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First Indochinese records of the plant bug genus *Hypseloecus* Reuter (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Miridae: Phylinae: Pilophorini), with descriptions of eight new species from Thailand

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Abstract

The phylinae plant bug genus *Hypseloecus* Reuter is reported from Thailand as well as the Indochina region for the first time, diagnosed, and discussed on its phylogenetic position. Eight new species, *Hypseloecus castaneus*, *H. katrinae*, *H. nigrobrevis*, *H. phuvasae*, *H. sakaerat*, *H. schuhianus*, *H. sericosagus* and *H. siamensis*, are described, all with color photographic images of live individuals. Four species were confirmed to be associated with inflorescence and/or fruits of Loranthaceae mistletoe (Santalales), particularly *Scurrula* spp. in Thailand. A checklist of Asian and New Guinean congeners and a key to Asian species (from Japan, Indochina and Philippines) are provided.

Key words: Miridae, taxonomy, Phylinae, Pilophorini, *Hypseloecus*, new species, Thailand, Indochina, Oriental, host, biology, Loranthaceae, Santalales

Introduction

The phylinae plant bug genus *Hypseloecus* Reuter is currently composed of 24 nominal species (Schuh, 2002–2014) from the Old World tropics and subtropics. Majority of these members are known to occur in Afrotropical and Australian zoogeographical regions. Three species are known from New Guinea, but only two species, *H. ifugao* (Schuh) (Luzon, Philippines) and *H. takahashii* Yasunaga (Ryukyus, Japan), are documented from Asia (Schuh, 1984; Yasunaga, 2001a, b).

Recently, Schuh & Menard (2011) described ten species from Australia and South Africa, and suggested that the members of *Hypseloecus* are uniquely Santalalean-feeders. During continuing investigations in central Thailand, the authors have collected several specimens belonging to this genus, using light traps, whereas more individuals have been found from flowers or fruits of the Loranthaceae mistletoe (Santalales), the host group indicated by Schuh & Menard (2011). These accumulated Thai materials of *Hypseloecus* have been unequivocally confirmed to represent at least eight undescribed species, and, therefore, we describe them in this paper, with clear photographic images of live individuals. The present report provides the first distributional records of this unique genus from the Indochina, and expands the distribution range of *Hypseloecus* into the mainland of the Oriental Region. The genus *Hypseloecus* is diagnosed and discussed. A checklist of Asian and New Guinean members and a key to ten known Asian species are provided.

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