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Taxonomic notes on *Pternoscirta pulchripes* Uvarov, 1925 (Orthoptera: Acrididae: Oedipodinae) with proposal of new synonyms in the genera *Flatoververtex* and *Mioscirtus*

JIANHUA HUANG^{1,5}, SERGEY YURIEVICH STOROZHENKO², BENYONG MAO³ & ZHEMIN ZHENG^{4,5}

¹Guangxi Key Laboratory of Rare and Endangered Animal Ecology, Guangxi Normal University, Guilin, Guangxi 541004, P. R. China

²Institute of Biology and Soil Science, Far East Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences, Vladivostok-22, 690022, Russia.

³College of Life Science and Chemistry, Dali University, Dali, Yunnan 671000, P. R. China

⁴College of Life Science, Shaanxi Normal University, Xi'an, Shaanxi 710062, P. R. China

⁵Corresponding authors. E-mail: caniscn@aliyun.com, zhengzhemin@hotmail.com

Abstract

Based on the examination of types and additional materials, the morphology of *Pternoscirta pulchripes* Uvarov, 1925 and *Flatoververtex* species were reviewed. As a result of our study, the genus *Flatoververtex* Zheng, 1981 was synonymized with the genus *Pternoscirta* Saussure, 1884, the species *Flatoververtex cyaneitibialis* Zhang & Han, 2010 was synonymized with *Pternoscirta caliginosa* (Haan, 1842), *Flatoververtex rufotibialis* Zheng, 1981 with *Pternoscirta pulchripes* Uvarov, 1925, and *Flatoververtex nigriritibialis* Zheng & Zhang, 2006 with *Mioscirtus wagneri wagneri* (Eversmann, 1859), respectively. *Mioscirtus varentzowi* Zubowsky, 1896 was considered as a junior synonym of *Mioscirtus wagneri wagneri* (Eversmann, 1849) but not that of *Mioscirtus wagneri rogenhoferi* (Saussure, 1888).

Key words: *Pternoscirta pulchripes*, *Flatoververtex*, *Flatoververtex cyaneitibialis*, *Flatoververtex rufotibialis*, *Flatoververtex nigriritibialis*, Acrididae, Orthoptera, new synonyms

Introduction

Pternoscirta pulchripes Uvarov, 1925 (Orthoptera: Acrididae: Oedipodinae) was originally described based on a single holotype male from Shuan-dang-chong, Yunnan Province, China. In the last monograph devoted to the Acridoidea fauna of Yunnan (Mao *et al.*, 2011), no material examined was identified as *Pternoscirta pulchripes* in spite of the long-time and broad-range collection of Acridoidea by the authors in Yunnan. Although the distribution record of the species was once expanded to Guangxi and Sichuan in some monographs (Zheng & Xia, 1994; Jiang & Zheng, 1998), no information on materials examined were provided by the authors. To confirm the distribution of the species in Sichuan and Guangxi, we searched the database of the specimens deposited in Insect Museum of Shanghai (formerly named as Shanghai Institute of Entomology, Academia Sinica), and retrieved ten records of *Pternoscirta pulchripes*. However, it was found after the examination of those specimens that all records were due to misidentification, six of them from Yunnan and Zhejiang were members of the genus *Heteropternis* Stål, one nymph from Sichuan was a member of a *Tristria* species, one nymph from Jiangsu was most likely a member of *Pternoscirta caliginosa* (Haan, 1842), and the remaining two from Guangxi should also belong to *Pternoscirta caliginosa* but with the color of the hind tibiae fading to pale yellowish. Fortunately, we did find nine specimens of *Pternoscirta pulchripes* among those identified as *Pternoscirta caliginosa*. All of the nine specimens were from Sichuan and evidenced the distribution of *Pternoscirta pulchripes* in this region. However, the distribution in Guangxi remains to be clarified in the future.

The genus *Flatoververtex* Zheng, 1981 was originally established to contain only a single member, i.e. the type species *Flatoververtex rufotibialis* Zheng, which was described based on a single male individual and the female of which was reported later by Wang & Yang (2005). The second species of the genus was described based on a single male individual from Xinjiang, China (Zheng *et al.*, 2006) and the third species was described from Leishan County, Guizhou (Zhang & Han, 2010).