



Three new species of the ant spider genus *Mallinella* Strand, 1906 (Araneae: Zodariidae) from China

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Abstract

Three new species of the genus *Mallinella* collected in southern China, are described: *M. oblonga* **sp. nov.** (male, female), *M. immaculata* **sp. nov.** (male), *M. langping* **sp. nov.** (male). *M. oblonga* **sp. nov.** and *M. immaculata* **sp. nov.** also occur in Thailand.

Key words: Araneae, Zodariidae, *Mallinella*, new species, China

Introduction

Specimens of the Ant Spider family Zodariidae are medium-size and represented by 75 genera and 897 known species mainly from Africa, Australia and Asia (Jocqué 1991; Platnick 2009). To date only 24 species out of five genera: *Asceua* Thorell, *Cydrela* Thorell, *Mallinella* Strand, *Strenomorpha* Simon, *Zodariellum* Andreeva & Tyschchenko (Song, Zhu & Chen 1999; Platnick 2009) have been found in China.

The genus *Mallinella* Strand, 1906 has a detailed diagnosis and description in Jocqué, 1991. Bosmans & Van Hove (1986) synonymised the genus *Suffucioides* Van Hove & Bosmans, 1984 with the genus *Langbiana* Hogg, 1922 which itself was shown to be a junior synonym of *Mallinella* by Jocqué (1991). Currently 69 *Mallinella* species are described, mostly from Africa, East Asia and Southeast Asia to Australia (Platnick 2009). Only 11 species are known mainly from southern China except *Mallinella hingstoni* (Brignoli, 1982) which is recorded from Xizang (Song, Zhu & Chen 1999).

During the examination of spider collections from southern China, three new species, *M. oblonga* **sp. nov.**, *M. immaculata* **sp. nov.**, *M. langping* **sp. nov.** were recognized and described here. *M. oblonga* **sp. nov.** and *M. immaculata* **sp. nov.** also occur in Thailand.

Material and methods

Terminology is standard for Araneae. All specimens were kept in 75% ethanol and examined, drawn and measured under a Tech XTL-II stereomicroscope equipped with an Abbe drawing device. Carapace length was measured from the anterior margin to the rear margin of the carapace medially. Eye sizes were measured as the maximum diameter in dorsal or frontal view. The measurements of legs are shown as total length (femur, patella, tibia, metatarsus, tarsus). The leg spination notation is standard for Araneae where possible. The epigyne was cleared in a warm solution of potassium hydroxide (KOH), transferred to water and temporarily mounted for drawing. All measurements are in millimeters. Type specimens are deposited in: the Museum of Hebei University (MHBU), Baoding, China; Muséum d'histoire naturelle, Genève, Switzerland