



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3754.5.2>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org/pub:B6CBB2F4-B099-49ED-BAD9-31D3A579C0AF>

Four *Pseudopoda* species (Araneae: Sparassidae) from southern China

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Abstract

Four species of the genus *Pseudopoda* are recorded from southern China. Three new species are described: *Pseudopoda bicruris* sp. nov. (male, female; Hainan Province), *Pseudopoda mediana* sp. nov. (male, female; Hainan Province), *Pseudopoda tiantangensis* sp. nov. (male, female; Hubei Province). The female of *Pseudopoda lushanensis* (Wang, 1990) from Jiangxi Province is described for the first time.

Key words: taxonomy, biodiversity, systematics, huntsman spiders

Introduction

The genus *Pseudopoda* was established by Jäger (2000). It is exclusively distributed in southern, eastern and southeastern Asia (Platnick 2014; Jäger 2008). The species number of this genus has increased in recent times mainly by studies of Jäger, who described more than 90% of the species of this genus (Jäger 2000; Jäger 2001; Jäger & Yin 2001, Jäger 2002; Jäger *et al.* 2002; Jäger & Ono 2001, 2002; Jäger & Vedel 2005; Jäger *et al.* 2006; Jäger & Vedel 2007; Jäger 2008). China comprises two major zoogeographical zones, the species-poor Palearctic zone in northern China and the species-rich Oriental zone in southwest, south central and eastern China (Cumberlidge *et al.* 2011). Currently, a total of 98 *Pseudopoda* species are known, among which 37 species were recorded from China, most of them are distributed in the Oriental zone of China (Platnick 2014). In this paper, four *Pseudopoda* species are described from southern China.

Material and methods

Specimens were examined with an Olympus SZX16 stereomicroscope; details were further investigated with an Olympus BX51 compound microscope. All illustrations were made using an Olympus drawing tube. Male palps and epigynes were examined and illustrated after dissection from the spider bodies. Photos were made with a Canon G10 digital camera (14.7 megapixels) mounted on an Olympus SZX16 stereomicroscope. The digital images depicting the habitus and genital morphology were a composite of multiple images taken at different focal planes along the Z axis and assembled using the software package Helicon Focus 3.10. Left palps were depicted unless otherwise stated. The illustration of schematic course of internal duct system follows Jäger (2001). Most hairs and macrosetae were usually not depicted in the palp and epigyne drawings.

Leg measurements are shown as: total length (femur, patella, tibia, metatarsus, tarsus). Number of spines is listed for each segment in the following order: prolateral, dorsal, retrolateral, ventral (in femora and patellae ventral spines are absent and fourth digit is omitted in the spination formula).

Abbreviations: ALE—anterior lateral eyes; AME—anterior median eyes; AW—anterior width of prosoma; CH—clypeus height; Fe—femur; Mt—metatarsus; OL—opisthosoma length; OW—opisthosoma width; Pa—patella; PH—prosoma height; PL—prosoma length; PLE—posterior lateral eyes; PME—posterior median eyes;

with scattering reddish-brown spots. Cheliceral furrow with 3 anterior and 4 posterior teeth, and with ca. 32 denticles (Fig. 12A).

Copulatory organ as in diagnosis. Epigynal field wider than long, with trilobate anterior margin. Lateral lobes touching each other along a distance at the median line. Anterior margins of lateral lobes regularly curved. Copulatory openings split-shaped, located anteriorlaterally. Lateral loops of internal duct system visible through cuticle and appearing as broad “?” in ventral view. First windings short, with the the posterior parts not hidden behind lateral lobes (Figs 10D–F, 12B–C).

Distribution. China (Hubei) (Fig. 13).

Acknowledgements

We thank Mr Fengxiang Liu (College of Life Sciences, Hubei University) for providing Sparassidae specimens. The manuscript benefited from comments by Dr Peter Jäger (Senckenberg Forschungsinstitut, Germany), Dr Christoph Muster (Zoological Institute and Museum, University of Greifswald, Germany) and Jian Chen (College of Life Sciences, Hubei University). We are grateful to one anonymous referee for his comments on the manuscript. This study was financially supported by the National Natural Sciences Foundation of China (NSFC-31272268/31172113) and by Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden of Hong Kong.

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