

On the identity of the type species of the planthopper genus *Oliarus* Stål, 1862, *Oliarus walkeri* (Stål, 1859) (Hemiptera: Cixiidae)

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Abstract

Type-material of *Oliarus walkeri* (Stål, 1859) was re-examined. A supplementary description is given. For the first time, the only male specimen contained in the type series is figured. Published information on the geographic distribution of *O. walkeri* based on misidentification is corrected: *O. walkeri* is confirmed to occur on the west coast of the Malay Peninsula (Melaka) and on Borneo (Sarawak). The morphology of the male copulatory organ, the aedeagus, is interpreted, and characters hypothesized here as apomorphic are pointed out.

Key words: Taxonomy, lectotype, morphology, Oriental Region

Introduction

Oliarus Stål, 1862 has long been a notorious catch-all genus for Pentastirine Cixiidae from nearly all parts of the world (e.g., Metcalf 1936; Mead and Kramer 1982; Van Stalle 1991). Several authors recognized the morphological diversity of species groups contained in *Oliarus* and subsequently erected numerous genera to accommodate several such groups (e.g., Van Stalle 1985, 1986a–d; Emeljanov 1992, 2001a, b) from the Palearctic, the Nearctic, Afrotropical and Oriental regions, leaving only 46 species from the Oriental and Australian Region (including the Pacific) in *Oliarus* s.str. (Emeljanov 2001 b). None of these groupings, however, have been explicitly founded on commonly derived characters (synapomorphies) and may or may not be monophyla. To understand the evolutionary history and biogeography of the Pentastirini, and even the Cixiidae, a phylogenetic analysis is mandatory. As a first step, it is attempted here to define the scope of the genus *Oliarus* sensu stricto more exactly (as postulated by Emeljanov 2001b) by making available more information on the morphology of its type species, *Oliarus walkeri* (Stål, 1859).