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## **Revision of the genus *Acanthaspis* Amyot & Serville (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Reduviidae: Reduviinae) from China, with new records of species to adjacent countries**

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## Abstract

The assassin bugs of the genus *Acanthaspis* Amyot & Serville (Reduviinae) from China are revised. Fourteen species are recognized, described or redescribed and illustrated. Three species, *A. fulviconnexa*, *A. melanota*, and *A. octoguttata*, are described as new to science. *Acanthaspis subinermis* Hsiao 1976 is synonymized with *A. laoensis* Distant 1919. A key for the identification of Chinese species of *Acanthaspis* is provided. The biology of *A. cincticus* Stål is briefly noted. The following species are newly recorded from adjacent countries: *A. collaris* Hsiao from Laos and Thailand, *A. geniculata* Hsiao from Vietnam, *A. picta* Hsiao from Laos, Myanmar and Thailand, *A. quinquespinosa* (Fabricius) from Nepal, *A. ruficeps* Hsiao from Laos, Thailand and Vietnam, and *A. laoensis* Distant from Thailand.

**Key words:** Reduviidae, *Acanthaspis*, new species, new records, China, Oriental Region

## Introduction

Reduviinae is the second largest subfamily in family Reduviidae comprising about 1000 extant species in approximately 140 genera from all over the world (Putshkov & Putshkov 1985; Maldonado-Capriles 1990). *Acanthaspis* Amyot & Serville, 1843 is the second largest genus in Reduviinae, with about 110 valid known species, nearly 2/3 of them are distributed in the Oriental Region, and 1/3 of them in the Ethiopian (Maldonado-Capriles 1990).

Like the vast majority of reduviids, *Acanthaspis* species are generalist predators, usually occurring at the ground level, mainly found in hidden habitats, such as under stones, boulders and bark of fallen trees. Little published information is available on their preys. According to our observations on some species, they can feed on members of various insect orders and other arthropods. They are natural enemies of some agricultural and forestry pests, such as *A. pedestris* which can prey on some pests like the cotton bollworm *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hübner), the spotted bollworm *Earias fabia* (Stoll), the locust *Patanga succincta* (Linnaeus) and others (Ambrose & Sahayaraj 1991). Nymphs of some species of *Acanthaspis* have camouflaging behavior, disguising themselves with a cover of dusts, sands and soil particles, empty prey corpses and plant parts on their body surface, especially on the abdomen above, which is an interesting phenomenon of reduviid ethology (Cai *et al.* 2002; Weirauch 2006). Some species are specifically associated with ants and termites and exhibit camouflage behaviour (Odhambo 1958a, b; Brandt & Mahsberg 2002).

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