Description of *Sinothomisus* gen. nov. with a new species from Yunnan Province, China (Araneae, Thomisidae)

GUO TANG¹, CHANG-MING YIN¹*, CHARLES GRISWOLD² & XIAN-JIN PENG¹

¹College of Life Sciences, Hunan Normal University, Changsha, Hunan Province, 410081, P. R. China
²California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California 94118, USA.

*Corresponding author.

Abstract

This paper reports a new thomisid spider genus *Sinothomisus* with type species, *Sinothomisus liae* sp. nov., from Gaoligong Mountains, Yunnan Province, China. Photos of bodies, SEM photos of male palpal organ, illustrations of copulatory organs and the detailed morphological characteristics are given.

Key words: Taxonomy, crab spider, new genus, Gaoligong Mountains

Introduction

Being a part of the boundary between China and Myanmar, the Gaoligong Mountains of Yunnan Province, which lies in the South West of China, is a biodiversity hotspot of the world (Conservation International 2006), and also an area with diverse biota, distinct and ancestral to the biota of the East Himalayas (Li et al. 1999).

Thomisidae are one of the largest spider families including 2030 species in 170 genera and 7 subfamilies in the world, of which about 178 species in 34 genera are distributed in China (Song et Zhu 1997, Platinck 2006). Up to now, a total of 67 species of the Family Thomisidae have been recorded from the area around Gaoligong Mountains: 27 from Myanmar (Thorell 1887, 1895), most of which were simply documented without figures; 24 from the Himalaya area of Nepal and Bhutan (Ono 1978, 1979, 2001); 9 from Tibet Autonomous Region (Hu and Li 1987; Tang and Song 1988; Song and Zhu 1995; Hu 2001); and 7 species from Yunnan Province, China (Tang and Song 1988; Song and Zhao 1994; Yang et al. 2005, 2006).

While examining thomisid specimens of a Sino-American joint biodiversity survey made by CAS and HNU from 1998–2006 in the Gaoligong Mountains, an interesting crab