

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

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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 al.* 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