



## Description of two new damselflies, *Protosticta zhengi* and *Sinosticta sylvatica*, from China (Odonata: Zygoptera: Platystictidae)

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### Abstract

Two new species of Platystictidae (*Sinosticta sylvatica*, holotype male: China, Hainan, Diaoluoshan Nature Reserve, 620m, 29-V-2007; and *Protosticta zhengi*, holotype male: China, Yunnan, Xishuangbanna, Menghun, 750m, 30-V-1958; both deposited in Institute of Entomology, Nankai University, Tianjin, China) are described, and a key is provided for the identification of all described species of *Sinosticta* Wilson.

**Key words:** Odonata, Platystictidae, *Protosticta*, *Sinosticta*, new species, China

### Introduction

*Sinosticta* was established by Wilson (1997) to accommodate *Drepanosticta ogatai* Matsuki & Saito (1996), found in Hong Kong, China. Wilson believed that the wing venation of *Sinosticta ogatai* was archaic and similar to Palaemnematinae Tillyard & Fraser, which is restricted to the New World. Accordingly, he established a new subfamily, Sinostictinae, to accommodate the newly established genus *Sinosticta*, characterized by two principal diagnostic features: (1) MP extending beyond the mid-point of wing and (2) males with stout, relatively simply caudal appendages. van Tol *et al* (2009) confirmed the archaic nature of Sinostictinae as the most basal clade of all Platystictidae and sister group to all other Platystictidae. According to Wilson (1997), diagnostic characters of *Sinosticta* were: (1) MP extending beyond the mid-point of the wing; (2) the presence of at least two cross-veins proximal to Cu crossing (Fig. 1); and (3) males with stout, relatively simply caudal appendages. Three species of *Sinosticta* have thus far been described, all restricted to southern China: *S. ogatai* (Matsuki & Saito, 1996) from Hong Kong, *S. hainanense* Wilson & Reels, 2001 from Hainan, and *S. debra* Wilson & Xu, 2007 from Guangdong.

*Protosticta* was established by Selys (1885), who included 35 species mostly from Southeast Asia. Three species of *Protosticta* have been recorded from China: *P. beaumonti* Wilson, 1997, *P. kiautai* Zhou, 1986, and *P. taipokauensis* Asahina & Dudgeon, 1987. Here, we describe two new species, *Sinosticta sylvatica* and *Protosticta zhengi* from Hainan and Yunnan province, China, respectively. Diagnostic features for each of these new species and a key for *Sinosticta* Wilson are provided.

### Key to species of *Sinosticta* Wilson

- 1 Antehumeral stripe complete, as long as mesothoracic pleural suture ..... 2
- Antehumeral stripe incomplete, only half as long as mesothoracic pleural suture..... *S. ogatai*
- 2 Postocular spots present, lateral synthorax mainly pale ..... 3

- Postocular spots absent, lateral synthorax mainly black..... *S. hainanense*
- 3 A pair of large oval, pale spots on frons (Fig. 7); apex of cerci acute and lacking subdistal inner horns, cerci slightly longer than paraprocts (Figs. 4–5). ..... *S. sylvatica*
- No pale spots on frons; apex of cerci not acute and having subdistal inner horns, cerci shorter than paraprocts.....  
..... *S. debra*

***Sinosticta sylvatica* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 1–9)

**Material. Holotype:** ♂, China, Hainan, Diaoluoshan Nature Reserve, N 18° 39.978', E 109°55.954', 620m, 29-V-2007, leg. Xin Yu. **Paratype:** 1 ♂, China, Hainan, Yinggeling Nature Reserve, Hongmao, N 19°04.343', E 109°31.687', 470m, 25-V-2007, leg. Xin Yu. **Holotype** and **Paratype** will be deposited at Institute of Entomology, Life Sciences College of Nankai University, Tianjin, China.

**Etymology.** Species epithet is in reference to a deep forest where the new species was collected.

**Description.** Male. Labium, labrum, bases of mandibles, and genae yellow; anteclypeus and most parts of postclypeus greenish-blue, base of postclypeus black; frons black, with two large pale greenish-blue spots on each side (Fig. 7); vertex including antennae black, with two small yellow spots distal to each lateral ocellus (Fig. 2); postocular spots blue; postoccipital stripe absent. Anterior lobe of prothorax (Fig. 3) blue; middle lobe black dorsally, with two large circular pale blue spots each sides, and yellow laterally; posterior lobe black; synthorax (Fig. 2) black dorsally, with yellow antehumeral stripe; sides yellow, with a black stripe along mesothoracic pleural suture; legs pale yellow, with brown stripes on extensor surfaces of femora and tibiae; wings hyaline; pterostigmata deep brown, braced, each covering two cells; wing base sclerites blue. Abdomen black, with yellow and blue as follows: lateral of S1-2, lateral 0.80 of S3-8 yellow; S9-10 blue dorsally. Cerci blue, longer than S10, a little longer than black paraprocts (Figs. 4–6). Head of genital ligula round, with digit-like apical lobes, short lateral branch on each apical lobe (Figs. 8–9).

**Measurements** (mm): abdomen + appendages 40.0; hind wing 29.0.

**Diagnosis.** This new species is similar to *Sinosticta debra* in body size and coloration pattern, but differs by cerci a little longer than paraprocts, cerci apex acuter than *S. debra* and without subdistal inner horns. Also, unlike *S. debra*, the new species lacks narrow black stripe along the third lateral suture (Fig. 2) but has a pair of large pale colored spots on the frons (Fig. 7).

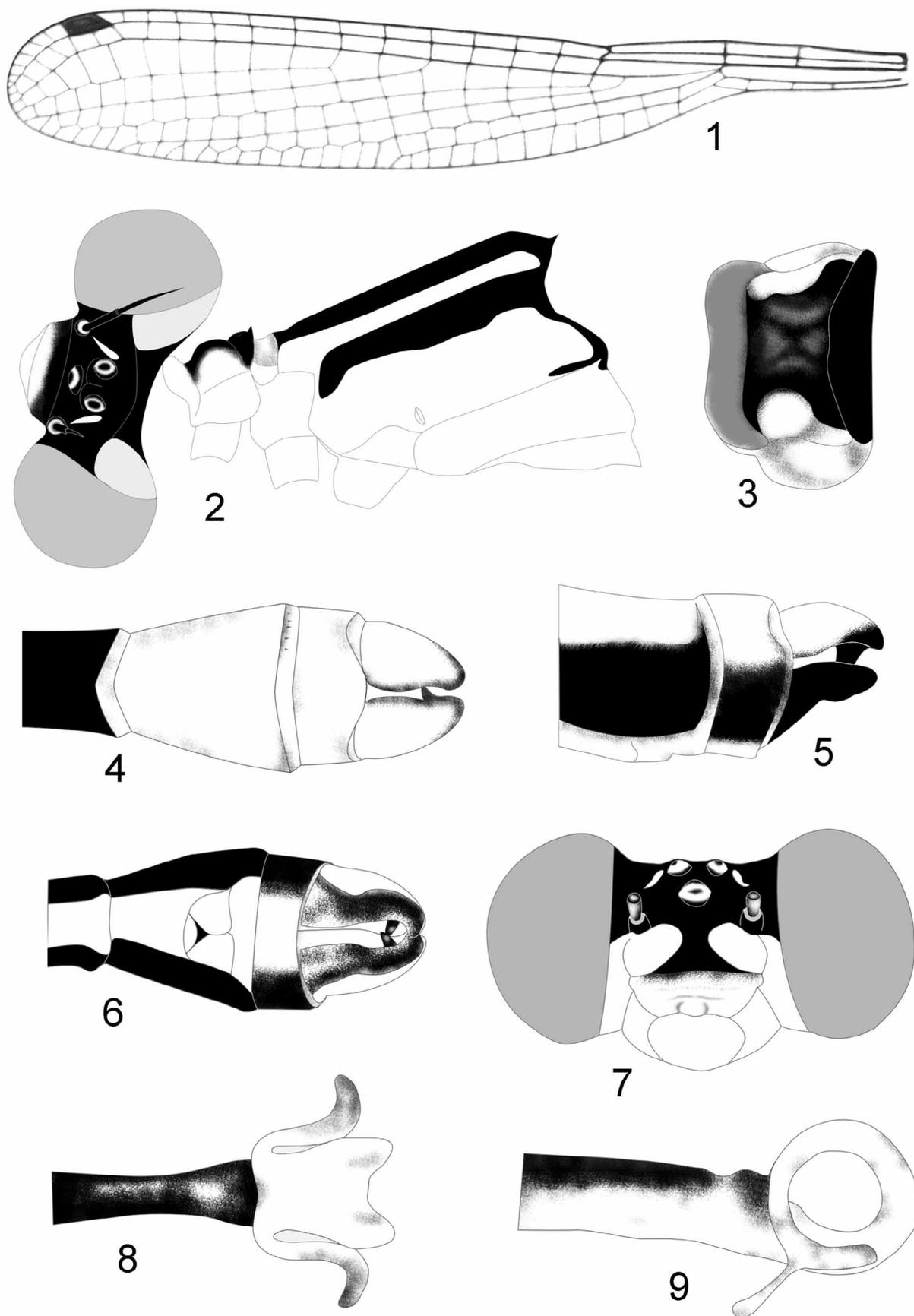
***Protosticta zhengi* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 10–15)

**Material. Holotype:** ♂, China, Yunnan, Xishuangbanna, Menghun, 750m, 30-V-1958, leg. Leyi Zheng. **Holotype** will be deposited at Institute of Entomology, Life Sciences College of Nankai University, Tianjin, China.

**Etymology.** Species epithet is in honor of the collector Professor Le-yi Zheng.

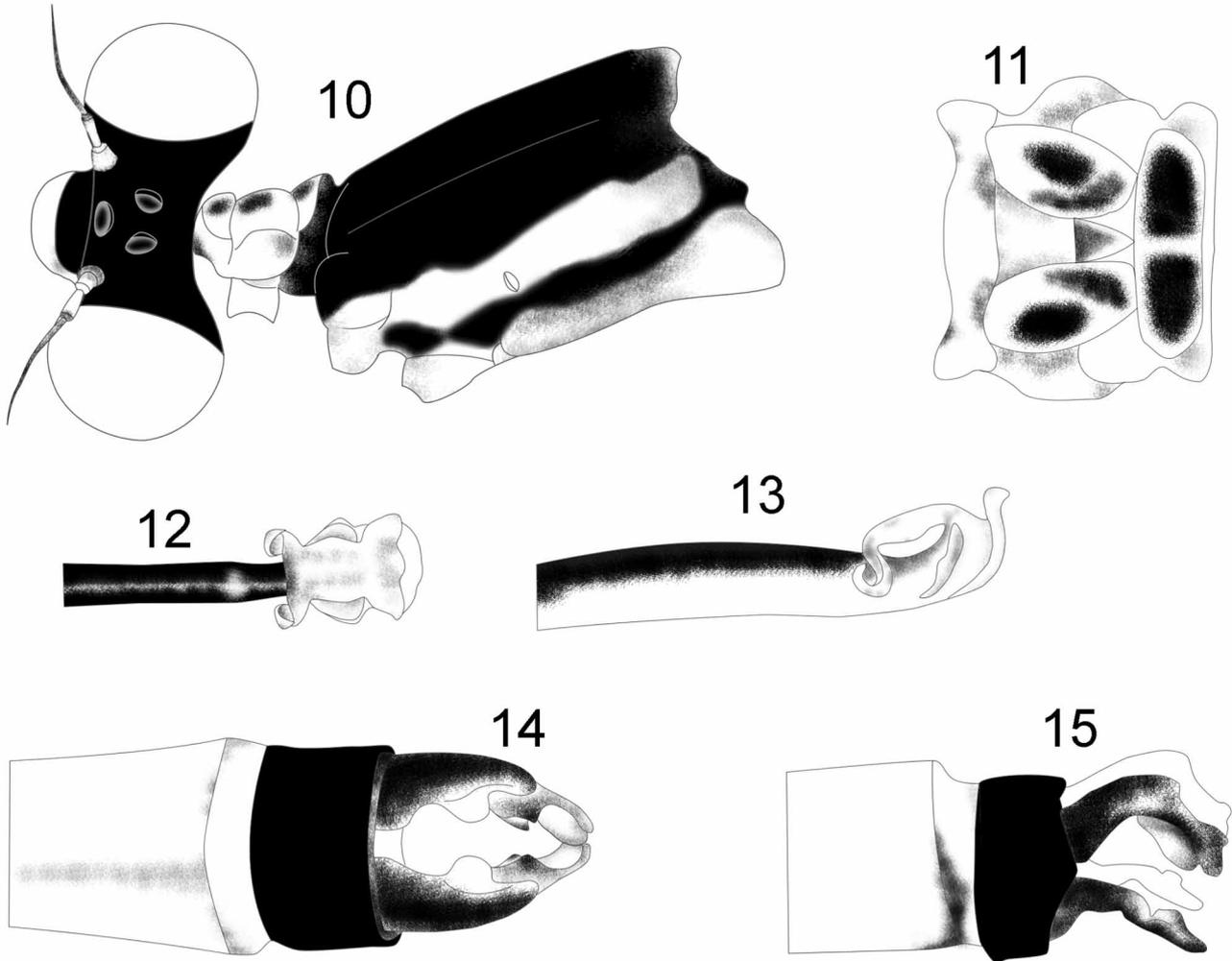
**Description.** Male. Labium pale yellow; labrum, bases of mandibles, and anteclypeus pale blue; postclypeus, genae, frons, and anterior half of vertex shining black; posterior half of vertex dull black; base of postclypeus and middle of frons with yellow marks; antennae dark brown, except the first two segments pale yellow; postocular spots and postoccipital stripe absent (Fig. 10). Prothorax pale yellow, with black marks (Fig. 11); synthorax (Fig. 10) black dorsally, with pale yellow dorsal carina; antehumeral stripe absent; sides of synthorax black above interpleural suture, pale yellow below, with a black stripe along metathoracic pleural suture; legs pale yellow, with black stripes on extensor surfaces of femora; wings hyaline; pterostigmata trapezoidal, dark brown, each covering two cells. Abdomen black, with pale yellow as follows: lateral of S1-2, 0.20 and 0.6–0.8 of S3-6, lateral 0.20 of S7-8; S9 wholly pale blue, S10 wholly black. Caudal appendages black, cerci longer and more robust than paraprocts (Figs. 14–15). Genital ligula with shield like head and curved apical lobes (Figs. 12–13).



**FIGURES 1–9.** *Sinosticta sylvatica* sp. nov., male: (1) left forewing; (2) head and thorax; (3) pronotum, dorsal; (4) caudal appendages, dorsal; (5) caudal appendages, lateral; (6) caudal appendages, ventral; (7) face; (8) genital ligula, ventral; (9) genital ligula, lateral.

**Measurements** (mm): abdomen + appendages 44.0; hind wing 21.0.

**Diagnosis.** This new species is similar to *Protosticta beaumonti* and *Protosticta curiosa*, but differs from *P. beaumonti* by having dark marks on dorsum of prothorax (Fig. 11) and lacking an apical thorn on paraprocts (Figs. 14–15), and differs from *P. curiosa* by having curved apical lobes on top of genital ligula (Figs. 12–13).



**FIGURES 10–15.** *Protosticta zhengi* sp. nov., male: (10) head and thorax; (11) pronotum, dorsal; (12) genital ligula, ventral; (13) genital ligula, lateral; (14) caudal appendages, dorsal; (15) caudal appendages, lateral.

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