hornei* (Distant) **comb. n.**; *C. incurvata* (Wei & Zhang) **comb. n.**; *C. longwanshensis* (Li & Zhang) **comb. n.**; *C. nigrocupulifera* (Zhang & Wei) **comb. n.**; *C. orientalis* (Schumacher) **comb. n.**; *C. striolata* (Zhang & Wei) **comb. n.**; *C. testacea* (Kuoh) **comb. n.**; *C. vicina* (Dlabola) **comb. n.**; *C. tiantaishanensis* **sp. n.**; *C. spinosa* **sp. n.**; *C. conduplicata* **sp. n.**; *C. coalita* **sp. n.** and *C. fujianensis* **sp. n.** A new genus, *Paracyrta* **gen. n.**, is erected to accommodate the following species previously included in *Cyrta*: *P. blattina* (Jacobi) **comb. n.**; *P. recusetosa* (Zhang & Wei) **comb. n.**; *P. setosa* (Zhang & Sun) **comb. n.**; *P. banna* (Zhang & Wei) **comb. n.**; *P. bicolor* (Zhang & Wei) **comb. n.**; *P. longiloba* (Zhang & Wei) **comb. n.**; *P. dentata* (Zhang & Wei) **comb. n.**; *P. bimaculata* (Zhang & Sun) **comb. n.**; *P. parafrons* (Zhang & Wei) **comb. n.** A key is provided for the above species of *Cyrta* and the relationship between *Cyrta* and *Paracyrta* and other Oriental stegelytrine genera is given. The host plants and mud-puddling behaviour of the representatives of this subfamily are discussed.

Key words: Homoptera, Auchenorrhyncha, taxonomy, morphology, identification, new genus, new species, new synonym, new combination, mud-puddling

Introduction

The Oriental leafhopper genera *Cyrta* Melichar 1902 and *Placidus* Distant 1908 were formerly placed in Coeliinae but excluded by Nielson (1975) and unassigned by Oman *et al* (1990). They were revised recently by Zhang *et al* (2002) and Zhang & Wei (2002) respectively and placed in Stegelytrinae Baker (Wei & Zhang 2003). Stegelytrinae is a relatively small subfamily with its genera restricted to either the Palaearctic or Oriental regions. In addition, its Oriental members are remarkably diverse and were either only recently placed in the subfamily, being unassigned by Oman *et al* (1990), or have been recently described or revised (see Webb 1999; Wei & Zhang 2003; Wei *et al.* 2006a, 2006b; Zhang & Wei 2002; Zhang *et al.* 2002, 2004, 2006a, 2006b, 2007).

During recent identification work on species of *Placidus* Distant the misidentification of its type species, *P. hornei* Distant, was revealed (see Discussion). In the present paper we clarify the identity of this species (and that of its genus) from its unique type (BMNH), and also examine and figure for the first time the male