



The genus *Anastoechus* Osten Sacken, 1877 (Diptera: Bombyliidae) from China, with descriptions of four new species

GANG YAO¹, DING YANG^{1,3} & NEAL L. EVENHUIS²

¹Department of Entomology, China Agricultural University, Beijing 100193, China.

E-mail: likygang@gmail.com; dyangcau@yahoo.com.cn

²Department of Natural Science, Bishop Museum, 1525 Bernice Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-2704, USA

³Correspondence author

Abstract

Four new species of the genus *Anastoechus* from China are described and illustrated, namely: *Anastoechus candidus* sp. nov., *Anastoechus fulvus* sp. nov., *Anastoechus turriiformis* sp. nov., and *Anastoechus xuthus* sp. nov., and six previously known species are redescribed and illustrated, namely: *Anastoechus asiaticus* Becker, *Anastoechus aurecrinitus* Yang & Du, *Anastoechus chakanus* Du et al., *Anastoechus chinensis* Paramonov, *Anastoechus doulananus* Du et al., *Anastoechus neimongolanus* Du & Yang. A key to the species of the genus *Anastoechus* from China is given.

Key words. Diptera, Bombyliidae, Bombyliini, *Anastoechus*, new species, China

Introduction

The genus *Anastoechus* Osten Sacken belongs to the tribe Bombyliini of subfamily Bombyliinae (Evenhuis and Greathead, 1999). Larvae of this genus eat the eggs of locust. It is easily differentiated by the following features: wings usually small, narrowed at base with at least alula reduced, crossvein r-m close to base of cell dm, making two basal cells almost equal in length; palpi one jointed; body usually with long dense hairs (Greathead and Evenhuis, 1997). The genus *Anastoechus* includes 88 known species, of which 50 species are from the Palaearctic Region and four species are from the Oriental Region (Evenhuis and Greathead, 1999; Du et al. 2008). The following seven species are known to occur in China: *A. asiaticus* Becker, 1916; *A. aurecrinitus* Du & Yang, 1990; *A. chakanus* Du et al., 2008; *A. chinensis* Paramonov, 1930; *A. doulananus* Du et al., 2008; *A. neimongolanus* Du & Yang, 1990; *A. nitidulus* var. *hummeli* Paramonov, 1933.

In the present study four new species, *A. candidus* sp. nov., *A. fulvus* sp. nov., *A. turriiformis* sp. nov. and *A. xuthus* sp. nov., are added to the fauna of China. Six previously described species, *A. asiaticus* Becker, *A. aurecrinitus* Yang & Du, *A. chakanus* Du et al., *A. chinensis* Paramonov, *A. doulananus* Du et al., and *A. neimongolanus* Yang & Du, are redescribed and illustrated from freshly collected specimens. A key to the species of the genus *Anastoechus* from China is given.

Material and methods

Specimens examined were obtained from the Entomological Museum of China Agricultural University, Beijing (CAU); the Entomological Museum of Inner Mongolia Agricultural University (IMAU); the Entomological Museum of Inner Mongolia Normal University (IMNU), and the Entomological Museum of Nankai University (NKU).

The specimens were studied and illustrated with ZEISS Stemi 2000-c. Genitalic preparations were made by macerating the apical portion of the abdomen in cold 10% NaOH for 12–15 h. After examination and