



Taxonomic notes on Physoderinae (Heteroptera: Reduviidae) from China

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Abstract

Species of the small reduviid subfamily Physoderinae from China are reviewed and two species are recognized in the genus *Physoderes* Westwood. *Physoderes esakii* is formally described for Esaki's (1931) *Epirodera latithorax* nom. nud. based on his unique specimen kept in the Entomological Laboratory of Kyushu University. *Physoderes impexa* Distant, 1903 is recorded for the first time from China with a detailed redescription. A key for these two species is also given.

Key words: Physoderinae, *Physoderes*, new species, China, new record

Introduction

Physoderinae is a small reduviid subfamily distributed worldwide, including 14 genera and 64 species (Miller 1954; Maldonado-Capriles 1990; Forero & Weirauch 2005; Weirauch 2006). This subfamily was erected by Miller (1954) and a revised diagnosis was published by Weirauch (2006). The largest genus, *Physoderes* Westwood, of this subfamily is mostly distributed in the Oriental Region. For the Chinese Physoderinae, only *Epirodera latithorax* was reported from Botol Tobago (Lanyu), Taiwan, as a name *in litteris* by Esaki (1931). Unfortunately, this species has never been described formally, and thus the name *E. latithorax* still remains unavailable.

Recently, we have an opportunity to study a small collection of Chinese Physoderinae housed in the Kyushu University and the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences. As a result, two species of *Physoderes* were recognized, including Esaki's species mentioned above and formally described here as *Physoderes esakii* sp. n. Another species is *P. impexa* (Distant 1903), so far known only from India and Burma (Myanmar). Until now, these are the only two species of Physoderinae in China.

Material and methods

This study is based on the materials kept in the insect collections of Kyushu University and the Zoological Institute, CAS. Male genitalia of the reduviids were soaked in hot 10% potassium hydroxide solution for approximately 5 minutes to remove soft tissue, rinsed in distilled water, and dissected under a Motic binocular dissecting microscope. All line drawings were traced with the aid of a camera lucida. Morphological terminology follows those of Lent and Wygodzinsky (1979) and Weirauch (2006). Measurements were obtained using a calibrated micrometer and are given in millimeters in the following text.

Taxonomy

Genus *Physoderes* Westwood

Physoderes Westwood 1846: 67; Kirkaldy 1900: 241; Miller 1954: 82; Maldonado-Capriles 1990: 379.

Epirodera Westwood 1847: 247; Stål 1874: 66; Distant 1904: 247. Synonymized by Kirkaldy 1900: 241.