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A new synonym of *Sericothrips* from China and Japan (Thysanoptera: Thripidae)

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Nine species are listed in the genus *Sericothrips* (Thripidae: Sericothripinae) (Mound 2013), and all of these species have the abdominal tergites completely covered with microtrichia medially (Mound & Tree 2009). *S. marginalis* Kudô was described from Japan on a large number of specimens, including a micropterous holotype and macropterous females and micropterous males. These specimens were collected from plants in the families Poaceae and Fabaceae (Kudô 1991). Specimens from Japan were examined by the first author (including one paratype in SCAU), and three paratypes were also checked by the second author and compared with Chinese specimens of *S. houji* (Chou & Feng 1990). We were not able to find any character differences between these two species, and therefore place *S. marginalis* in synonymy with *S. houji*.

Sericothrips houji (Chou & Feng)

Hydatothrips houji Chou & Feng, 1990: 9–10.

Sussericothrips melilotus Han, 1991: 208.

Sericothrips marginalis Kudô, 1991: 512. **syn. n.**

This species was fully described and figured by Mirab-balou *et al.* (2011a). *S. marginalis* was compared originally with *S. kaszabi* Pelikán (1984) from Mongolia, but we have not been able to check the type specimens of that species. Kudô (1991) mentioned "with some hesitation" that *marginalis* is quite similar to *kaszabi*. The metanotum has many microtrichia on the posterior part (few in *kaszabi*), the length of the posterior setae on tergite IX in contrast to the length of tergite IX is larger, and the length of tergite IX is smaller than X. However, these two species apparently cannot be distinguished satisfactorily from each other, and the types of *kaszabi* need to be re-examined to establish if they represent the same species as *houji*.

Specimens examined. <JAPAN> Shizuoka, Nihondaria: paratypes of *marginalis*: 2 females and 1 male from *Kummerovia striata*, 13.vii.1979, I. Kudô (in Kudô's collection); 1 female from *K. striata*, 26.x.1985, I. Kudô (in SCAU). <CHINA> specimens of *S. houji* from China were listed in Mirab-balou *et al.* (2011a).

Distribution. Japan and China.

Note on Chinese *Sericothrips*

Sericothrips cingulatus Hinds was recorded by Zhang *et al.* (1999) (5 females and 1 male collected from Fujian, Yunnan and Tibet). However, these specimens have now been identified as *S. houji* by the first author, and *cingulatus* should be deleted from the list of Thysanoptera from China (Mirab-balou *et al.*, 2011b).