



Contribution to the knowledge on the spider wasps genus *Morochores* Banks, 1934 (Hymenoptera: Pompilidae) from China

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Abstract

Five species of the genus *Morochores* Banks, 1934 are reported from China, four of them are described and illustrated as new species: *M. sinica* Loktionov & Lelej, **sp. nov.** (Guangdong, Hainan), *M. wahisi* Loktionov & Lelej, **sp. nov.** (Hainan), *M. wolfi* Loktionov & Lelej, **sp. nov.** (Guangdong) and *M. xuzai fui* Loktionov, Lelej & Liu, **sp. nov.** (Zhejiang, Guangdong). The genus *Morochores* is newly recorded from mainland China. A key to the females of the Chinese species is given.

Key words: Pompilinae, Oriental Region, Palaearctic, China, new record

Introduction

Morochores Banks, 1934 is a small genus of Pompilinae spider wasps distributed in the Philippines (Luzon and Samar), Japan (Ryukyus) and China (Taiwan). Banks (1934) established this taxon based on a single species described from the Philippines (Luzon and Samar islands), *M. fascipennis* Banks, 1934. Tsuneki (1989) in his treatment of Taiwanese spider wasps described a second species, *M. nigripennis* Tsuneki, 1989, which differs from the type species mainly by the dark colouration of the wings. One year later, Tsuneki (1990) described two subspecies of *M. nigripennis* from Southern Japan (Ryukyus): *M. n. yayeyamana* Tsuneki, 1990 and *M. n. okinawana* Tsuneki, 1990. Yamane *et al.* (1999) cited both subspecies and listed brief characters for the male for the first time. And finally, Shimizu and Terayama (2016) treated the species *M. nigripennis*. Currently all species are known from females only, except the subspecies *M. nigripennis yayeyamana* Tsuneki from Ryukyu, Japan, of which both sexes are known. So far, only one species of *Morochores* has been reported from China (Taiwan), *M. nigripennis*.

The examination of the Pompilidae collection deposited in the South China Agricultural University (Guangzhou, China) has revealed four new species of *Morochores* Banks from the Southern China: *M. sinica* **sp. nov.**, *M. wahisi* **sp. nov.**, *M. wolfi* **sp. nov.** and *M. xuzai fui* **sp. nov.** Herein we describe them and expand the distribution of the genus to include China mainland for the first time.

Materials and methods

During the study of the hymenopteran collection in the South China Agricultural University, Guangzhou, China [SCAU], we discovered eight specimens of spider wasps belonging to the genus *Morochores* Banks. The specimens were collected during the years 2005–2014 in China (Zhejiang, Guangdong and Hainan) by using yellow pan traps and sweeping nets. The material was stored in ethanol, in a refrigerator the whole time and was mounted and labeled by the first author in 2016.