

Contribution to the knowledge of Chinese Phasmatodea XIV: An updated checklist of stick and leaf insects (Phasmatodea) from Hong Kong

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ABSTRACT

An updated checklist of the stick and leaf insects in Hong Kong is provided. The list includes a total of six families, seven subfamilies, 20 genera, eight tribes, and 22 species. An assessment of local restrictedness is given. Additionally, this paper reports two new records of stick and leaf insects, namely *Scionecra pseudocerca* (Chen & He, 2008) and *Cryptophyllum parum* (Liu, 1993), in Hong Kong. Furthermore, a new combination is proposed for *Paramenexenus balteatus* (Chen & He, 2002) **comb. nov.**, which has been transferred from *Lopaphus* Westwood, 1859.

Key words: stick insects, leaf insects, checklist, new records, new combination, Hong Kong

中國螞蟥目之新知XIV：香港竹節蟲及葉蟲名錄更新（螞蟥目）

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摘要：本文提供香港竹節蟲及葉蟲的更新名錄及本地分佈局限性；報導二新紀錄種：擬尾突臀螞蟥 *Scionecra pseudocerca* (Chen & He, 2008)及同隱葉螞蟥 *Cryptophyllum parum* (Liu, 1993)；並建議一新組合：粒帶齒臀螞蟥 *Paramenexenus balteatus* (Chen & He, 2002) **comb. nov.**。

關鍵字：竹節蟲，葉蟲，名錄，新紀錄，新組合，香港

INTRODUCTION

The first taxonomic study on the Phasmatodea of Hong Kong was conducted by Brock and Seow-

Choen (2000), documenting a total of nine different species. Following their research, two new species were described: *Maculonecrosia shukayi* (Bi, Zhang & Lau, 2001) and *Planispectrum hongkongense* Zompro, 2004, both found in Hong Kong (Bi, Zhang and Lau, 2001; Zompro, 2004). Subsequently, Ho (2013a) published a comprehensive study on the taxonomy and ecology of stick insects in Hong Kong, identifying a total of 18 distinct species. Furthermore, Ho (2013b, 2017a, b) described two new species, namely *Entoria hei* Ho, 2013 and *Parasinophasma laifanae* Ho, 2017, and also documented the first record of *Neososibia brevispina* Chen & He, 2000 in Hong Kong. Additionally, Lau (2019) provided a taxonomic list of the Phasmatodea of Hong Kong.

In this paper, two new species records, *Scionecra pseudocerca* (Chen & He, 2008) and *Cryptophyllum parum* (Liu, 1993), are reported from Hong Kong (Figs. 1-2). A new combination has been suggested for *Paramenexenus balteatus* (Chen & He, 2002) **comb. nov.**

MATERIALS & METHODS

The systematic treatment is according to Otte and Brock (2005), Bradler et al. (2014), Robertson et al. (2018), Simon et al. (2019), Bank and Bradler (2022), Brock and Büscher (2022), and Brock et al. (2024). The assessment of local restrictedness is based on the author's unpublished survey data from 2007 to 2023, using the method proposed by Fellowes et al. (2002). Records of photos on iNaturalist were also considered until 1 April 2024. The distribution is based on Chen and He (2008), Hennemann et al. (2008) and Ho (unpub. data).



Figure 1. *Scionecra pseudocerca* (Chen & He, 2008), adult male, Aberdeen, Hong Kong. Photo by author.



Figure 2. *Cryptophyllum parum* (Liu, 1993), adult male, Ma On Shan, Hong Kong. Photo by author.

RESULTS

A total of six families, seven subfamilies, 20 genera, eight tribes, and 22 species of stick and leaf insects are currently known in Hong Kong. The faunal systematics and local restrictedness are listed in Table 1. Two species, namely *Parasinophasma laifanae* Ho, 2017 and *Entoria hei* Ho, 2013, are considered to be endemic to Hong Kong and are currently only found in this region. The former species is restricted to one locality. A total of 13 species (59%) have been categorised as E and are known to occur in 17 to 32 localities. Six species [*Cryptophyllum parum* (Liu, 1993), *Dajaca napolovi* Brock, 2000, *Neososibia brevispina* Chen & He, 2000, *P. laifanae*, *Scionecra pseudocerca* (Chen & He, 2008), and *Sinophasma mirabile* Günther, 1940], have been categorised as A to C. These species are known to occur in fewer than five localities, where they exist in small numbers.

Two newly discovered species, *Scionecra pseudocerca* (Chen & He, 2008) and *Cryptophyllum parum* (Liu, 1993), have been identified in Hong Kong for the first time. *S. pseudocerca* is currently known in Guangdong, Hainan, and Hong Kong (found in Aberdeen and Ma On Shan), while *C. parum* is currently known in Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Hong Kong (found in Ma On Shan and Tai Mo Shan), and Shenzhen (Chen and He, 2008; Ho, unpub. data). The latter species also represents the first record of the family Phylliidae Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1893, the subfamily Phylliinae Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1893, the tribe Phylliini Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1893, and the genus *Cryptophyllum* Cumming et al., 2021 from Hong Kong.

An updated taxonomic classification has been proposed for *Paramenexenus balteatus* (Chen & He, 2002) **comb. nov.** (originally described in Chen et al., 2002), and this suggestion is supported by a recent phylogenetic study (Bank and Bradler, 2022). In fact, *P. balteatus* **comb. nov.** is characterised by the absence of wings, the elongate body, the unarmed head, the marginally tuberculate thorax, and the presence of small subapical serrations on the anteroventral and posteroventral carinae of mesofemora and metafemora in both sexes, as well as the elongate micropylar plate on the oval egg capsule. These characteristics align with the generic features of *Paramenexenus* Redtenbacher, 1908.

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

Stick and leaf insects are nocturnal animals and can be difficult to find during the day. This study documents 22 species, but the actual number may be underestimated due to undiscovered species. Some species, specifically *Marmessoidea bispina* (Redtenbacher, 1908), *Necroscia multicolor* (Redtenbacher, 1908), and *Sipyloidea biplagiata* Redtenbacher, 1908, are widely distributed in southern China and have been recorded in Guangdong. Given the similar zoogeographical relationship, flora composition, and subtropical climate that Hong Kong shares with Guangdong, particularly in

the southern region, it is possible to find these species in Hong Kong by conducting more extensive surveys

Stick and leaf insects are herbivores and primarily inhabit well-wooded habitats, with a few species found in grassy or/and shrubby habitats. Despite Hong Kong being a small and urbanised place, covering 1,114m², about 40% of the region is made up of various natural habitats designated as Country Parks or Special Areas. Consequently, these well-preserved areas have a rich species diversity of the stick and leaf insects compared to neighbouring regions (Ho, 2013a, 2016) and can provide a vital refuge and protection for these species and other insect fauna. Conversely, there are certain species populations that exist outside the boundaries of Country Parks or Special Areas, leaving them vulnerable and unprotected. For example, small populations of *Entoria hei* have been found on Po Toi Island and Lamma Island. These species face threats from activities like clearing vegetation, constructing concrete structures, and degrading the landscape, which leads to the loss of their natural habitats. It is imperative that further actions be implemented to protect these areas, potentially by designating them as Country Parks or Protected Areas to halt any further destruction of their habitats.

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TABLE

Species	Local Restrictedness#	Distribution*
Aschiphasmatae Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1893 柄翅蠊科		
Aschiphasmatinae Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1893 柄翅蠊亞科		
Dajacini Bragg, 2001 爬蠊族		
<i>Dajaca</i> Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1893 爬蠊屬 (= <i>Nanhuaphasma</i> Chen, He & Li, 2002)		
<i>Dajaca napolovi</i> Brock, 2000 暗斑爬蠊 (= <i>Nanhuaphasma hamicerum</i> Chen & He, 2002)	C	HK, SZ, GX, HN, also VN
Bacillidae Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1893 桿蠊科		
Pachymorphinae Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1893 短角棒蠊亞科		
Gratidiini Cliquennois, 2004 閣蠊族		
<i>Macellina</i> Uvarov, 1940 瘦蠊屬 (= <i>Macella</i> Stål, 1875)		
<i>Macellina souchongia</i> (Westwood, 1859) 索康瘦蠊	F	HK, MC, SZ, CQ, FJ, GD, GX, GZ, HN, HuN, FJ, JS, SC, SD, ZJ
Heteropterygidae Kirby, 1896 異翅蠊科		
Dataminae Rehn & Rehn, 1939 瘤蠊亞科		
Datamini Rehn & Rehn, 1939 瘤蠊族		
<i>Orestes</i> Redtenbacher, 1906 異瘤蠊屬		
<i>Orestes guangxiensis</i> (Bi & Li, 1994) 廣西異瘤蠊 (= <i>Pylaemenes hongkongensis</i> Brock & Seow-Choen, 2000)	F	HK, MC, SZ, FJ, GD, GX, JX, also VN
<i>Planispectrum</i> Rehn & Rehn, 1939 扁蠊屬 (= <i>Platymorpha</i> Redtenbacher, 1906; = <i>Platyphasma</i> Uvarov, 1940)		
<i>Planispectrum hongkongense</i> Zompro, 2004 香港扁蠊	F	HK, SZ
Lonchodidae Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1893 長角棒蠊科		
Lonchodinae Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1893 長角棒蠊亞科		
Lonchodini Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1893 長角棒蠊族		
<i>Phraortes</i> Stål, 1875 皮蠊屬		
<i>Phraortes stomphax</i> (Westwood, 1859) 雙角皮蠊 (= <i>Dixippus cornutus</i> Kirby, 1896)	F	HK, SZ, GD
Necrosiinae Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1893 長角枝蠊亞科		
Necrosiini Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1893 長角枝蠊族		
<i>Huananphasma</i> Ho, 2013 華南蠊屬		
<i>Huananphasma amica</i> (Bey-Bienko, 1959) 友善華南蠊 (= <i>Marmessoidea viridescens</i> Chen, He & Chen, 2000; = <i>Sipylodea peelensis</i> Brock & Seow-Choen, 2000)	F	HK, SZ, FJ, GD, GX, HN, HuN, JX
<i>Maculonecrosia</i> Seow-Choen, 2016 斑角臀蠊屬		
<i>Maculonecrosia shukayi</i> (Bi, Zhang & Lau, 2001) 樹基斑角臀蠊 (= <i>Necrosia ovata</i> Chen & He, 2008)	F	HK, SZ, GD, GX, JX, XZ, YN, also VN
<i>Micadina</i> Redtenbacher, 1908 小異蠊屬		
<i>Micadina yingdeensis</i> Chen & He, 1992 英德小異蠊	E	HK, SZ, GD, GX, HuN, JX
<i>Neohirasea</i> Rehn, 1904 新棘蠊屬 (= <i>Paracentema</i> Redtenbacher, 1908)		
<i>Neohirasea hongkongensis</i> Brock & Seow-Choen, 2000 香港新棘蠊	F	HK, SZ, GD
<i>Neososibia</i> Chen & He, 2000 新健蠊屬		
<i>Neososibia brevispina</i> Chen & He, 2000 短刺新健蠊	A	HK, GD, JX
<i>Paramenexenus</i> Redtenbacher, 1908 齒臀蠊屬		
<i>Paramenexenus balteatus</i> (Chen & He, 2002) comb. nov. 粒帶齒臀蠊	F	HK, SZ, GD, GX, HN, HuN
<i>Parasinophasma</i> Chen & He, 2008 副華枝蠊屬		
<i>Parasinophasma laifanae</i> Ho, 2017 麗芬副華枝蠊	A	HK
<i>Planososibia</i> Seow-Choen, 2016 扁健蠊屬		
<i>Planososibia truncata</i> (Chen & Chen, 2000) 截臀扁健蠊	F	HK, SZ, FJ, GD, HN, HuN, JX, YN, ZJ
<i>Scionecra</i> Karny, 1923 突臀蠊屬		
<i>Scionecra pseudocerca</i> (Chen & He, 2008) 擬尾突臀蠊	B	HK, GD, HN
<i>Sinophasma</i> Günther, 1940 華枝蠊屬		
<i>Sinophasma mirabile</i> Günther, 1940 異尾華枝蠊 (= <i>Sinophasma crassum</i> Chen & He, 1995)	C	HK, FJ, GD, GX, HuN, ZJ

Species	Local Restrictedness#	Distribution*
<i>Sipylodea</i> Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1893 管蝨屬		
<i>Sipylodea sipylus</i> (Westwood, 1859) 棉管蝨	F	HK, MC, SZ, AH, CQ, FJ, GD, GX, GS, GZ, HN, HeN, HuN, JX, SC, YN, ZJ, also worldwide
Phasmatidae Gray, 1835 蝨科		
Clitumninae Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1893 克蝨亞科		
Clitumnini Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1893 克蝨族		
<i>Entoria</i> Stål, 1875 長肛蝨屬		
<i>Entoria hei</i> Ho, 2013 何氏長肛蝨	E	HK
<i>Entoria victoria</i> Brock & Seow-Choen, 2000 香港長肛蝨	F	HK, SZ
<i>Ramulus</i> Saussure, 1862 短角枝蝨屬 (= <i>Clitumnus</i> Stål, 1875; = <i>Dagys</i> Günther, 1935; = <i>Dubreuilia</i> Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1907; = <i>Paraclitumnus</i> Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1893)		
<i>Ramulus caii</i> (Brock & Seow-Choen, 2000) 蔡氏短角枝蝨 (= <i>Baculum shenzhenense</i> Chen & Chen, 2000)	F	HK, SZ, GD, GX
<i>Ramulus rotundus</i> (Chen & He, 1992) 圓粒短角枝蝨	F	HK, SZ, GD, GX, GZ, HN, HuN, YN
Pharnaciini Günther, 1953 彪蝨族		
<i>Tirachoidea</i> Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1893 巨樹蝨屬		
<i>Tirachoidea jianfenglingensis</i> (Bi, 1994) 尖峰嶺巨樹蝨	D	HK, GD, GX, HN, YN, also VN, TL
Phylliidae Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1893 葉蝨科		
Phylliinae Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1893 葉蝨亞科		
Phylliini Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1893 葉蝨族		
<i>Cryptophyllum</i> Cumming, Bank, Bresseel, Constant, Le Tirant, Dong, Sonet & Bradler, 2021 隱葉蝨屬		
<i>Cryptophyllum parum</i> (Liu, 1993) 同隱葉蝨	C	HK, SZ, GD, GX, HN

Table 1. Checklist of stick and leaf insects (Phasmatodea) from Hong Kong [# = Local restrictedness: A = known to occur in this locality alone; B = known to occur in two localities; C = known to occur in three to four localities; D = known to occur in five to eight localities; E = known to occur in nine to 16 localities; F = known to occur in 17-32 localities; * = Abbreviation of distribution: AH = Anhui; CQ = Chongqing; FJ = Fujian; GD = Guangdong; GS = Gansu; GX = Guangxi; GZ = Guizhou; HK = Hong Kong; HN = Hainan; HeN = Henan; HuN = Hunan; JS = Jiangsu; JX = Jiangxi; MC = Macau; SC = Sichuan; SD = Shandong; SZ = Shenzhen; TL = Thailand; VN = Vietnam; XZ = Xizang; YN = Yunnan; ZJ = Zhejiang].