



Article

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A new species of *Parabeloniscus* (Opiliones: Laniatores: Epedanidae) from China

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Abstract

The genus *Parabeloniscus* Suzuki, 1967, which was originally unique to Japan, is newly recorded from China by a new species: *Parabeloniscus corneus* **sp. nov.**, collected from leaf litter in Wuyi Mountain, Fujian Province, China. The new species is diagnosed among other characteristics by the free tergite II with a single lateral spine on each side; the free tergite III with a remarkable median spine; the femur, patella, tibia and metatarsus of leg IV with conspicuous rows of spines in male; and the penis with a horny stylus.

Key words: Arachnida, harvestmen, taxonomy, *Parabeloniscus*, new species

Introduction

Opilionids of the genus *Parabeloniscus* Suzuki are average-sized, with a body length of 2.24–4.37mm. They generally have enormously widened fourth coxae and all known species are endemic to the Japanese Archipelago (Suzuki 1973).

The genus *Parabeloniscus* was erected based on *Parabeloniscus nipponicus* Suzuki, 1967, from southern Japan, which is known only from the male holotype. Suzuki originally placed it in Phalangodidae: Phalangodinae Simon, 1879. Suzuki (1971) described one new species from the Ryukyu Islands, named *P. shimojanai* Suzuki, 1971 based on specimens of both sexes. During a comprehensive study of the Opiliones fauna of the South-west Islands, Japan, Suzuki (1973) redescribed this genus and added one new species, *P. caudatus* Suzuki (known from both sexes). Kury (1993, 2003) transferred *Parabeloniscus* to Epedanidae Sørensen, 1886 based on the morphology of the male genitalia.

While examining harvestman specimens collected from Wuyi Mountain, a National Nature Reserve located at the border between Fujian and Jiangxi provinces, South China, we found a *Parabeloniscus* species new to science, *P. corneus* **sp. nov.**, and describe it below.

Material and methods

Taxonomic methods follow the outline proposed by Acosta *et al.* (2007). The specimens were preserved in 75% ethanol, and examined and drawn under a Leica M165c stereomicroscope equipped with a drawing tube. Further details were studied using a compound microscope (Nikon YS100). The male genitalia were placed firstly in hot lactic acid, followed by distilled water to expand those parts for observation (Schwendinger & Martens 2002). The terminology of genitalic structures follows Macías-Ordóñez *et al.* (2010), Ubick & Briggs (2004), and Martens (1986). The type specimens were deposited in the Museum of Hebei University, Baoding, China (MHBU). All measurements are given in mm.

The following abbreviations are used in the text: DS, dorsal setae; Fo, follis; S, stylus; SD, sperm duct; SV, seminal vesicle; VP, ventral plate; VS, ventral setae.