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Description of a new species of *Aneomochtherus* LEHR, 1996 from China (Diptera, Asilidae, Neomochtherini)

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Abstract

Aneomochtherus alexisi sp. nov. from China is described and illustrated. A key for the species of *Aneomochtherus* from China is presented.

Keywords : Diptera, Asilidae, *Aneomochtherus,* new species, China.

Résumé

Une nouvelle espèce, *Aneomochtherus alexisi,* provenant de Chine est décrite et illustrée. Une clef des espèces d'*Aneomochtherus* de Chine est présentée.

Introduction

The *Neomochtherini* originated during the Miocene, probably correlated with the grass succession (meadows, steppes, deserts) that enlarged in the Northern hemisphere. The number of free ecological niches increased rapidly, which were occupied by the taxa with cylindrical ovipositor of northern meadow biotopes LEHR (1992).

For *Neomochtherus* as for *Aneomochtherus* the knowledge of the biology and ecology are extremely limited. The eggs are laid on various types of vegetation, generally short plants principally in the cracks of thick and dried annual plants in the steppe and temporary desert.

TSACAS (1968-1969) in his remarkable revision of *Neomochtherus* OSTEN-SACKEN, 1878 gives a picture for each species of the male genitalia. According to LONDT (2002), there is now no true species of *Neomochtherus* in Africa, the genus being confined to the Palaearctic Region. LEHR (1996) created two new genera from *Neomochtherus* including the genus *Aneomochtherus* with *Neomochtherus mundus micrasiaticus* TSACAS, 1968 as type species. The genus is distinguished with : epandrium without deep apical emargination, the body mainly ferruginous in colour and the dorsocentral bristles not touching the transverse suture. He incorporates in this new genus four new species.

For the moment, there are 63 species of *Aneomochtherus* in the world: 1 is from the Oriental region, 6 are from the Afrotropical region and 56 are Palaearctic, including 9 that are in the Far East, and 5 species occurring in China, with 2 subspecies. The occurrence of *A. tenuis*, is uncertain.

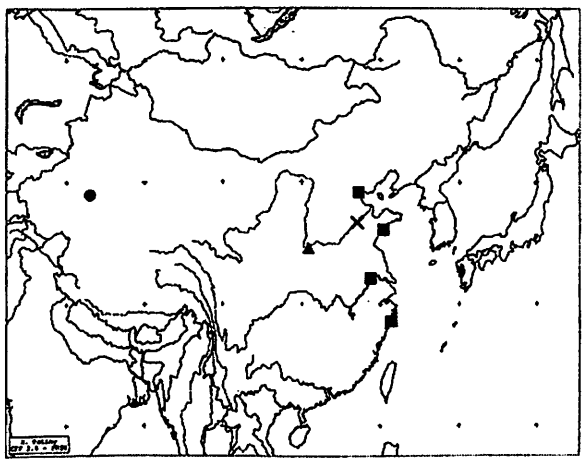
Aneomochtherus from China :

A. hauseri (ENGEL, 1927): Holotype ♂, 24.III. 1877, Takla-Makan, Chine.

A. hungaricus (ENGEL, 1927): Lectotype ♂, Tatarszentgyörjy, Hungary VII.1925.

A. hungaricus rossicus (ENGEL, 1927): Holotype : unknown origin.

A. psathyrus (TSACAS, 1968): Holotype ♂,



● *A. hauseri*: 1 specimen, 1 data; × *A. psathyrus*: 1 specimen, 1 data; ▲ *A. alexisi*: 6 specimens, 6 data; ■ *A. sinensis*: 14 specimens, 14 data.

Shantung, Tsinan, 25.VI.1925. China.

A. sinensis (RICARDO, 1919): Holotype ♂, Tientsin, 26.VI.1906, China.

A. stackelbergi (LEHR, 1958): Holotype ♂, Alma-alta. Afghanistan.

A. stackelbergi orientalis (TSACAS, 1968): Holotype ♂, de Lan Tcheou à Si Ngan (Kan Sou et Chen Si) 1909, China.

For *Aneomochtherus tenuis* (TSACAS, 1968), the author notes « Holotype *: portant l'étiquette « Issyl-Kul, Neomochtherus tridentatus Lw. », sans date de capture ni de nom de récolteur et de déterminateur. Répartition géographique : Asie centrale, l'espèce n'est connue que par l'holotype ».* The locality is in fact Yssyk-Köl, a large lake of central Asia (Kirghizistan).

Key of *Aneomochtherus* species found in China

1 Antennae entirely black, femurs with short white pilosity, genitalia (Fig. 5) ..... ***stackelbergi*** (LEHR)
- Antennae with at least some segments yellowish 2
2 Antennae yellowish 3
- Antennae with only the segments 1+2 yellowish, segment 3 blackish 4
3 Abdomen with very long setae and hairs, genitalia (Fig. 1) ..... ***hauseri*** (ENGEL)
- Abdomen with short pilosity, genitalia (Fig. 4) ..... ***sinensis*** (RICARDO)
4 Femur without black stripe 5
- Femur with a black stripe 6
5 Tibias with white and black setae, large species, 17 mm ..... ***alexisi* sp. n.**
- Tibias with all chaetotaxy white, small species, 11.5 mm, genitalia (Fig. 6) .. ***tenuis*** (TSACAS)
6 Ocellar bristles black or black and white mixed, genitalia (Fig. 2) ..... ***hungaricus*** (ENGEL)
- Ocellar bristles entirely white, genitalia (Fig. 3) ..... ***psathyrus*** (TSACAS)

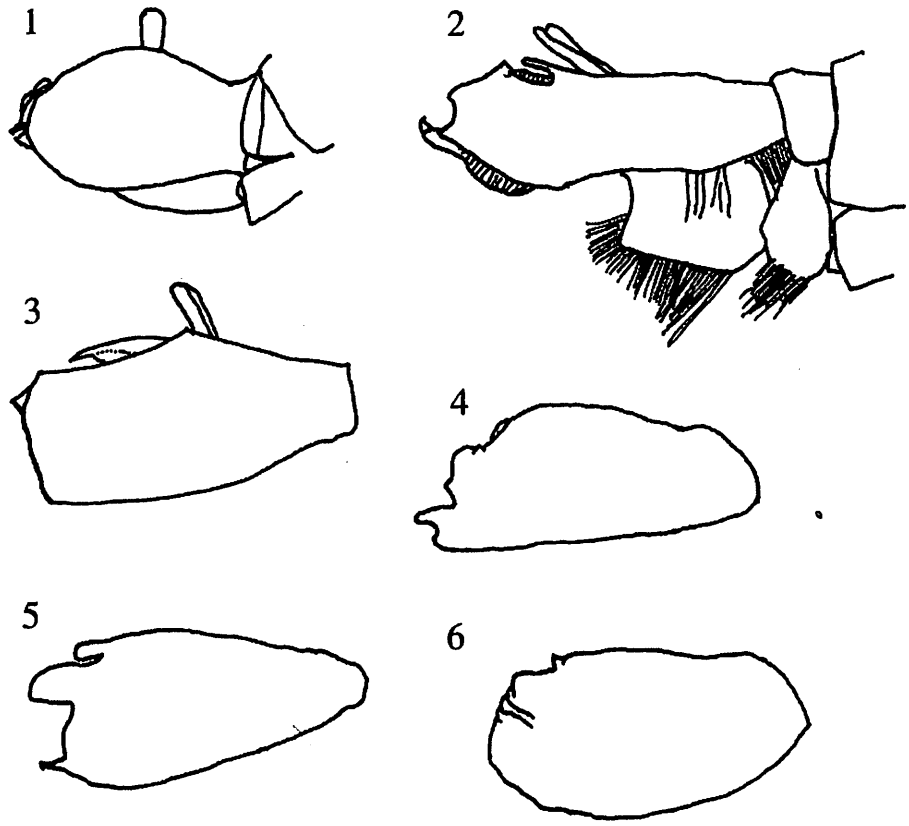
Description

***Aneomochtherus alexisi* sp. n.**

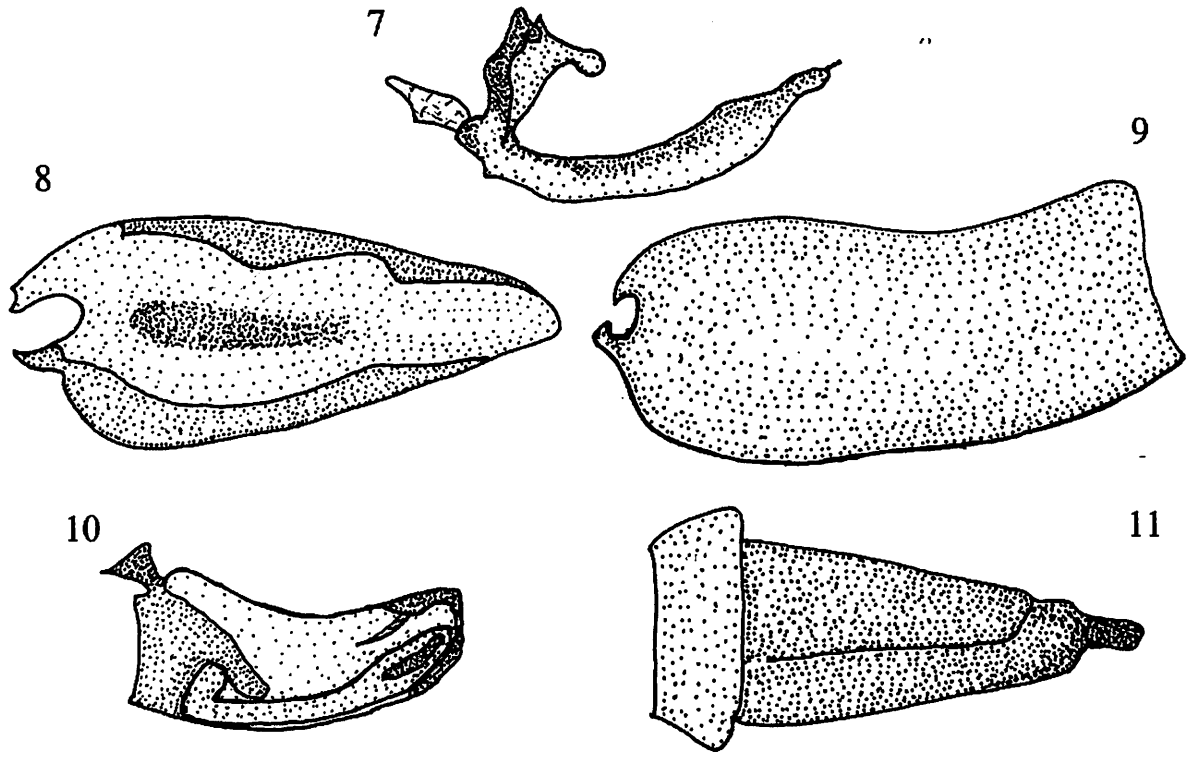
Material: Holotype : male, China, Shanckow (Shanchow – Chuankou) Honan, leg. Dr Renuard. Paratypes : 2 males, 7 females, from the same origin as the holotype. The holotype and the paratypes have been deposited in the collection of Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences.

Holotype : Male. Length = 17 mm.

Head : face, frons, ocellar tubercle and occiput with white tomentum. Face beard with



Figs 1-6 (according to L. Tsacas 1968). 1: hypopygium of *A. hauseri* ; 2: hypopygium of *A. hungaricus* ; 3: epandrium of *A. psathyrus* ; 4: epandrium of *A. sinensis* ; 5: epandrium of *A. stackelbergi* ; 6: epandrium of *A. tenuis*.



Figs 7-11. *Aneomochtherus alexisi* sp. n. 7: aedaegus ; 8: epandrium in inner view; 9: epandrium in external view ; 10: gonocoxite and dististylus ; 11: ovipositor.

yellowish white setae. Segments 1-2 of antennae yellow, segment 3 black, shorter than segment 1+ 2 together. Segment 1 with short yellowish and blackish hairs, segment 2 with short black hairs, segment 3 with one micro-segment and arista is twice longer than segment 3. Palps pale brown with white hairs. Occipital hairs and setae whitish.

Thorax : mesonotum with a dark brown median stripe divided by a pale stripe. Setae : 2 notopleural (1 whitish and 1 blackish), all others whitish, 2 supraalar, 4 postalar, 3 pairs of dorso-central, 2 scutellar. Wings clear, with micro-trichias at apex. Legs yellow with brownish stripes. Femora with yellow setae and with 1 black setae at the tip. Tibiae yellow with a majority of black setae. Tarsus brownish with black setae.

Abdomen : tergites with a large posterior margin, all setae whitish, short black hairs in the middle. Sternites with strong setae near the posterior margin, sternite 1 with long, fine hairs.

Male genitalia : (Figs 7-10). Hypopygium, reddish-brown with dense black hairs. Epandrium with a concavity in the apical part. Gonocoxites moderately long, rectangular with slightly rounded end. Dististylus shorter than gonocoxite. Aedeagus slightly curved, prong short.

Female : like the male. Ovipositor (Fig. 11) as long as the 3 last tergites.

Derivatio nominis : The species is named after my first grandson Alexis TOMASOVIC.

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