



A review of *Ulidia* Meigen (Diptera: Ulidiidae) from China

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Abstract

Five Chinese species of *Ulidia* Meigen, 1826 are reviewed, *U. gongjuensis* Chen **sp. nov.**, *U. kandybinae* Zaitzev, *U. xizangensis* Chen, **sp. nov.**, *U. sp. cf. erythrophthalma* Meigen, and *U. sp. near melampodia* Loew, 1873, of which two are newly described. A key to 8 species occurring in China and bordering countries (Mongolia and Kyrgyzstan) is provided.

Key words: Diptera, Ulidiidae, *Ulidia* Meigen, key, new species, China

Introduction

The genus *Ulidia* Meigen 1826 belongs to the tribe Ulidiini of the subfamily Ulidiinae (Kameneva & Korneyev 2006). It includes 17 described species widespread in the Palaearctic Region (Zaitzev 1982; 1984; Kameneva 2000, 2001), the majority are distributed in Central Asia, Near East and Mediterranean region. Zaitzev (1982) listed 5 species from Mongolia, China and former Soviet Middle Asia countries. Kameneva (2001) listed 5 species from Kyrgyzstan. Séguy (1934), Hennig (1940), Zaitzev (1982) and Kameneva (2008) keyed most species of this genus.

Ulidia species are mostly black-bodied, shining or subshining, often muscid-like flies with hyaline wings. Biology of this genus is almost unknown. The adults are common in late spring or early summer. They may be found on flowers frequently, but sometimes also on stones or bare patches of soil together with muscids (Kameneva, unpublished data). No larvae have ever been described.

Ulidia is usually difficult to be separated from *Timia* Wiedemann 1824. The differences used so far are mainly the following characteristics: the frons dimpled or smooth (but a few species assigned to both genera have dimpled frons), head and thorax microtrichose or bare (but some assigned to *Timia* have shiny and bare head and thorax) and parafacial wide or narrow (*Ulidia* species described here have parafacial wide, whereas most *Timia* have narrow parafacials). Neither comprehensive revisions nor phylogenetic analysis of *Ulidia* or *Timia* have been carried out, but apparently it needs to be done in future.

Until now, only two *Ulidia* species were reported from China (Zaitzev, 1982; Kameneva, 2001). In this study, two new species and *U. kandybinae* Zaitzev were confirmed, plus *U. sp. cf. erythrophthalma* Meigen, 1826 and *U. sp. near melampodia* Loew, 1873. All these species are described or briefly diagnosed, and which expected to occur in China is included in the key.

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