

A survey of the saicine assassin bugs of Taiwan (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Reduviidae)

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Abstract. The assassin bug subfamily Saicinae (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Reduviidae) of Taiwan is surveyed. Seven species belonging to the genera *Gallobelgicus* Distant, 1906 and *Polytoxus* Spinola, 1850 are recognized. Lectotype is designated for *Saica fuscovittata* Stål, 1860 (currently *Polytoxus*), a species of doubtful identity until now. The following new synonymies are proposed: *Polytoxus fuscovittatus* (Stål, 1860) = *P. selangorensis* Miller, 1940, syn. nov., = *P. ruficeps* Hsiao, 1965, syn. nov. *Polytoxus rufinervis ardens* Ishikawa & Yano, 2002, stat. nov., is downgraded to a subspecies of *P. rufinervis* Hsiao, 1965. The saicine genera and species occurring in Taiwan are keyed and diagnosed. Distributional data are provided for species occurring in Taiwan and several South and South-East Asian countries (Myanmar, Malaysia, Vietnam, Philippines, India).

Keywords. Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Reduviidae, Saicinae, taxonomy, Taiwan

Introduction

The Saicinae are a relatively small subfamily within the Reduviidae (Hemiptera: Heteroptera), comprising 24 genera and more than 140 species worldwide. Approximately 50 species have been described from the Oriental Region so far; however, several of them are of doubtful identity because of inadequate original descriptions. Only two papers dealing with the fauna of Taiwan have been published so far: ISHIKAWA & YANO (1999) described a new species of *Polytoxus* Spinola, 1850 and RÉDEI & TSAI (2009) a new species of *Gallobelgicus* Distant, 1906.

Based on specimens deposited in various, mostly Taiwanese, institutions, the Taiwanese saicine assassin bugs are surveyed in this paper. Two genera are recognized: *Gallobelgicus*