



The emesine assassin bug genus *Empicoris* (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Reduviidae) from Vietnam, with descriptions of two new species

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Abstract

Five species of the reduviid genus *Empicoris* are recognized in Vietnam, including a previously recorded species *E. rubromaculatus* (Blackburn). Two species, *E. montanus* **sp. n.** and *E. laocaiensis* **sp. n.**, are newly described. *Empicoris minutus* Usinger and *E. tesselatoides* Wygodzinsky et Usinger are recorded from Vietnam for the first time. A key to the species of Vietnamese *Empicoris* is presented.

Key words: Emesinae, key to species, new record, Ploiariolini

Introduction

With approximately 80 described species, the worldwide genus *Empicoris* Wolff, 1811 is the most diverse in number of species within the tribe Ploiariolini of the assassin bug subfamily Emesinae (cf. Maldonado Capriles 1990; Putshkov & Putshkov 1996; Putshkov *et al.* 1999; Putshkov & Moulet 2009). Members of the genus share a particular resemblance to some mosquitoes at first glance, because of their small body, slender appendages, and black and white color pattern.

In Indochina, a faunal survey on *Empicoris* has been inadequate; *Empicoris rubromaculatus* (Blackburn) has been the sole species recorded from not only Vietnam (Tonkin, an olden name of northern Vietnam) but also in the Indochinese area prior to this present study (Putshkov & Moulet 2009). However, an increase in the number of *Empicoris* species is highly likely, because several species have been known to occur in east and southeast Asia such as China (four species; Putshkov & Putshkov 1996), Japan (twelve species; Ishikawa 2008), the Philippines (four species; McAtee & Malloch 1926), the Malay Peninsula (two species; McAtee & Malloch 1926), and Indonesia (five species; Ishikawa *et al.* 2007).

In the course of a recent field survey in northern Vietnam and an examination of emesine specimens preserved in the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, we recognized five species belonging to *Empicoris*. Three of these were *E. rubromaculatus*, *E. minutus* Usinger, and *E. tesselatoides* (McAtee and Malloch); the other two are undescribed. In this paper, we describe these two new species and record *E. minutus* and *E. tesselatoides* from Vietnam for the first time.

Material and methods

Dried specimens of each species were used. Male and female genitalia were soaked in hot 10% KOH solution for about five minutes, and later transferred to distilled water for further dissection. Observations were made under a stereoscopic microscope (Olympus SZ61) and an optical microscope (Olympus CH2). Photos were taken under a