

BOOK REVIEW

Chen X.-S., Zhang Z.-G. & Chang Z.-M. Issidae and Caliscelidae (Hemiptera: Fulgoroidea) from China. Guizhou Science and Technology Publishing House, Guiyang, 2014. 242 p. ISBN 978-7-80662-979-6

The families Issidae Spinola and Caliscelidae Amyot et Serville belong to the "higher Fulgoroidea" *sensu* Shcherbakov (2006), which have attracted the attention of many taxonomists during last 20 years because of controversies over family relationships among this group (Gnezdilov, 2013a). From this aspect, the inventory of regional faunas is very important, and particularly the revision of our knowledge on Eastern Palaearctic and Indo-Malayan biodiversity. In recent years, much has been discovered concerning the Chinese fauna of Issidae and Caliscelidae thanks to the publications of Chinese taxonomists.

The current monograph by Chen with coauthors is the second published book on Chinese Issidae and Caliscelidae, after the excellent monograph by Chan and Yang (1994) on the fauna of Taiwan. This new monograph is entitled "Issidae and Caliscelidae from China", but it does not review Chinese fauna of these planthopper families. Instead it is a guide to the collection of Issidae and Caliscelidae deposited in the Institute of Entomology of Guizhou University. This monograph considers 26 genera and 61 species of Issidae, and 5 genera and 13 species of Caliscelidae. Among these, four genera and 20 species are described as new and one genus and one species are recorded for the first time from China. This number of taxa included is far from covering Chinese fauna in totality. Thus, the table in the introduction of the book lists 143 species of Issidae and 20 species of Caliscelidae known from China before this publication.

The monograph is supplied with chapters on general taxonomy, morphology and ecology of the families, with keys to the in-

cluded subfamilies, tribes, genera, and species and long English summary. For every species, a description, material examined, data on distribution (with maps for genera), remarks and notes (if necessary), etymology (for new taxa), color photos of external views and drawings of male genitalia (sometimes female genitalia as well) are provided.

The main positive aspect of this book is comprehensive illustrative material – every species is illustrated by five photos of high quality: total dorsal and lateral views, and three aspects of the head (dorsal, ventral, lateral), thus the book is particularly useful as a field guide. However, I have to mention several important critical points as follows:

1. In the general taxonomic part (pages 6–9) the tribe Colpopterini Gnezdilov, 2003 is treated as the member of the family Issidae. However this taxon was upgraded to subfamily rank and transferred from the Issidae to the family Nogodinidae Melichar (Gnezdilov, 2012). On the other hand the subfamily Caliscelinae Amyot et Serville is treated as including just the tribe Caliscelini despite of the work by Emeljanov (2008) who erected the tribe Peltonotellini and recently the modern classification for the family Caliscelidae including this tribe was published by Gnezdilov (2013b).

2. The drawings of male genitalia are not detailed. They may be useful for identification of the species, but hardly useful for morphological and phylogenetic studies.

3. The authors did not explain their opinion on the validity of *Hemisphaerius testaceus* Distant, 1906 and ignored the synonymy of this species with *Hemisphaerius rufovarius* Walker, 1858 proposed by Liang (2001).

4. *Hemisphaerius signifer* Walker is missed in the Index and the paper by Gnezdilov (2011) cited in the text is missed in the References.

5. The species incorrectly identified by the authors as *Caliscelis affinis* (Fieber, 1876) apparently is *Caliscelis zarudnyi* Mitjaev, 1971.

6. The Index does not include the pages for the English summary.

7. There are several misprints: page 1 (introduction) – Caliscelides should be changed to Caloscelides; p. 1 – *Fitehiella* should be changed to *Fitchiella*; p. 1 – *Dietyobia* should be changed to *Dictyobia*; p. 2 – Malenovsky should be changed to Malenovský; p. 2 – Parahiracinae should be changed to Parahiraciinae; p. 6 – *Nenasa oblique* should be changed to *N. obliqua*; p. 30 and 184 – Servill should be changed to Serville; p. 67, 69, and 193 – *Mongoliana chilochorides* should be changed to *Mongoliana chilocorides* (same misprint in the Index, p. 240); p. 76 – *Gergithus triangularis* should be changed to *Mongoliana triangularis* (same misprint in the Index, p. 242); p. 80 – *Hemisphaerius sinifer* should be changed to *H. signifer*; p. 85 – *Neotericodes* should be changed to *Neotetricodes*; p. 123 – *Pseudochoutagus* should be changed to *Pseudochoutagus*; p. 159 and 221 – *Bambusicaliscelis fanjingshanensis* should be changed to *B. fanjingensis*; p. 161 – *Bambusicaliscelis fanjingshanensis* should be changed to *B. dentis*; p. 204 – *Neodurium hamatus* should be changed to *Neodurium hamatum*; p. 1 and 235 – O'Brien should be changed to O'Brien; p. 1 and 236 – Soos should be changed to Soós.

Despite of mentioned of the above mistakes, this monograph should be treated as a good first attempt to provide an illustrative and identification guide to planthoppers of the families Caliscelidae and Issidae of China, a country with very rich and diverse fauna, and I hope that next time the authors will be more careful and critical with the material they are studying and pay more attention to the quality of their publication.

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V.M. Gnezdilov

Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, 1 Universitetskaya Emb., St Petersburg 199034, Russia. E-mail: vmgnezdilov@mail.ru, vgnездilov@zin.ru

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