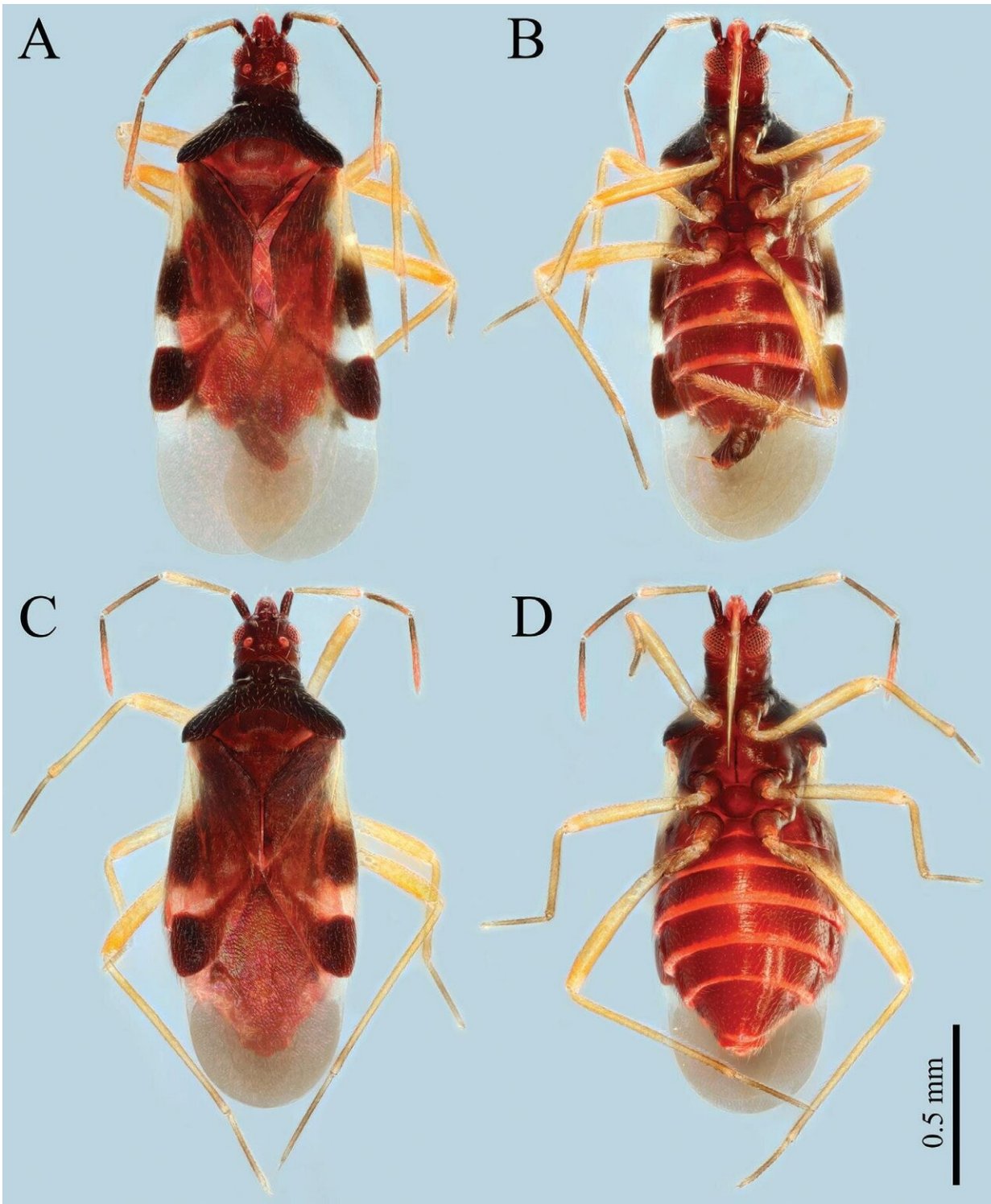


First Chinese record of web-loving bug family Plokiophilidae reported from Xishuangbanna

March 11 2021, by Zhang Nannan



Habitus of *Plokiophiloides bannaensis* sp. nov. A. male holotype in dorsal view; B. male holotype in ventral view; C. female paratype in dorsal view; D. female paratype in ventral view. Credit: LUO Jiuyang

A new species of the web-loving bug family Plokiophilidae has been reported from Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). The family Plokiophilidae is a new record for the fauna of China and the first record of the genus Plokiophiloides beyond the Afrotropical Region.

The family Plokiophilidae China is a small group of true bugs, currently containing nine genera. It contains two subfamilies, Embiophilinae and Plokiophilinae: the former possessed heavy forefemoral spines and lived in the webs of Embiidina, and the latter lacked forefemoral spines and lived in the webs of spiders.

During their [field work](#), researchers from Sun Yat-sen University and XTBG collected some unknown bug specimens from the webs of wolf spiders *Hippasa* sp in low herbaceous plants in XTBG. After careful morphological studies and literature review, the researchers confirmed that the [species](#) is new to science and named it as *Plokiophiloides bannaensis* to refer its type locality of Xishuangbanna. The new species was published in ZooKeys.

Plokiophiloides bannaensis can be distinguished from the congeners by the combined characteristics: body with red pigment; exocorium with about 65 corial glands; whitish precuneal spot on forewing conspicuous and hypocostal lamina extending caudally as a short, pale whitish-yellow projection.

According to the researchers, the [new species](#) of Plokiophilidae and its host spider *Hippasa* sp. are currently only found in tropical China. "More investigation is needed to clarify the [species diversity](#) and thus the distribution pattern of Plokiophilidae in pantropical regions," said Dr. Peng Yanqiong from XTBG.



Habitus images of live individuals for *Plokiophiloides bannaensis* sp. nov. and spider host *Hippasa* sp. A. an adult of *Plokiophiloides bannaensis* sp. nov. on web; B. an individual of *Hippasa* sp. in funnel of the web; C. an adult and a nymph of *Plokiophiloides bannaensis* sp. nov. near funnel of the web. Credit: LUO Jiuyang

More information: Jiuyang Luo et al. First record of the cimicomorphan family Plokiophilidae (Hemiptera, Heteroptera) from China, with description of a new species of *Plokiophiloides*, *ZooKeys* (2021). [DOI: 10.3897/zookeys.1021.56599](https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.1021.56599)

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