

On the Identity of *Halictophagus munroei*
Hirashima et Kifune with *H. bipunctatus* Yang
(Notulae Strepsipterologicae–XV)

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**On the Identity of *Halictophagus munroei* Hirashima et
Kifune with *H. bipunctatus* Yang
(Notulae Strepsipterologicae-XV)**

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Based on the re-examination of the type series of *Halictophagus munroei* Hirashima et Kifune, 1978, which was described from North Borneo, we concluded that it is synonymous with *H. bipunctatus* Yang, 1955, which was originally described from China and recently recorded from Japan (Kifune & Hirashima, 1984). *H. munroei* was discriminated from *H. bipunctatus* mainly by the slenderer terminal three flabella of the antennae and longer mandibles in the male and smaller teeth of mandibles in the female. In the course of our study on the Japanese *Halictophagus* spp., we recognized that the shape of female mandibular teeth is somewhat different between the Chinese and Japanese specimens of *bipunctatus*. The Chinese female has a blunt tooth on the mandible whereas the Japanese one possesses closely situated two acute teeth. Notwithstanding these differences, we considered that these belong to but one species.

Taking these factors and their host preference (parasitic on *Nephotettix* spp.) into consideration, we re-examined the type material of *H. munroei* and ascertained that the female possesses an acute tooth on the mandible. On the other hand, male characters are not enough to discriminate this species from *bipunctatus*. Accordingly, we here propose the synonymy of *H. munroei* to *H. bipunctatus* although a certain variation is seen in the female mandibular teeth. The following synonymy is given to arrange the present knowledge on the species.

***Halictophagus bipunctatus* Yang, 1955**

Tettigoxenos orientalis: Esaki et Hashimoto, 1932 (partim, nec Esaki et Hashimoto, 1931). *Ent. Lab., Fac. Agr., Kyushu Imp. Univ., Publ.*, (3): 35, fig. 6. Japan-Kyushu (Oita). Host: *Nephotettix bipunctatus cincticeps* [= *N. cincticeps*].—?: Sakai, 1933 (probably nec Esaki et Hashimoto, 1931). *Jap. J. appl. Zool.*, 5: 126. Kyushu (Oita). Host: *Deltocephalus* [= *Inazuma*] *dorsalis*. —:

- Esaki et Mochizuki, 1941 (nec Esaki et Hashimoto, 1931). *Ent. Lab., Fac. Agr., Kyushu Imp. Univ., Publ.*, (13) : 31. Honshu (Nagano). Host : *Nephotettix bipunctatus cincticeps* [= *N. cincticeps*]. — : Nagasaki Pref. Agr. Exp. Stat., 1941 (nec Esaki et Hashimoto, 1931). *Byochugai Zasshi*, 28 : 867. Kyushu (Nagasaki). Host : Same as above.
- Halictophagus bipunctatus* Yang, 1955. *Acta ent. Sinica*, 5 : 328, pl. 1, figs. 1-7 (♂, ♂-cephalotheca, Q). China-Kwantung, Kiangsu. Hosts: *Nephotettix bipunctatus* (incl. subsp. *cincticeps*) [= *N. virescens* & *N. cincticeps*]. — : Yang, 1964. *Acta zootax. Sinica*, 1 : 77. China-Fukien, Szechuwan, Honan, Hupeh, Kiangsi. Hosts: Same as above. — : Kinzelbach, 1971. *Zoologica*, (119) : 152. Kwantung (Kiangsu, China) (sic !). Host : Same as above. — : Kifune et Hirashima, 1984. *Esakia*, (22) : 80, figs. 4-5 (♂, ♀, ♂-cephalotheca). Japan-Okinawa (Ishigaki Is.). Hosts : *Nephotettix cincticeps* & *N. nigropictus*.
- Halictophagus munroei* Hirashima et Kifune, 1978. *Esakia*, (11) : 54, figs. 1-11 (♂, ♀, ♂-cephalotceca). Borneo-Sarawak. Hosts : *Nephotettix nigropictus* & *N. virescens*. (Syn. nov.) — : Chandra, 1980. *Phil. Ent.*, 4(3) : 131, figs. 4B & E. Philippines (Luzon).

H. bipunctatus, therefore, inclusively distributes in China (Kiangsu, Honan, Hupeh, Szechuwan, Kiangsi, Fukien, Kwantung), Japan (Honshu, Kyushu, Okinawa), the Philippines (Luzon) and Borneo (Sarawak) as the sole strepsipterous parasite of green rice leafhoppers of the genus *Nephotettix* (*N. cincticeps*, *N. nigropictus*, and *N. virescens*).

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