



Theclini butterflies from Weixi, China, with description of two new species (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae)

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Abstract

Thirteen species belonging to nine genera of the tribe Theclini are recorded from Weixi county, Yunnan province, China. Among which *Noseozephyrus* Koiwaya and *Shirozuozeephyrus kirbariensis machimurai* Koiwaya are reported as a new record genus and a new record species for China, respectively, and two new species, *Noseozephyrus lisus* **sp. n.** and *Shirozuozeephyrus fibonacci* **sp. n.**, are described. All the species and their male genitalia are illustrated. A key for the genus of *Shirozuozeephyrus* is provided.

Key words: China, Hengduan Mountains, new record, *Noseozephyrus*, *Shirozuozeephyrus*, taxonomy, *Zephyrus*

Introduction

The *Zephyrus* hairstreaks is a group of beautiful and attractive butterflies for their brilliantly shining wings with various metallic color, such as metallic green, blue, purple, orange, silvery white and others, so it was called “living jewels”, enchanting many naturalists, lepidopterists, and amateurs (Shirôzu & Saigusa 1980).

The tribe Theclini referred to *Zephyrus* of Lycaenidae proposed by Swainson (1827) is mainly distributed in East Asia, especially China and its neighboring countries. This group is morphologically defined by fore wing vein 8 absent, 9 divergent from 7, and 7+9 derived from 6 or upper angle of cell stalked with 6 only basally, and male genitalia with sclerotized juxta, as well as univoltine life history (overwintering in the egg stage), feeding arbores except for the genus *Shirozua* Sibatani et Ito (Koiwaya 2007).

The northwest of Yunnan belonging to Hengduan Mountains region is characterized by high mountains and deep valleys. Three great rivers of China and Southeast Asia, Jinsha, Lancang and Nujiang, in the southwestern part of the Hengduan Mountains region, are flowing into deep parallel valleys separated by mountain ranges, so it's also called “Three Parallel Rivers”, and have been listed as one of the most important global biodiversity hotspots (Myers *et. al.* 2000).

Twenty seven species of this group were recorded from the northwest of Yunnan, which represent 3/4 of all the species of the tribe from Yunnan (Koiwaya 2007). Weixi Lisu Autonomous County (26°53' N~28°02' N, 98°54' E~99°34' E) (Fig. 1) is located in the hinderland of “Three Rivers Flow”, with a particularly rich species and many unknown species for incomplete survey. So from 2013 to 2014, we carried survey on Lepidoptera there (Fig. 1), after identifying the specimens, thirteen species belonging to nine genera of the tribe Theclini were confirmed, including a genus and species newly recorded for China, as well as two new species which will be described herein.

Material and methods

Specimens were collected by net in daytime and photos of adults were taken by a Nikon Coolpix 4500 digital camera. Male genitalia were dissected and mounted on slides. Illustrations of male genitalia were examined and