A new Paralimnini leafhopper genus (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae: Deltocoephalarinae) from China

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With over 6500 described species placed in nearly 800 genera the leafhopper subfamily Deltocoephalarinae is currently the largest subfamily of Cicadellidae (Oman et al.,1990; Zahniser & Dietrich, 2008; Zahniser & Dietrich, 2010). The deltocephaline tribe Paralimnini Distant is distributed worldwide and currently contains about 132 genera and 550 species. Webb and Heller (1990) provided a checklist of Oriental Paralimnini with 11 genera and 23 species, among them, 2 genera and 2 species recorded from China. Zhang (1990) only recorded 1 genus and 1 species in this tribe from China. More recently, a total of 26 genera (12 genera in the Oriental Region) and 62 species of the Paralimnini have been reported to occur in China (Xing et al., 2009, 2010, 2011; Xing & Li, 2011; Li et al., 2011; Zhang et al., 2009). Most members of the tribe are closely associated with grass dominated habitats. With the exception of some species of Paralaevicephalus Ishihara (Xing et al., 2009) members of the Paralimnini can be recognized by having a connective that is widest at or near the base of the anterior arms and articulated with the aedeagus. During a study of the Chinese Deltocoephalarinae we discovered a new Oriental paralimnini genus and species that are described below. The type specimens of the new species are deposited in the Institute of Entomology, Guizhou University, Guiyang, China (GUGC).

Multiproductus gen. nov.

Type species: Multiproductus ramosus Xing, Dai & Li sp. nov.

Head slightly wider than greatest width of pronotum. Vertex with fore margin produced triangularly, median length longer than width between eyes. Frontoclypeus narrow, anteclypeus slightly narrowed apically. Forewing with outer subapical cell extended to costal margin, branches of vein R recurved distally, resulting in triangular fifth (outer) apical cell, and veins of clavus appear to extend to the claval suture, appendix present (Fig 14).

Male genitalia. Male pygofer side slightly longer than high, with few stout setae. Valve large. Subgenital plate tubular and narrow, with two appendages apically. Style slender, elongate, preapical lobe very poorly developed. Connective, loop-shaped, articulated with the aedeagus, only slightly longer than wide. Aedeagus symmetrical, aedeagal shaft elongate with pairs of processes, gonopore apical.

Diagnosis. The new genus is similar to Paralaevicephalus Ishihara in having the forewings with pale veins and the subgenital plate with a distal appendage, but differs in having the forewings with the outer subapical cell extended to the costal margin, the subgenital plate narrow, without an elongate stout process arising from the inner margin, and the aedeagal shaft with pairs of branched processes.

Etymology. The genus name is derived from the Latin words “multi-” and “productus”, indicating the aedeagal shaft with a number of processes.

Distribution. Oriental Region.