



Notes on the leafhopper genus *Cofana* Melichar (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae: Cicadellinae) from India with description of two new species

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Abstract

A review of the genus *Cofana* Melichar from India is presented. Seven valid species are recognized of which two species are described as new, namely, *C. bidentata* **sp. nov.** and *C. spiculata* **sp. nov.** *C. karjatensis* Ramakrishnan, is treated as synonym of *C. unimaculata* (Signoret). All species from the Indian subcontinent are re-described and illustrated and a key is provided.

Key words: Auchenorrhyncha, Cicadellini, Homoptera, morphology, taxonomy, South India

Introduction

The subfamily Cicadellinae includes some of the most economically important leafhoppers and includes more than 2400 species worldwide (Wilson and Turner, 2007). Young (1968, 1977, 1986) revised the world fauna of Cicadellinae and recognized two tribes: Proconiini, confined to the New World, and Cicadellini. The Old World Cicadellini include four large generic groups and the *Cicadella* generic group is more closely related to the New World genera.

Cofana, one of the genera in the *Cicadella* generic group, was established by Melichar (1926) with *Tetrigonia quinquenotata* Stål subsequently designated as its type species by China (1938). Ishihara (1971) established the genus *Yasumatsuus* with the type species *Kolla mimica* Distant, which is a misdetermination of *Cofana yasumatsui* Young. Later, Young (1979) suppressed this genus as junior synonym of *Cofana*. The genus *Cofana* is distinguished from related genera by the aedeagus lacking paraphyses and basal aedeagal processes and the hind wing lacking vein R₂₊₃ (Young, 1986). Young (1979, 1986) revised the genus and described 10 new species. Three species have been described following his revisions, namely, *C. karjatensis* Ramakrishnan (1985) from India, *C. karachiensis* Ara & Ahmed (1988) from Pakistan and *C. yukawai* Kamitani (Kamitani *et al.*, 2004) from Java, Indonesia. Of the 24 species recorded worldwide, seven species have been recorded from the Indian subcontinent – *C. karachiensis* (from Pakistan), *C. karjatensis* Ramakrishnan, *C. lineata* (Distant), *C. nigrilinea* (Stål), *C. spectra* (Distant), *C. subvirescens* (Stål) and *C. unimaculata* (Signoret). *Cofana* species may be commonly found in grass habitats and in rice fields and despite previous revisions there may still be problems in their identification. In this paper, *Cofana* species from the Indian subcontinent have been reviewed and illustrated, along with two new species, *C. bidentata* **sp. nov.** and *C. spiculata* **sp. nov.** *C. karjatensis* Ramakrishnan is treated as junior synonym of *C. unimaculata*. *C. karachiensis* Ara & Ahmed is treated as a *species inquirenda*. A revised key to species from the subcontinent is also given.