

Reduviidae (Heteroptera) of Taiwan: the present state of knowledge

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With more than 6,000 described species, assassin bugs or Reduviidae are among the most species-rich families within Heteroptera. Despite of the very large number of already described taxa, the number of species known from Southeastern Asia has increased quickly over the last decades. However, in respect of Reduviidae, the fauna of Taiwan is still largely unexplored. Until 2005, only 42 species have been reported from the country. This number is very small compared to e.g. the 64 species recorded from Hainan Island, which is of similar size and geographic location as Taiwan. Moreover, 28 of this 42 species were already listed by T. ESAKI in 1926. Considering the geographic and vegetational diversity of the island, our knowledge on the reduviid fauna of Taiwan is obviously very far from satisfactory. Recent investigations on the Reduviidae of Taiwan resulted in a large number of new data. The study was based mostly on two collections deposited in the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest: (1) specimens collected by H. SAUTER in the beginning of the 20th century, hitherto unidentified; (2) specimens captured during recent field investigations by Hungarian entomologists during the last decade. Some preliminary results of this work in progress are presented below.

- (1) Emesinae. Six species were known to occur in Taiwan prior to this study. In addition, *Gardena muscicapa* (BERGROTH, 1906) has been recently recorded from the country, and *Ademula ademula* RÉDEI, 2005 has been described as new.
- (2) Saicinae. Besides the single previously recorded species, *Polytoxus esakii* ISHIKAWA & YANO, 1999, specimens of another species widely distributed in Eastern and Southeastern Asia have been found.
- (3) Ectrichodiinae. Three species of *Ectrichotes* as well as a single species of *Scadra* were previously known to occur in Taiwan. Among the examined materials, three further genera with altogether seven species were found. Two new species are currently under description, a further specimen of *Scadra* might also represent an undescribed species.
- (4) Reduviinae. Only four genera, each with a single species, were previously reported from Taiwan (one of the species was described only in 2001). Two further genera and seven additional species have been found during the present study.
- (5) Stenopodainae. Besides the six previously reported species, at least eight further species occur in Taiwan; however, because of the large number of described species and many taxonomic difficulties in the genera *Oncocephalus* and *Pygolampis*, the identity of some of them is still doubtful.
- (6) Harpactorinae. Eight species were previously reported to occur in Taiwan (all of them by Esaki in 1926). In addition, eight further genera with altogether ten species, one of them probably undescribed, have been found during the present study.

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