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Description of a new species belonging to the genus *Balocha* Distant, 1908 from China (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae: Idiocerinae: Megipocerini)

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Abstract: *Balocha hainana*, a new idiocerine leafhopper species of the genus *Balocha* Distant from southern China (Hainan province), is described and illustrated. A key to the 3 Chinese genera of the tribe Megipocerini is provided. An image of the male adult and illustrations of the male genitalia are also given.

Key words: Hemiptera, Cicadellidae, *Balocha*, new species, China

Introduction

The subfamily Idiocerinae is a moderately large group of leafhoppers, and comprises 2 tribes worldwide. Only 3 genera of the tribe Megipocerini are represented from China (Kato, 1933; Zhang and Li, 2006; Zhang and Li, 2008). Megipocerini can be distinguished from the Idiocerini by the following features (Isaev 1988): pronotum and scutellum convex massive; male genital plates are joined with genital valve, and with massive, slablike dorsoventrally compressed; apical part of style is usually of the same length as basal one or even shorter, of a complicated organization (twisted screwlike, with deep excavation).

Distant (1908) erected the genus *Balocha*, with *Balocha tricolor* as its type species. Fifteen species and 1 subspecies of *Balocha* Distant have been reported worldwide (by Kameswara (1979), Kato (1933), Maldonado (1961, 1964, 1968, 1970), and

Webb (1983)): *B. anufrievi* Kameswara, *B. astute* (Melichar), *B. tricolor* Distant, *B. bicolor* Maldonado, *B. flavocapitata* Kato, *B. lucida* Maldonado, *B. maculifrons* Maldonado, *B. maldonadoi* Kameswara, *B. melichari* (Baler), *B. nacreatus* (Baker), *B. pallida* Maldonado, *B. pseudomaculifrons* Maldonado, *B. xantho* (Kirkaldy), *B. toesa* Webb, *B. unilineata* Maldonado, and *B. bicolor uniformis* Maldonado.

Balocha flavocapitata is the only species reported from Taiwan, China, based on the morphological characters of the female holotype. In this paper, we describe and illustrate a new species of *Balocha* from Hainan province, China.

Materials and methods

The morphological techniques and terminology follow Oman (1949) and Zhang (1990). The material was collected from shrubs of montane forests

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using a sweeping net in July 2007, from Hainan province, China. The type specimens are deposited in the College of Life Sciences and Technology, Inner Mongolia Normal University, Hohhot, China.

Key of the Chinese genera of Megipocerini

- 1- Forewings without subapical cells....*Balocha* Distant
- Forewings with 2 or 3 subapical cells.....2
- 2- Forewings with 3 subapical cells; styles elongate, preapically curved dorsally.....*Chunra* Distant
- Forewings with 2 subapical cells; styles gradually enlarged near bifurcate apex.....
.....*Balocerus* Freytag & Morrison

Genus *Balocha* Distant, 1908

Type species: *Balocha tricolor* Distant, 1908, type locality: India.

Diagnosis. Small-sized leafhoppers. Head short, wider than pronotum, rounded. Vertex finely striate with anterior and posterior margins parallel. Laterofrontal suture reaching to slightly below ocellus of same side. Length between ocelli slightly longer than that from ocellus to eye; Ocelli near apex of frontal sutures. Pronotum with anterior margin convexly rounded, sides moderately long, hind margin concave. Scutellum slightly broader than long. Hind legs apical femoral setal formula 2+0. Forewings with 4 apical cells and no subapical cells, appendix moderately broad. Male abdomen with a pair of lobe-like basal apodemes from the 3rd sternite. Pygofer shorter than deep; subgenital plates narrow; styles elongated, curved, the caudal portion with 2 arms; connective Y-shaped. Aedeagus shaft with a pair of processes from anterior and posterior margin, gonopore opening apically.

Distribution: India, Philippines, Malaysia, New Guinea, Australia, Pakistan, New Britain, Japan, and China (Taiwan, Hainan).

Balocha hainana Zhang and Li, n.sp.

(Figures 1-11)

Type material. Holotype, ♂ China: Hainan province, Mt. Wuzhi, 1200 m, 15 July 2007, B. Zhang Coll.; paratypes 2 females, same data as holotype.

Type locality. Hainan province, China.

Diagnosis. This new species is somewhat similar to *Balocha maculifrons* Maldonado in coloration, but can be distinguished by the distinctive valve trapeziform, pygofer caudal margin sinuate and subgenital plates reflexed upwards at middle, forewings with a narrow whitish stripe along inner margin of claval suture.

Description:

Coloration. Vertex, face yellowish orange, unmarked. Eyes dark brown, Ocelli yellowish. Pronotum anterior margin yellowish orange, posterior margin and scutellum yellowish brown. Scutellum with a pair of triangular yellowish brown spots on lateral angles. Forewings ashy brown to dark brown with a narrow whitish stripe along inner margin of claval suture.

Morphology. Length. Male 4.3 mm, female 4.3-4.5 mm. Vertex parallel-sided, shagreen, about 0.37 times as long as pronotum. Length of ocelli almost twice length of ocellus to same lateral eye. Antennal filaments hair-like. Anteclypeus expanded apically, slightly emarginated at apex and longer than wide. Pronotum about 2/5 as long as broad. Scutellum with middle line about 0.78 times as long as its basal width. Forewings with appendix moderately broad.

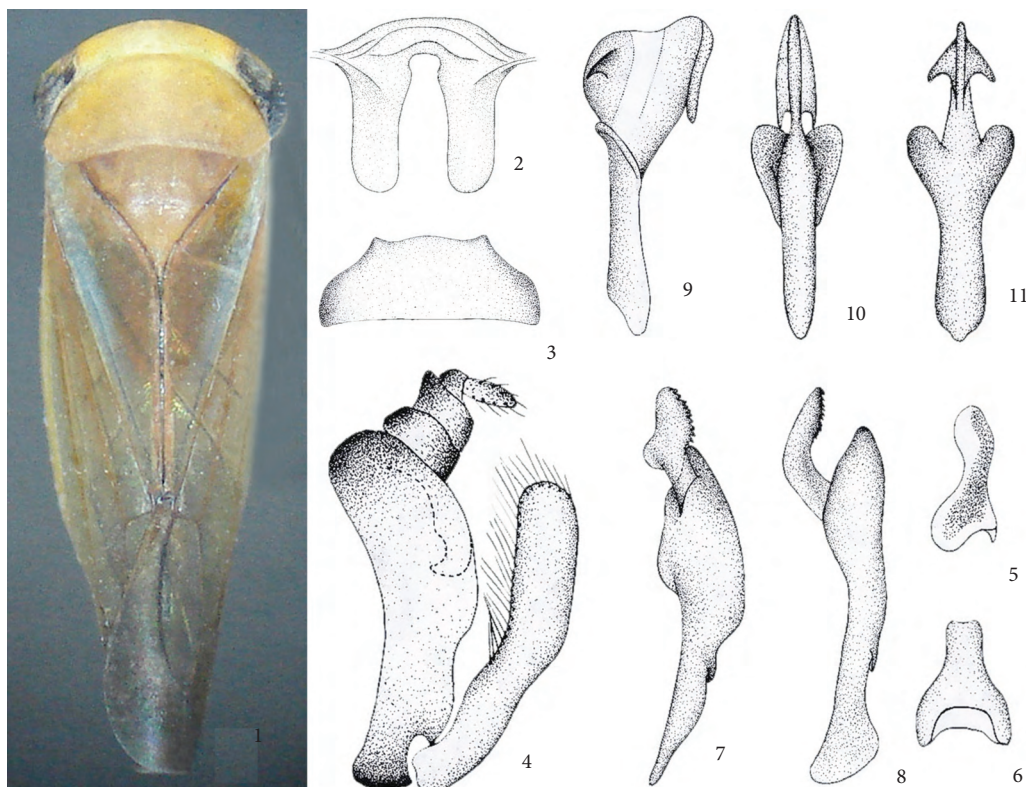
Male abdomen with a pair of lobe-like basal apodemes on 3rd segment, a large divergent process, extending to posterior margin.

Male genitalia: Valve trapeziform. Pygofer lobes long and narrow, with caudal margin sinuate basoventrally; anal tube with a hook-like process on each side. Connective small, Y-shaped. Subgenital plates reflexed upwards at middle, with numerous strong setae on apical half. Styles slightly curved dorsally, with cephalic part short and broad, bifid apically and caudal part with 2 arms. Aedeagus shaft abruptly expanded apically, with 2 pairs of lateroapical processes from both anterior and posterior margins, cephalic spines small triangular, directed posterodorsally and caudal spines elongate, directed posteriorly; gonopore situated on dorsal surface.

Female. Color as in male.

Host plant. Unidentified shrubs.

Distribution. China (Hainan: Mt. Wuzhi)



Figures 1-11. *Balocha hainana* sp. nov. 1. male adult, dorsal view; 2. apodominial apodeme; 3. valve; 4. pygofer, anal tube and subgenital plate, lateral view; 5. connective, lateral view; 6. connective, dorsal view; 7. style, lateral view; 8. style, dorsal-lateral view; 9. aedeagus, lateral view; 10. aedeagus, ventral view; 11. aedeagus, dorsal view.

Etymology. The species is named for its occurrence in Hainan province in China.

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