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The discovery of the genus *Protodacnusa* Griffiths, 1964 (Hymenoptera: Braconidae, Alysini) in China, with descriptions of six new species

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Abstract

The genus *Protodacnusa* Griffiths, 1964 (Braconidae: Alysini: Dacnusi) is newly recorded from China with six new species being described, namely *Protodacnusa defectivus* sp. nov., *P. dimorphus* sp. nov., *P. helanensis* sp. nov., *P. longicaudatus* sp. nov., *P. magnidentis* sp. nov. and *P. nigra* sp. nov. A key to the species of *Protodacnusa* worldwide is provided.

Key words: Dacnusi, parasitoid, taxonomic key, Palearctic, Oriental, *Agromyza*

Introduction

Protodacnusa Griffiths, 1964 is a small genus of the tribe Dacnusi in the subfamily Alysini of Braconidae (Hymenoptera). Up to now only 12 species of this genus have been described worldwide, all of which are from the Palearctic region (Yu *et al.* 2012). The biological data for *Protodacnusa* species are rather meager. We only know the host of a single species, *P. tristis* (Nees), which is a parasitoid of *Agromyza* sp. (probably *ambigua* group) (Griffiths, 1964).

Here we describe and illustrate six new species. One of them, *P. magnidentis* sp. nov. is from Fujian province, China (Oriental region), whereas the others are from Inner Mongolia and Qinghai provinces (Palearctic region). It represents the first record of this genus both for China and the Oriental region. A key to all species of the genus *Protodacnusa* is given.

Material and methods

This study is based on specimens preserved in the Parasitic Hymenoptera Collection of the Institute of Insect Sciences, Zhejiang University (ZJUH), which began in the 1920s and contains about one million specimens.

The terminology and measurements used follow van Achterberg (1993). All descriptions and measurements were made under a Leica MZ APO microscope, and all photographs were made by a KEYENCE VHX-2000 digital camera.

Protodacnusa Griffiths, 1964

Protodacnusa Griffiths, 1964: 823; Maeto, 1983: 250; Tobias & Jakimavicius, 1986: 352; Tobias, 1998: 315; Papp, 2004: 265; 2005: 244; 2009: 160.

Type species: *Alysia tristis* Nees, 1834.

Diagnosis. Head large, width of head in dorsal view greater or equal across eyes and temples. Frons, vertex and