Zootaxa 3641 (1): 049–056
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

Article

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
ZOOTAXA
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3641.1.5
http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:6A804C8E-47A4-4381-8363-5C9D7DF908E0

Description of *Alocobisium tibetense* sp. nov., representing the first record of the pseudoscorpion family Syarinidae (Arachnida: Pseudoscorpiones) from China

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Abstract

Alocobisium tibetense **sp. nov.** is described from Xizang Autonomous Region, representing the first record of Syarinidae from China. *Alocobisium rahmi* Beier, 1976 is re-described from type material and a key is given to the genus.

Key words: pseudoscorpion, *Alocobisium*, new species, new record, China

Introduction

The Chinese pseudoscorpion fauna is poorly known, only one review was provided by Schawaller in 1995 and other reports are isolated and scattered. Until now, only 75 species, in 34 genera and 10 families, have been reported from China (Jia *et al*, 2010; Zhao *et al*. 2011a, b), none of these belonging to the family Syarinidae Chamberlin, 1930. Syarinidae includes four subfamilies: Syarininae (occurring in North America, Europe and Tasmania); Chitrellinae (found in North America and Europe), Ideobisiinae (largely Cosmotropical distribution); and Arcanobisiinae (only in Spain). One genus, *Hyarinus* Chamberlin, 1925, remains unplaced (Harvey, 2011; Zaragoza, 2010). *Alocobisium* Beier, 1952 is a small genus of the subfamily Ideobisiinae, including six species, distributed from India to the Solomon Islands (Harvey, 2011). The pseudoscorpion fauna of southern China is presumably related to that of India, Thailand and Nepal. While examining pseudoscorpions collected from Xizang Autonomous Region, China, we found a few specimens of *Alocobisium*. After comparing them with the types of *Alocobisium rahmi* Beier, 1976 and the published descriptions of other *Alocobisium* species, we determined the Tibetan material to represent a new species, described here as *A. tibetense* **sp. nov.** This is the first member of the family Syarinidae found in China. Material from India previously recorded as *Alocobisium rahmi* Beier, 1976 was found to be wrongly identified.

We also re-describe *A. rahmi* here, based on the type material, and give a key to the species of *Alocobisium*.

Material and methods

The material was preserved in 75% alcohol. The pattern of description and terminology follow Chamberlin (1931), Harvey (1992) and Judson (2007). All measurements are given in millimeters. Drawings were made with the aid of a prism mounted above the eyepiece of a compound microscope. Photographs were taken with a Leica M165 stereomicroscope. The specimens used in this paper are deposited in the Natural History Museum of Basel, Switzerland and the Museum of Hebei University, China.

The following abbreviations are used in the text. Trichobothria: *b* = basal; *sb* = sub-basal; *st* = sub-terminal; *t* = terminal; *ib* = interior basal; *isb* = interior sub-basal; *ist* = interior sub-terminal; *it* = interior terminal; *eb* = exterior basal; *esb* = exterior sub-basal; *est* = exterior sub-terminal; *et* = exterior terminal. MHBU = Museum of Hebei University, China; NMB = Naturhistorisches Museum, Basel; SMF = Senckenberg Museum, Frankfurt; SMNS = Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart.

Accepted by M. Judson: 12 Mar. 2013; published: 22 Apr. 2013