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A contribution to the Mutillidae (Hymenoptera) of Hong Kong

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Abstract

A list of 12 species in nine genera occurring in Hong Kong is given. The hitherto unknown male of *Bischoffitilla lamellata* (Mickel, 1933) is described and illustrated. Six species are newly recorded from Hong Kong. The current number of known mutillid species of Hong Kong is doubled from six to 12.

Key words: Mutillidae, velvet ants, new species, new records, China, Hong Kong

INTRODUCTION

The topography of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) of the People's Republic of China is extremely rugged; formed by a series of hills and ridges of volcanic or igneous origin, the highest point culminating at ca 950 m. North-facing slopes are generally forested while south-facing slopes are composed of grass/shrubs. The low lying areas, where not disturbed or urbanised, are forested with many seasonal or perennial wetlands/marshes or dense and mature secondary forest. These were historically farmlands, but are now largely abandoned. The SAR covers an area of 1076 km², of which about 40% is urbanized (430 km²), while the rest (645 km²) comprises undeveloped land. The climate is subtropical with clear winter and summer monsoons. The winter monsoons can bring short-lived surges of cold Siberian air and the associated severe drops in temperature. Zero or sub-zero Celsius temperatures are occasionally recorded (Dudgeon & Corlett 1994).

The mutillid fauna of China includes 165 species in 34 genera and seven subfamilies (Chen 1957; Lelej 2002, 2005; Tu *et al.* 2014a, 2014b, 2015; Lelej *et al.* 2016, 2017; Okayasu 2017; Zhou *et al.* 2017, 2018a, 2018b). *Mutilla speciosa* Smith, 1855 (currently in genus *Odontomutilla* Ashmead, 1899) and *Mutilla auroguttata* Smith, 1855 (currently in genus *Eotrogaspidia* Lelej, 1996) were the two first species described from Hong Kong and *Mutilla oculata* Fabricius, 1804 (currently in genus *Wallacidia* Lelej & Brothers, 2008) was also recorded (Smith 1855). *Mutilla novarae* de Saussure, 1867 described from Hong Kong was later synonymized by Mickel (1933b) with *Wallacidia oculata* (Fabricius, 1804). Later *Odontomutilla uranioides* Mickel, 1933 (*O. urania* sensu Dover, 1926) was described from Hong Kong. *Mutilla suspiciosa* Smith, 1857 which was recorded from Hong Kong (Dover 1926) probably belongs to *Trogaspidia suspiciosa lingnani* (Mickel, 1933) (see below). The paratype of *Trogaspidia pagdeni nodoa* (Mickel, 1933) and the holotype of *Trogaspidia albibrunnea* Chen, 1957 also originate from Hong Kong. Prior to our research seven species and one subspecies had been described or recorded from Hong Kong, but these belong to only six valid species. In the last several years 59 specimens (28♀ + 31♂) were collected by CB in Hong Kong belonging to 12 species in nine genera, including one previously unknown male. They are listed and described below.

We have also included a Hong Kong distributional map for the 10 species (Fig. 1) collected by the authors.