

Redescription of *Dardjilingia* Yang (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Pentatomidae) from India

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Abstract

The genus *Dardjilingia* Yang, 1936 (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae: Pentatominae: Lestonocorini), comprising a single species, *Dardjilingia nigriventris* Yang, 1936, is redescribed and illustrated, including the descriptions of male and female genitalia for the first time. The genus *Dardjilingia* is removed from the present tribe Lestonocorini.

Key words. *Gynenica*, *Neogynenica*, *Lestonocoris*, *Umgababa*, Lestonocorini

Introduction

Dardjilingia Yang, 1936 is a poorly known genus of the Pentatominae presently placed in the tribe Lestonocorini. The tribe Lestonocorini was erected by Ahmad & Mohammad (1980) to include the genera *Lestonocoris* Ahmad and Mohammad, 1980, *Gynenica* Dallas, 1851, *Umgababa* Leston, 1953 and *Neogynenica* Yang, 1935. The tribe is known from Africa, Yemen, India and Pakistan and their known host plants are restricted to the species of Acanthaceae (Schaefer and Ahmad, 1987). Later, being unaware of the action by Ahmad and Mohammad (1980), Shafee and Azim (1984) erected the tribe Gynenicini to include *Gynenica* but Gynenicini was later synonymised by Schaefer & Ahmad (1987) based on a cladistic analysis of the included genera. *Dardjilingia* is presently included in Lestonocorini by Rider (2016) (see comments below).

Members of *Dardjilingia* are dark brown and medium sized Pentatomidae. Males can be easily distinguished by the smaller body size and projecting parameres. This genus was first erected from the materials studied and deposited in the Laboratory of Entomology, Paris Museum, by Yang (1936) with species *Dardjilingia nigriventris* Yang, 1936, which is the originally designated type of the genus. He described the species based on the external coloration and external morphology. The species is distributed in India: Dardjiling (now Darjeeling, West Bengal) and Bhutan (Yang, 1936). Since then, there is no record of this genus from anywhere in India. The information on the genitalia characters of this species is also unknown to science. Presently the genus *Dardjilingia* includes only a single species. However, Fan (2011) in her unpublished Ph.D. thesis, has included description of a new species from China.

The present paper aims at redescription of the genus *Dardjilingia* along with its included species *D. nigriventris* with emphasis on the male and female genitalia, which are unknown to science.

Material and methods

Photographs were made using Leica DFC 420 camera mounted on a Leica M205A stereozoom microscope and by using the software Automontage®. Photographs were edited using Adobe Photoshop CS (Version 8.0). The procedure to dissect male genitalia as detailed by Ahmad (1986) was followed. The female genitalia was dissected after boiling the whole abdomen in hot water for about 10–15 minutes with 10% Potassium Hydroxide (KOH). The internal contents were cleared after thoroughly washing it in distilled water for 2–3 times and with the help of fine forceps, the terminalia and spermatheca were detached from abdominal ventrites. All measurement are given in