



First record of the leafhopper genus *Soractellus* Evans, 1966 (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae: Deltocephalinae) from China, with description of a new species

JI-CHUN XING¹ & ZI-ZHONG LI^{1,2}

¹Institute of Entomology, Guizhou University; The Provincial Key Laboratory for Agricultural Pest Management of Mountainous Region, Guiyang, Guizhou, P.R. China, 550025. E-mail: xingjichun@126.com

²Corresponding author

Abstract

The genus *Soractellus* Evans, 1966 is reported for the first time based on a new species, *Soractellus jianfengensis* sp. nov., here described and illustrated from China. A key is given to distinguish all species of the genus. The type specimens of the new species are deposited in the Institute of Entomology, Guizhou University, Guiyang, China (GUGC).

Key words: Homoptera, morphology, taxonomy, distribution

Introduction

The leafhopper genus *Soractellus* was established by Evans (1966) with two species: *S. brunneus* and *S. nigrominutus* from Australia and with *S. brunneus* as its type species. It belongs to the tribe Paralimnini of subfamily Deltocephalinae (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae). Stiller (1998) mentioned that *S. nigrominutus* occurs throughout Central and North Africa, and the Oriental Region. Recently, Chalam & Rao (2005) recorded *S. nigrominutus* for the first time from India. Until now, there have been no further reports on this genus.

Here this genus is reported for the first time from Hainan Province, China and a new Chinese species, *Soractellus jianfengensis* sp. nov., is described and illustrated. The type specimens of the new species are deposited in the Institute of Entomology, Guizhou University, Guiyang, China (GUGC). This genus now contains three species. A key is given to separate all species.

Soractellus Evans, 1966

Soractellus Evans, 1966: 225

Type species: *Soractellus brunneus* Evans, 1966, by original designation.

Description. Yellowish-brown species. Head produced in front, slightly wider and longer than pronotum. Crown triangular, margin rounded to face. Eyes fairly large, ocelli on anterior margin, separated from eye by distance more than their own diameter. Frontoclypeus narrow, longer than width between eyes, anteclypeus slightly narrowed apically. Pronotum with sides short, anterior margin produced and posterior margin concave. Scutellum triangular, slightly shorter than pronotum, with transverse suture curved and depressed. Forewing with four apical cells and three subapical cells, apical cells sometimes with dark streaks, first two branches of vein R reflexed, appendix narrow.

Male genitalia. Pygophore slightly longer than high, with many stout setae medially, without processes. Valve large, subtriangular or triangular. Subgenital plate broad, with numerous setae arranged irregularly. Aedeagal shaft elongate, apex forked, gonopore near base of shaft on ventral margin. Connective loop-shaped with stem short or absent, articulated with aedeagus. Style with basal half wide, narrowing to middle, apical half narrow.

Remarks. *Soractellus* may be distinguished from other Paralimnini by the male pygofer side short and the aedeagal shaft elongate with the apex forked and the gonopore near the base.

Distribution. Australia, Africa, India, China.

Host. Grasses.

Type material. Holotype ♂, **China: Hainan Prov.**, Ledong County, Jianfeng Twon, Jianfengling, 11 July 2007, coll. Jichun Xing (GUGC). Paratypes: 1♀, same data as holotype; 2♀♀, **Hainan Prov.**, Ledong County, Jianfeng Twon, Jianfengling, 11 July 2007, coll. Qiongzhang Song (GUGC); 1♀, **Hainan Prov.**, Ledong County, Jianfeng Twon, Jianfengling, 12 July 2007, coll. Bin Zhang (GUGC).

Diagnosis. This new species is similar to *Soractellus nigrominutus* but the overall coloration is paler, the forewings are longer relative to the width, the valve is triangular, the apical branches of the aedeagal shaft are nearly 1/3 the total length of the aedeagus, the preapical lobe of the style is short and stout, and the shape of the connective and subgenital plate are also different.

Etymology. The species name is derived from the type locality Jianfeng.

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