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# BOOK REVIEW

*Lycosids in China*. C.M. Yin, X.J. Peng, L.P. Xie, Y.H. Bao & J.F. Wang. 317 pp. Hunan Normal University Press, Changsha 1997. ISBN 7-81031-599-4/Q.017.

The arachnological research activities in China have increased considerably during the last decades, promoted by and associated with increasing awareness of the role of spiders in agricultural issues (Song 1996). The literature on Chinese spiders has grown substantially mainly due to the studies performed by various research groups in the country. One of them is active at the Hunan Normal University in Changsha under the leadership of Prof. Changmin Yin, and a number of comprehensive books on spiders have originated from this group [*Spiders in China, One Hundred New and Newly Recorded Species of the Families Araneidae and Agelenidae* including papers by C.M. Yin et al. and J.F. Wang et al. (1990), *Salticids in China* by X.J. Peng, L.P. Xie, X.Q. Xiao & C.M. Yin (1993), *Fauna Sinica: Arachnida Araneae: Araneidae* by C.M. Yin, J.F. Wang, M.S. Zhu, L.P. Xie, X.J. Peng & Y.H. Bao (1997)].

A recent contribution from this group is *Lycosids in China*. As stated in the foreword, the book does not encompass all wolf spider species currently known to occur in China but is based on the material available in the collection of the Department of Biology at Hunan Normal University. Most material therefore comes from more southern parts of this vast country. Regrettably, for 'outsiders', the book is addressed mainly to Chinese reading arachnologists. No English summary is given, but there are bilingual (Chinese/English) figure legends.

Descriptions of 135 species distributed among 13 'traditional' genera are given, including lists of synonyms, comments on affinities with other species, habitat (for some of the species) and distribution, particularly within China. It is to be noted that the genus *Ocyale* Audouin 1826 is now represented in China by the recently (1997) described *O. qiongzhongensis* Yin & Peng which is included in the book. Keys to subfamilies, genera and species are supplied. [The subfamily Hippasinae is maintained, encompassing a mixture of genera (*Ocyale*, *Pirata* Sundevall 1833, *Venonia* Thorell 1894, *Hippasa* Simon 1885) currently allocated to other subfamilies, in despite of Hippasinae presently being placed as a junior synonym of Lycosinae (*cf.* Dondale 1986; Zyuzin 1993)]. Illustrations are provided for all species, at least of the habitus (not very informative) and the copulatory organs. For some species the copulatory organ of only one sex is shown despite both sexes are known (the other sex not present in the collection). For a number of species additional illustrations are given, showing, e.g., the inflated bulbus. Details of the macerated female receptacular complex are given for several species; information which hardly has been given as a routine in comparable monographic treatments. For many species more details of the male palp are still wanting, i.e., the configuration of the terminal part of the bulbus and the detailed shape of the embolus.

The number of species within each genus as treated in the book is: *Evippa* Simon 1882 (2), *Xerolycosa* Dahl 1908 (1), *Hippasa* (4), *Ocyale* (1), *Pirata* (12), *Venonia* (1), *Alopecosa* Simon 1885 (13), *Arctosa* C.L. Koch 1847 (17), *Hogna* Simon 1885 (2), *Lycosa* Latreille 1804 (16), *Trochosa* C.L. Koch 1847 (8), *Pardosa* C.L. Koch 1847 (56), *Wadicosa* Zyuzin 1985 (2).

Several species are described as "sp. nov." though the names were already introduced in original descriptions (in Roman letters) by various author groups elsewhere (in issues of

either *Acta Arachnologica Sinica* or *Korean Arachnology* from 1997, antedating the publication date, 1 December 1997, of the present book). Only four of the species treated seem to have been originally described in this book, *viz.* "*Alopecosa disca* Tang et al., sp. nov.," "*Alopecosa wenxianensis* Tang et al.," "*Arctosa liujiapingensis* sp. nov.," and "*Pardosa alboannulata* sp. nov." (names cited as they appear in the book).

From the illustrations it is apparent that there are a number of misidentifications. The following serve as examples only and is not meant to be a complete listing (for which the reviewers have insufficient knowledge): The figures referring to certain species, e.g., *Xerolycosa nemoralis* (Westring 1861), were apparently drawn from material belonging to other species. The epigynum in ventral view attributed to *Pardosa schenkeli* Lessert 1904 reminds one more of *P. hanrasanensis* Jo & Paik 1984 (from Korea); the latter on the other hand is listed as a synonym of what is stated to be *Pardosa bifasciata* (C.L. Koch 1834). *Pardosa anchoroides* Yu & Song 1988 was recently synonymized with *P. adustella* Roewer 1951 (by Logunov & Marusik 1995). The illustrations meant to show the *Pardosa atrata* (Thorell 1873) male were clearly drawn from another species, and the drawings attributed to the *Pardosa lapponica* (Thorell 1872) female were made from another, possibly undescribed, species. The illustrations ascribed to *Pardosa uncifera* Schenkel 1963 do not match the type material examined by us. Without details of the terminal apophysis of the bulbus, it is impossible to judge whether the authors really had *Pardosa monticola* (Clerck 1757) at hand. The illustrations of *Pardosa multivaga* Simon 1880 make us suspect that this species may not even belong in *Pardosa*.

There are scattered misspellings, e.g., "*krotochvilli*" instead of *kratochvili* throughout (in *Alopecosa*), "*dividi*" instead of *davidi* (synonym of *Alopecosa licenti*), etc., author of *Pardosa astrigera* is L. Koch, not his father C.L. Koch. Several of the references given in the foreword and the introdutory chapter do not appear in the list of literature cited at the end.

Despite the linguistic problems and the limited coverage of lycosid species from northern China—the title is accordingly "*Lycosids in China*" not "The Lycosids of China"—this book is a valuable tool for researchers outside China interested in taxonomic problems of East Asian wolf spiders. It will, above all, serve as a useful iconotheca and a source for taxonomic inspiration for those of us who do not master Chinese.

Both reviewers are grateful to Prof. Yin for copies of the book and to Mrs. Fang Fang, ichthyologist at the Swedish Museum of Natural History, for translation of certain passages in the book.

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**Torbjörn Kronestedt:** Department of Entomology, Swedish Museum of Natural History, Box 50007, SE-104 05 Stockholm, Sweden

**Yuri M. Marusik:** Institute for Biological Problems of the North, Karl Marx prospect 24, Magadan 685010, Russia

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