

**First record of *Neososibia brevispina* Chen & He, 2000 from Hong Kong
(Phasmida: Diapheromeridae: Necrosiinae)**

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ABSTRACT

Neososibia brevispina Chen & He, 2000 is reported for the first time from Hong Kong.

Key words: Stick insects, *Neososibia*, new record, Hong Kong

香港新紀錄種 - 短刺新健螻 *Neososibia brevispina* Chen & He, 2000 (螻目: 笛螻科: 長角枝螻亞科)

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摘要: 本文記述香港長角枝螻亞科1新紀錄種: 短刺新健螻 *Neososibia brevispina* Chen & He, 2000。

關鍵字: 竹節蟲, 新健螻屬, 新紀錄, 香港

INTRODUCTION

The earliest work on the taxonomy of Hong Kong stick insects was provided by Brock and Seow-Choen (2000), who recorded seven genera and nine species. Later, four species including *Entoria hei* Ho, 2013, *Necrosia shukayi* (Bi, Zhang & Lau, 2001), *Planispectrum hongkongense* Zompro, 2004, and *Sinophasma mirabile* Günther, 1940 were added to the list of Hong Kong stick insects (Bi et al., 2001; Zompro, 2004; Ho, 2008, 2013a). The most recent comprehensive work on the Hong Kong stick insects was provided by Ho (2013b), in which 15 genera and 18 species were recorded. Three species, *Dajaca napolovi* Brock, 2000, *Micadina yingdeensis* Chen & He, 1992 and *Tirachoida jianfenglingensis* (Bi, 1994), were reported for the first time from Hong Kong by Ho (2013b).

The present author has conducted regular stick insect surveys throughout the territory since 2008, in the course of which an adult female *Neososibia brevispina* Chen & He, 2000 was found on Ma On Shan in June 2016. This represents the first record of the genus *Neososibia* Chen & He, 2000 from Hong Kong. After this addition, 16 genera and 19 species are currently attributed to the Phasmida of Hong Kong.

MATERIALS & METHOD

The systematic treatment is according to Chen and He (2008) and Hennemann et al. (2008). Description of colouration is based on the dried specimen. Illustrations are based on the examined material which was dried and pinned. No food plant eaten by the collected specimens was observed. No egg was collected.

Measurements are given in mm. The mentioned material is deposited in the Museum of Biology, Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou, Guangdong (SYSBM) and private collection of George Ho Wai-Chun, Hong Kong (GH).

RESULTS

Neososibia Chen & He, 2000

Type-species: *Neososibia brevispina* Chen & He, 2000: 31, by original designation.

Distributions: China (Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou and Hong Kong).

Notes: Currently three *Neososibia* species, *N. brevispina* Chen & He, 2000, *N. jinxiuensis* Chen & He, 2008 and *N. guizhouensis* Chen & Ran, 2002, are known.

Neososibia brevispina Chen & He, 2000 (Figs. 1-3)

Type: Holotype, ♀, Fengkai, Guangdong, China, 24 May 1986, Lan Dean (SYSBM).

Other material examined: 1♀, Ma On Shan, Hong Kong, 4 June 2016, George Wai-Chun Ho, GH-01040 (GH).

Description of female (Figs. 1-3): Large size. Body slender and cylindrical. General colouration of body brown. Legs brown with black markings. Head oval. Vertex unarmed. Occiput gently convex, posterior margin with indistinct swellings. Compound eyes small and rounded. Antennae long and filiform, densely covered with short bristles; scapus longer than pedicellus, almost as long as third segment. Pronotum rectangular, longer than wide. Mesonotum parallel-sided, longer than combined length of metanotum and median segment, with a few short spines along each side of median longitudinal line, lateral margins with a few small granules. Metanotum distinctly longer than median segment, median longitudinal line indistinct. Abdomen cylindrical. Seventh sternum with a pair of horn-like praeopercular organs on posterior area. Seventh to ninth tergites with a crest-like structure on posterior area. Anal segment almost as long as eighth tergum, longer than ninth tergum, with a small emargination on posterior margin. Subgenital plate scoop-shaped, posterior margin rounded and reaching posterior margin of ninth tergum. Cerci small and apices rounded. Legs slender and long. Forelegs and hindlegs unarmed. Midlegs lost. Profemora and metafemora shorter than corresponding tibiae. Profemora distinctly

curved basally. Anteroventral and posteroventral carinae of profemora and metafemora with small spines near apices.

Measurements: See Table 1.

Distribution: China (Guangdong and Hong Kong).

Notes: The male is unknown. The midlegs of the female specimen are lost.

CONCLUSION

In this study, *Neososibia brevispina* Chen & He, 2000 [Guangdong] is reported for the first time from Hong Kong. *N. brevispina* is similar to *N. guizhouensis* Chen & Ran, 2002 [Guizhou], but can be separated by small granules on the lateral margins of the mesonotum in the female. This species is previously known only from the type-locality at Fengkai, northwestern Guangdong. The segregated distribution of this species indicates the potential existence of populations in northeastern, central and southern Guangdong.

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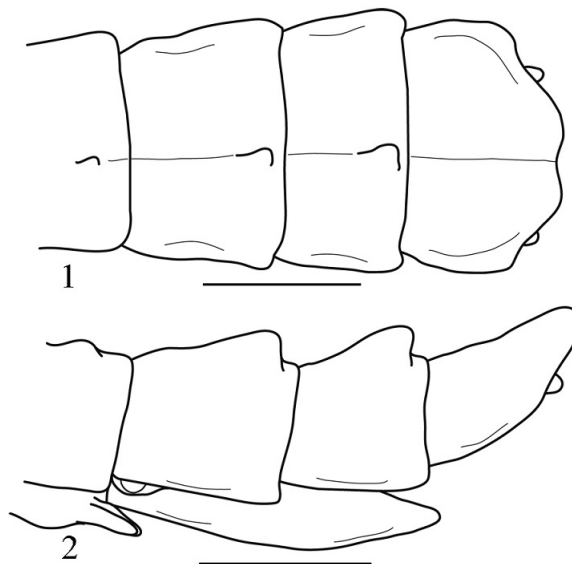
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TABLE & FIGURES

	Female
Body	117.0
Head	7.0
Antennae	76.0
Pronotum	6.0
Mesonotum	28.0
Metanotum	12.0
Median segment	5.5
Profemur	29.0
Mesofemur	lost
Metafemur	24.0
Protibia	32.0
Mesotibia	lost
Metatibia	30.0

Table 1. Measurements of *Neososibia brevispina* Chen & He, 2000 (mm)



Figures 1-2. *Neososibia brevispina* Chen & He, 2000 [scale bars 5 mm] (Drawings by author). 1. Female, end of abdomen, dorsal view. 2. Female, end of abdomen, lateral view



Figure 3. Habitus of female *Neososibia brevispina* Chen & He, 2000 [scale bar 5 mm] (Photo by author).