



Research article

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**Three new species of *Entomobrya*
(Collembola: Entomobryidae) from China**

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Abstract. Three new species of *Entomobrya* Rondani, 1861 from China are described: *E. leviseta* sp. nov. and *E. polychaeta* sp. nov. from Shaanxi Province and *E. dingi* sp. nov. from Yunnan Province. This is the first report of *Entomobrya* from Shaanxi Province. *Entomobrya leviseta* sp. nov. is characterised by prelabral smooth chaetae on the labrum; *E. polychaeta* sp. nov. by three pairs of longitudinal dark blue stripes from Th. II to Abd. III and eight lateral mac on Abd. III; and *E. dingi* sp. nov. by only a little pigment on the body and 5 central mac on And. II & III. A key to all Chinese species of *Entomobrya* is given.

Keywords. Entomobryinae, taxonomy, chaetotaxy.

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Introduction

Entomobryidae Tömösvary, 1882 is the largest family of Collembola Lubbock, 1873 and it contains seven subfamilies (Zhang & Louis 2014) with about 1800 species recorded worldwide (Bellinger *et al.* 1996–2017). The genus *Entomobrya*, Rondani, 1861 contains 270 species and is one of the largest genera; it is characterised by four-segmented antennae, eyes 8+8, scales absent, mucro bidentate with a basal spine, and dens without spine. Colour pattern sometimes play a key role in classification, although it may be variable among specimens from a single population (Stach 1963); The molecular phylogenetic study by Katz *et al.* (2015) revealed that colour pattern is a valid tool for specific delimitation in *Entomobrya*. Chaetotaxy has proved to be extremely important (Jordana 2012). The labrum, especially its papillae and prelabral setae, is also very important and other characteristics, such as the shape of the mucro, labium, and apical bulb of the antenna, are of occasional taxonomic value (Christiansen 1958).

Fifteen species of *Entomobrya* have been reported from China. Two new species, *E. leviseta* sp. nov. and *E. polychaeta* sp. nov., are found in Shaanxi and ours is the first report of the genus in the province.

Another new species, *E. dingi* sp. nov., is found in Yunnan and this is the third species of the genus in the province. A key to the Chinese species of *Entomobrya* is given.

Material and methods

Specimens were cleared and mounted under a coverslip in Marc André II solution and were studied with a Leica DM2500 microscope. Photographs were taken with a mounted Leica DFC300 FX digital camera and enhanced with Photoshop CS2 (Adobe Inc.). The nomenclature of the dorsal chaetotaxy of the head is described following Jordana & Baquero (2005) and Chen & Christiansen (1993), and interocular chaetae after Mari-Mutt (1986). Labial chaetae are designated following Gisin (1967). Tergal chaetae of the body are designated using the system of Szeptycki (1979).

Abbreviations

Abd. = abdominal segment
Ant. = antennal segment
Gr. = group
mac = macrochaeta(e)
ms = S-microchaeta(e) (microsensillum, -a)
sens = ordinary S-chaeta(e) on terga
Th. = thoracic segment

Results

Description of new species

Class Collembola Lubbock, 1873
Order Entomobryomorpha Börner, 1913
Family Entomobryidae Tömösvary, 1882
Subfamily Entomobryinae Schäffer, 1896

Genus *Entomobrya* Rondani, 1861

Diagnosis

Moderate size, usually 1–3 mm; antennae four segmented and usually with an apical bulb; eyes 8+8; intersegmental membranes without microchaetae; scales absent and body chaetae not scale-like; mucro bidentate and with a basal spine; dens without spine.

Entomobrya leviseta sp. nov

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Figs 1–5, Table 1

Diagnosis

Eyepatches and lateral margin of Th. II with blue pigment; a longitudinal blue stripe present along midline from head to Th. II, Th. III with a broad transverse blue stripe; Abd. IV with two irregular transverse blue stripes; prelabral chaetae of labrum smooth; subapical tooth of mucro equal to or slightly larger than apical tooth.

Etymology

The specific epithet is named after the smooth (from Latin ‘*levis*’) prelabral chaetae of the labrum.

Table 1. Comparison between *Entomobrya leviseta* sp. nov and *E. striatella* Börner, 1909.

Characters	<i>E. leviseta</i> sp. nov.	<i>E. striatella</i>
Labial chaetae	MREL ₁ L ₂	M ₁ M ₂ REL ₁ L ₂
Transverse stripe on Th. III	broad	narrow
Colour pattern on Abd. IV anteriorly	a transverse stripe	a pair of patches
Colour pattern on Abd. V	a transverse stripe	a pair of patches
Mac m2i2 on Th. II	present	absent
Mac a1a on Abd. I	present	absent
Central mac on Abd. IV	33–46	24
Locality	China (Shaanxi)	Japan, Korea

Type material

Holotype

CHINA: ♀ on slide, 108 National Highway, Mazhao Town, Zhouzhi County, Xi'an City, Shaanxi Province, 34°03'35" N, 108°11'47" E, altitude ca 566 m, in litter, with aspirator, 15 Jul. 2012, Yitong Ma leg. (Nantong University, collection number 1115).



Fig. 1. *Entomobrya leviseta* sp. nov. A–B. Habitus. Scales bars: A–B = 500 µm.

Paratypes

CHINA: 2 ♀♀ on slides, same collecting data as for holotype; 5 ♀♀ on slides, Famen Temple, Fufeng County, Baoji City, Shaanxi Province, 34°25'29" N, 107°53'59" E, altitude ca 602 m, in litter, with aspirator, 11 Jul. 2012, Yitong Ma leg. (Nantong University, collection number 1101).

Description

MEASUREMENTS. Body length up to 2.68 mm.

COLOUR. Ground colour yellowish. Eyepatches dark blue. Antennae and lateral margin of head and Th. II with blue pigment. A longitudinal blue stripe present along midline from head to Th. II. Th. III with a broad transverse blue stripe. Abd. II with scattered pigment laterally and Abd. III with a very narrow blue stripe posteriorly. Abd. IV with two irregular transverse blue stripes. Coxae and tibiotarsi with weak pigment (Fig. 1A–B).

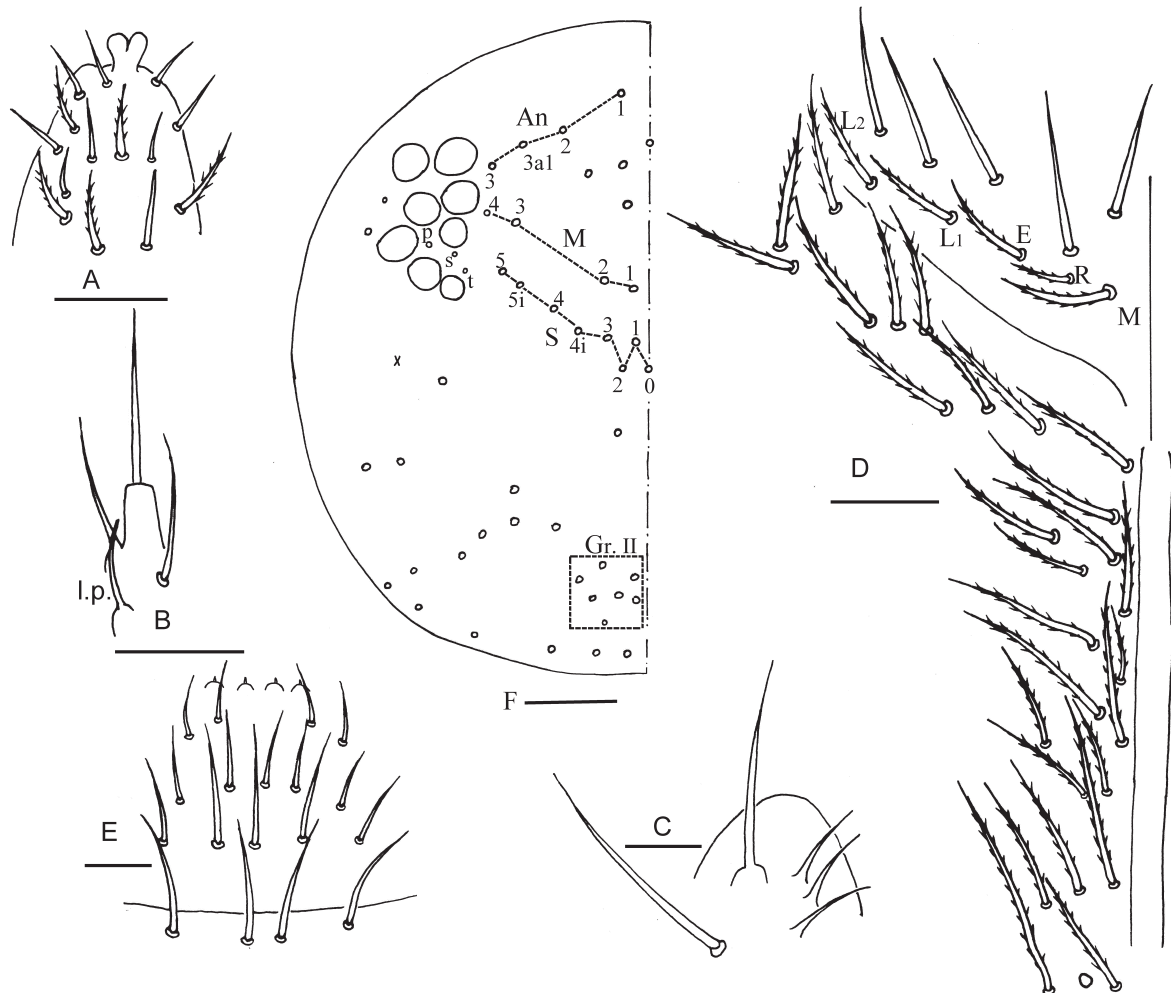


Fig. 2. *Entomobrya leviseta* sp. nov. **A.** Apex of Ant. IV. **B.** Lateral process of labial palp. **C.** Maxillary outer lobe. **D.** Labium. **E.** Labrum. **F.** Dorsal chaetotaxy of head. Scale bars: D, F = 50 μ m; A–C, E = 20 μ m.

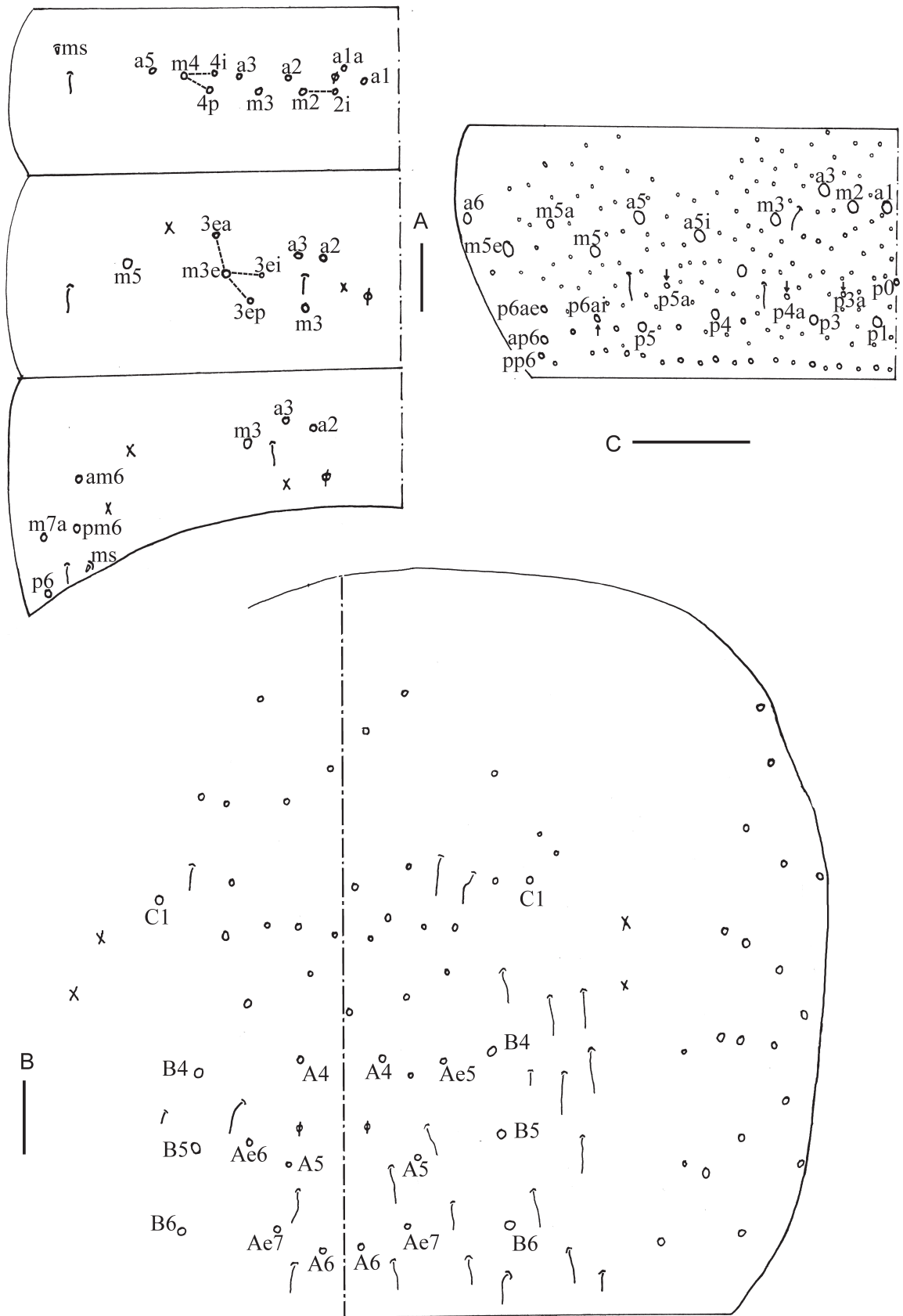


Fig. 4. *Entomobrya leviseta* sp. nov. **A.** Chaetotaxy of Abd. I–III. **B.** Chaetotaxy of Abd. IV. **C.** Chaetotaxy of Abd. V. Scale bars: A–C = 50 µm.

THORAX. Th. II with 4 (m1, m2, m2i, m2i2) medio-medial, 3 (m4, m4i, m4p) medio-sublateral, 31–34 posterior mac, 1 ms and 2 sens. Th. III with 38–43 (46) mac and 2 sens (Fig. 3A). Coxal macrochaetal formula as 3 (2 pseudopores)/4+1–2, 3 (5–6 pseudopores)/4+2 (2 pseudopores) (Fig. 3B–D). Trochanteral organ with 43–44 (61) chaetae (Fig. 3E). Tenent hair subequal to inner side of unguis, with tip strongly clavate. Unguis with 4 inner teeth, basal pair located 0.44–0.49 distance from base of inner edge of unguis, distal unpaired two respectively at 0.68–0.73 and 0.85–0.87 distance from base. Unguiculus acuminate with outer edge serrate (Fig. 3F).

ABDOMEN. Abd. IV 5.31–7.55 times as Abd. III in length along dorsal midline. Abd. I with 11(10) (m2i, m2, m3, m4, m4i, m4p, a1, a1a, a2, a3, a5, m4i sometimes absent) mac, 1 ms and 1 sens; sens inner to ms. Abd. II with 6 (7) (a2, a3, m3e, m3ea, m3ep, m3, m3ei sometimes present) central, 1 (m5) lateral mac and two sens. Abd. III with 3 (a2, a3, m3) central, 4 (am6, pm6, m7a, p6) lateral mac, 1 ms and 2 sens (Fig. 4A). Abd. IV with 33–46 central and 20–23 lateral mac (Fig. 4B). Abd. V with 3 sens (Fig. 4C). Ventral tube with 15–23 ciliate chaetae on anterior face (Fig. 5A), 2 apical smooth and many ciliate chaetae on posterior face (Fig. 5B), 6 smooth and 8–13 ciliate chaetae on each lateral flap (Fig. 5C). Manubrial plaque with 8–14 ciliate chaetae and 3 pseudopores on each side (Fig. 5D). Distal

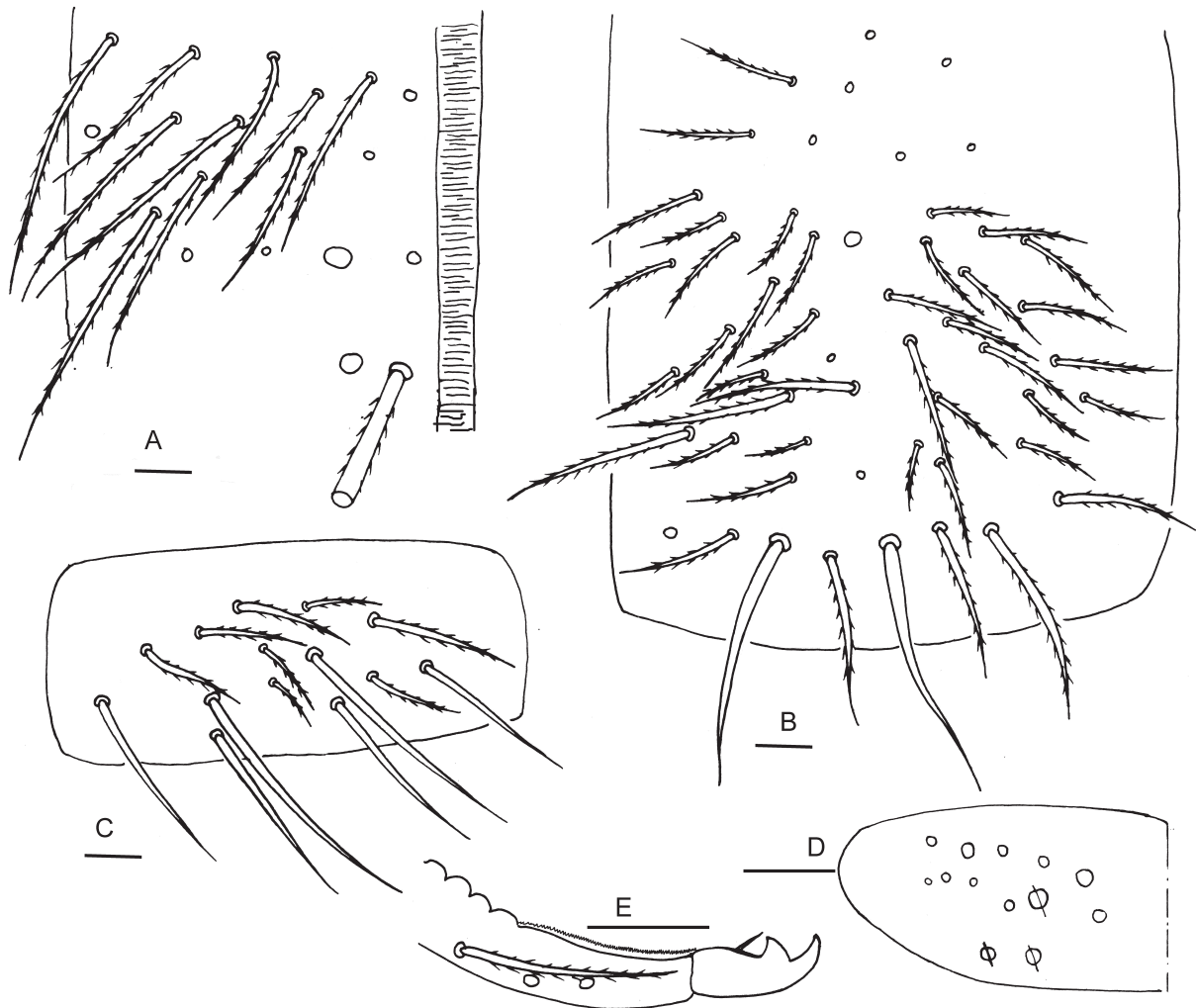


Fig. 5. *Entomobrya leviseta* sp. nov. **A.** Anterior face of ventral tube. **B.** Posterior face of ventral tube. **C.** Lateral flap of ventral tube. **D.** Plaque of manubrium. **E.** Distal part of dens and mucro. Scale bars: A–E = 20 μ m.

smooth part of dens about 1.00–1.28 times as long as mucro. Mucro bidentate and subapical tooth equal to or slightly larger than apical tooth. Basal spine almost reaching apex of subapical tooth (Fig. 5E).

Remarks

The prelabral chaetae on labrum are ciliated in *Entomobrya* generally (Jordana 2012) or finely ciliate (Katz *et al.* 2015), but they are smooth in *E. striatella* Börner, 1909 (Jordana 2012; Yosii *et al.* 1963). The new species is the second species of *Entomobrya* with smooth prelabral chaetae and it is also similar to *E. striatella* in colour pattern on Th. II, with three longitudinal stripes, but the colour pattern on Th. III, Abd. IV–V and chaetotaxy on Abd. I & IV are different (Table 1).

Entomobrya polychaeta sp. nov.

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Figs 6–10, Table 2

Diagnosis

Three pairs of interrupted, longitudinal dark blue stripes present from Th. II to Abd. III; 7–9 medio-medial and 6–8 medio-sublateral mac on Th. II; 4 central and 8 lateral mac on Abd. III.

Etymology

The specific epithet is derived from the Latin ‘*poly*’, meaning ‘many’, referring to the many mac on the lateral side of Abd. III.



Fig. 6. *Entomobrya polychaeta* sp. nov. A–C. Habitus. Scales bars: A–C = 500 μ m.

Table 2. Comparison among *Entomobrya polychaeta* sp. nov., *E. koreana* Yosii, 1965 and *E. retingensis* Baquero & Jordana, 2008.

Characters	<i>E. polychaeta</i> sp. nov.	<i>E. koreana</i>	<i>E. retingensis</i>
Blue longitudinal stripes from Th. II to Abd. III	6 stripes	5 stripes	no longitudinal stripes
Medio-medial mac on Th. II	7–9	2	0
Medio-lateral mac on Th. II	6–8	4	2
Central mac on Abd. III	4	3	3
Lateral mac on Abd. III	8	4	3
Length ratio of smooth part of dens to mucro	1.5–1.6	2.3	2.4
Locality	China (Shaanxi)	Korea	China (Tibet)

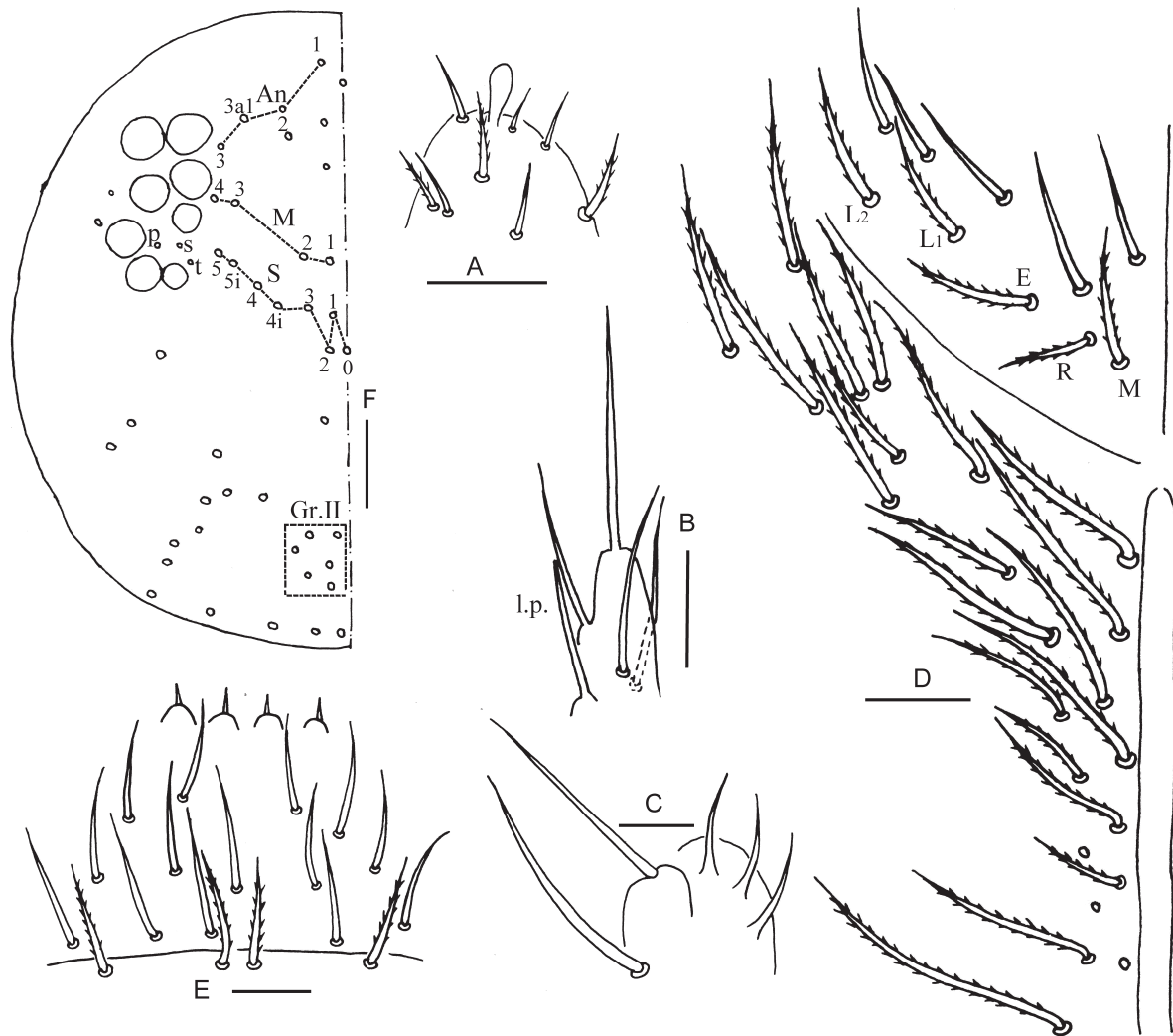


Fig. 7. *Entomobrya polychaeta* sp. nov. **A.** Apex of Ant. IV. **B.** Lateral process of labial palp. **C.** Maxillary outer lobe. **D.** Labium. **E.** Labrum. **F.** Dorsal chaetotaxy of head. Scale bars: A–C, E, = 20 μ m; D, F = 50 μ m.

Type material

Holotype

CHINA: ♀ on slide, 108 National Highway, Mazhao Town, Zhouzhi County, Xi'an City, Shaanxi Province, 34°03'35" N, 108°11'47" E, altitude ca 566 m, in litter, with aspirator, 15 Jul. 2012, Yitong Ma leg. (Nantong University, collection number 1115).

Paratypes

CHINA: 2 ♀♀ on slides, same collecting data as for holotype.

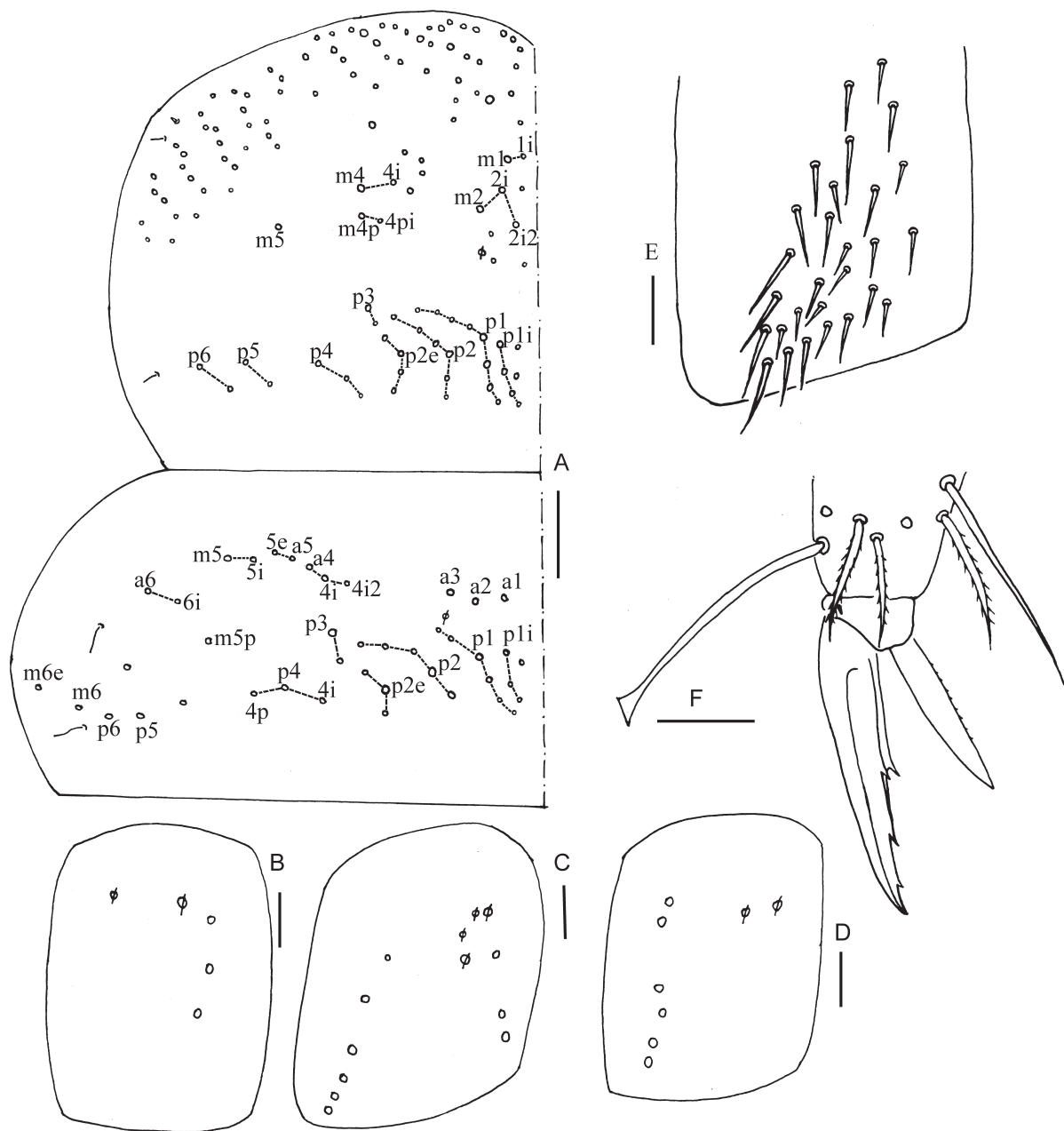


Fig. 8. *Entomobrya polychaeta* sp. nov. **A.** Chaetotaxy of Th. II–III. **B.** Coxal macrochaetal formula of fore leg. **C.** Coxal macrochaetal formula of middle leg. **D.** Coxal macrochaetal formula of hind leg. **E.** Trochanteral organ. **F.** Hind foot complex. Scale bars: A = 50 μ m; B–F = 20 μ m.

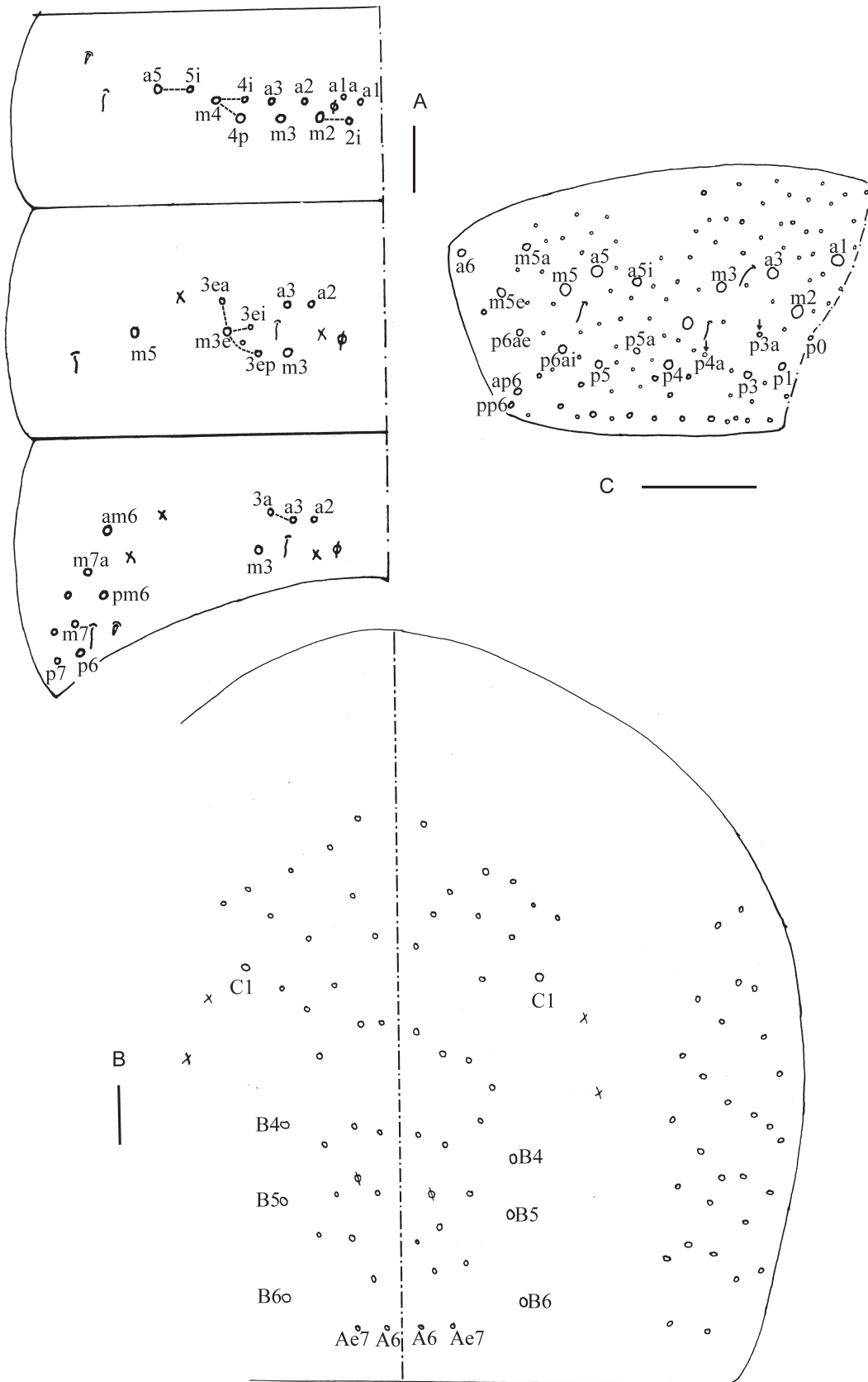


Fig. 9. *Entomobrya polychaeta* sp. nov. **A.** Chaetotaxy of Abd. I-III. **B.** Chaetotaxy of Abd. IV. **C.** Chaetotaxy of Abd. V. Scale bars: A-C = 50 μm.

Description

MEASUREMENTS. Body length up to 2.24 mm.

COLOUR. Ground colour pale yellow. Middle and distal parts of Ant. I–III blue pigmented and pigment also present on Ant. IV. An irregular dark blue circle present along margin of head. Besides a transverse dark stripe present between eyepatches, some dark patches present on middle and posterior part of head. A pair of longitudinal stripes present laterally from anterior part of Th. II to Abd. IV. There are also two pairs of discontinuous longitudinal stripes from posterior part of Th. II to Abd. III: one is located centrally and other medio-laterally. Posterior margin of Abd. III with a narrow transverse blue stripe. Abd. IV with longitudinal median stripes and irregular patches. Coxae, distal part of femora and middle part of tibiotarsi with blue pigment (Fig. 6A–C).

HEAD. Antenna 0.58–0.68 times as long as body. Antennal segments ratio as I:II:III:IV = 1.00:1.56–1.85:1.32–1.74:1.85–2.12. Distal part of Ant. IV with many sensory chaetae, normal ciliate chaetae and apical bulb unilobed (Fig. 7A). Lateral process (l.p.) of labial palp curved with tip reaching apex of same papilla (Fig. 7B). Subapical chaeta of maxillary outer lobe subequal to apical one, 3 smooth hairs on sublobal plate (Fig. 7C). Labial chaetae MREL₁L₂, all ciliate; chaeta R 0.67–0.70 as long as chaeta M (Fig. 7D). Labral chaetae 4/5, 5, 4, prelabral chaetae ciliate and other smooth; labral papillae 4 and each with 1 minute denticle (Fig. 7E). Clypeus not clearly seen. Dorsal cephalic chaetotaxy with 4 antennal (An), 4 median (M), 8 sutural (S) mac and 6–7 mac in Gr. II; interocular chaetae as p, s, t (Fig. 7F).

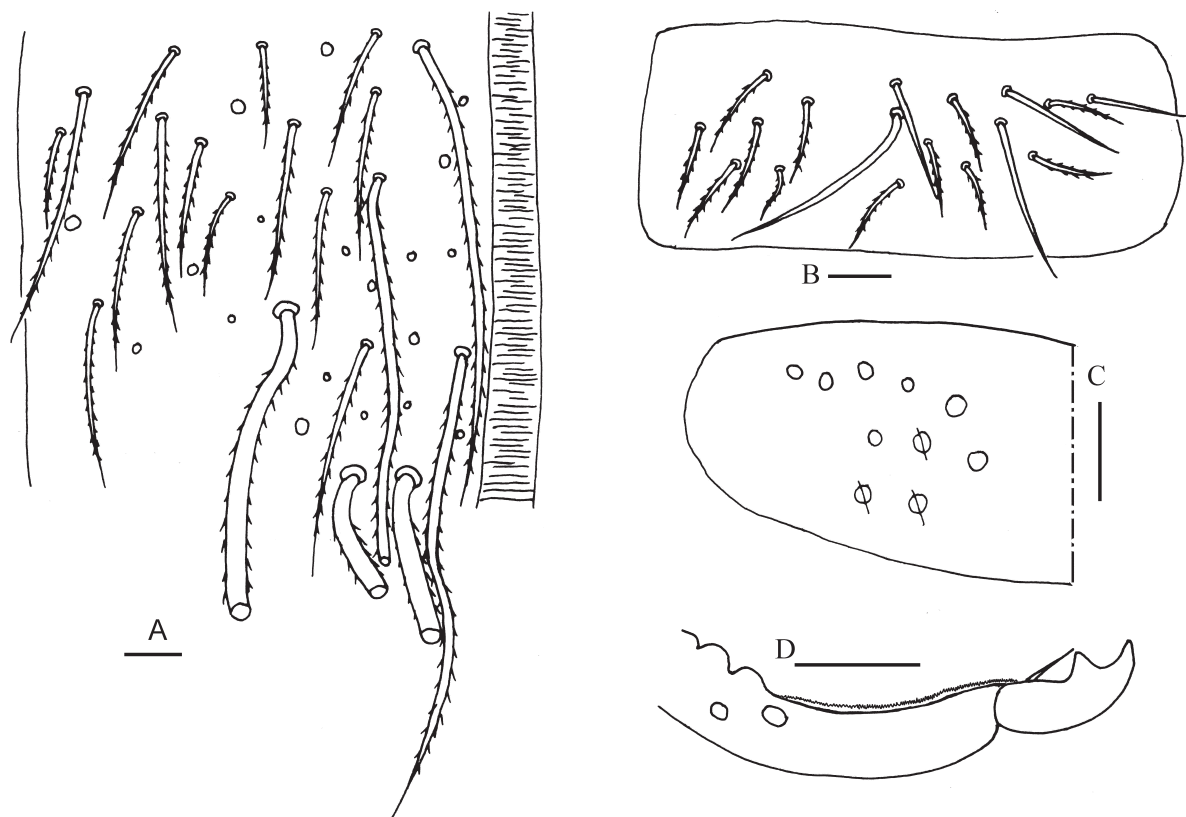


Fig. 10. *Entomobrya polychaeta* sp. nov. **A.** Anterior face of ventral tube. **B.** Lateral flap of ventral tube. **C.** Plaque of manubrium. **D.** Distal part of dens and mucro. Scale bars: A–D = 20 μ m.

THORAX. Th. II with 7–9 medio-medial, 6–8 medio-sublateral, 33–35 posterior mac, 1 ms and 2 sens. Th. III with 42–43 mac and 2 sens (Fig. 8A). Coxal macrochaetal formula as 3 (2 pseudopores)/4+2, 3 (4 pseudopores)/4+2 (2 pseudopores) (Fig. 8B–D). Trochanteral organ with 28–33 chaetae (Fig. 8E). Tenent hair subequal to inner side of unguis, with tip strongly clavate. Unguis with 4 inner teeth, basal pair located 0.47–0.49 distance from base of inner edge of unguis, distal unpaired two respectively at 0.71–0.73 and 0.88–0.89 distance from base. Unguiculus acuminate with outer edge serrate (Fig. 8F).

ABDOMEN. Abd. IV 5.02–6.11 times as Abd. III in length along dorsal midline. Abd. I with 12(11) (m2i, m2, m3, m4, m4i, m4p, a1, a1a, a2, a3, a5, m4i sometimes absent) mac, 1 ms and 1 sens; sens inner to ms. Abd. II with 7(8) (a2, a3, m3e, m3ea, m3ei, m3ep, m3, an unknown mac sometimes present between m3e and m3ep) central, 1 (m5) lateral mac and two sens. Abd. III with 4 (a2, a3, a3a, m3) central, 8(6 or 7) (am6, pm6, m7a, m7, p6, p7, 2 unknown) lateral mac, 1 ms and 2 sens (Fig. 9A). Abd. IV with 48–58 central and 26–29 lateral mac (Fig. 9B). Abd. V with 3 sens (Fig. 9C). Ventral tube with 39 ciliate chaetae on anterior face (in 1 individual) (Fig. 10A), posterior face not clearly seen, 5 smooth and 11–17 ciliate chaetae on each lateral flap (Fig. 10B). Manubrial plaque with 7 ciliate chaetae and 3 pseudopores on each side in 2 individuals (Fig. 10C). Distal smooth part of dens about 1.48–1.56 times as long as mucro. Mucro bidentate and subapical tooth equal to apical tooth. Basal spine almost reaching apex of subapical tooth (Fig. 10D).

Remarks

The new species is characterised by its three pairs of longitudinal dark blue stripes present from Th. II to Abd. III, 7–9 medio-medial and 6–8 medio-lateral mac on Th. II, usually 8 lateral mac on Abd. III. It is most similar to the Korean species *E. koreana* Yosii, 1965 and the Chinese *E. retingensis* Baquero & Jordana, 2008 in colour pattern, but the differences between them are great, such as chaetotaxy on Th. II and Abd. III and the ratio of the smooth part of the dens to the mucro (Table 2).

Entomobrya dingi sp. nov.

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Figs 11–15, Table 3

Diagnosis

Ground colour yellowish and no obvious patches or stripes; head with 8 mac in sutural area and 8–9 mac in Gr. II; 8–10 mac on Abd. I; 5 central mac on Abd. II & III, 18–26 central mac on Abd. IV.

Etymology

The new species is named after Fudong Ding, who collected the specimens.

Type material

Holotype

CHINA: ♀ on slide, Yuanlong Village, Yongfeng Town, Zhaoyang District, Zhaotong City, Yunnan Province, 27°17'25" N, 103°39'09" E, in litter of maize, with aspirator, 1 Aug. 2014, Fudong Ding leg. (Nantong University, collection number 1149).

Paratypes

CHINA: 9 ♀♀ on slides, same collecting data as for holotype.

Description

MEASUREMENT. Body length up to 1.66 mm.

Table 3. Comparison among *Entomobrya dingi* sp. nov., *E. dungeri* Jordana, Schulz & Baquero, 2011, *E. huangi* Chen & Ma, 1998 and *E. lhotseae* Yosii, 1971.

Characters	<i>E. dingi</i> sp. nov.	<i>E. dungeri</i>	<i>E. huangi</i>	<i>E. lhotseae</i>
S ₁ mac on head	present	absent	absent	absent
Denticle on labral papillae	present	absent	present	present
Mac on Abd. I	8–10	unknown	4	5
Central mac on Abd. II	5	5	4	4
Central mac on Abd. III	5	4	3	2
Lateral mac on Abd. III	3	6	2	3
Central mac on Abd. IV	18–26	22	12	14
Chaetae on manubrial plaque	4–5	4	unknown	2
Locality	China (Yunnan)	Germany	China (Tibet)	Nepal

COLOUR. Ground colour yellowish. Eyepatches dark blue. Blue pigment present on distal part of each segment of antenna and lateral side of Th. II–III (Fig. 11 A–B).

HEAD. Antenna 0.43–0.53 times as long as body. Antennal segments ratio as I:II:III:IV = 1.00:1.67–1.96:1.60–1.83:2.05–2.74. Distal part of Ant. IV with many sensory chaetae, normal ciliate chaetae and apical bulb bilobed (Fig. 12A). Lateral process (l.p.) of labial palp curved with tip not reaching apex of same papilla (Fig. 12B). Subapical chaeta of maxillary outer lobe subequal to apical one, 3 smooth hairs on sublobal plate (Fig. 12C). Labial chaetae MREL₁L₂, all ciliate; chaeta R 0.56–0.68 as long as chaeta M (Fig. 12D). Labral chaetae 4/5, 5, 4, prelabral chaetae ciliate and other smooth; labral papillae 4 and each with 3–4 minute denticles (Fig. 12E). Clypeus with 14–16 ciliate chaetae (Fig. 12F). Dorsal cephalic chaetotaxy with 4 antennal (An), 4 median (M) and 8 sutural (S) mac, 8–9 mac in Gr. II (Fig. 12G); interocular chaetae as p, q, r, s, t (Fig. 12H).



Fig. 11. *Entomobrya dingi* sp. nov. A–B. Habitus. Scales bar: A–B = 500 μ m.

THORAX. Th. II with 2(3) (m1, m2, m2i rarely present) medio-medial, 2 (m4, m4i) medio-sublateral, 19–27 posterior mac, 1 ms and 2 sens. Th. III with 27–31(34) mac and 2 sens (Fig. 13A). Coxal macrochaetal formula as 2 (2 pseudopores)/4+1, 2–3 (2 pseudopores)/4+2 (2 pseudopores) (Fig. 13B–D). Trochanteral organ with 13–22 chaetae (Fig. 13E). Tenent hair slightly longer than inner side of unguis, with tip strongly clavate. Unguis with 4 inner teeth, basal pair located 0.45–0.50 distance from base of inner edge of unguis, distal unpaired two respectively at 0.68–0.73 and 0.84–0.87 distance from base. Unguiculus acuminate with outer edge serrate (Fig. 13F).

ABDOMEN. Abd. IV 2.82–3.85 times as Abd. III in length along dorsal midline. Abd. I with 8–10 (m2, m3, m4, m4i, m4p, a1, a2, a3, a5, a5i, m4i and a5i sometimes absent) mac, 1 ms and 1 sens; sens inner

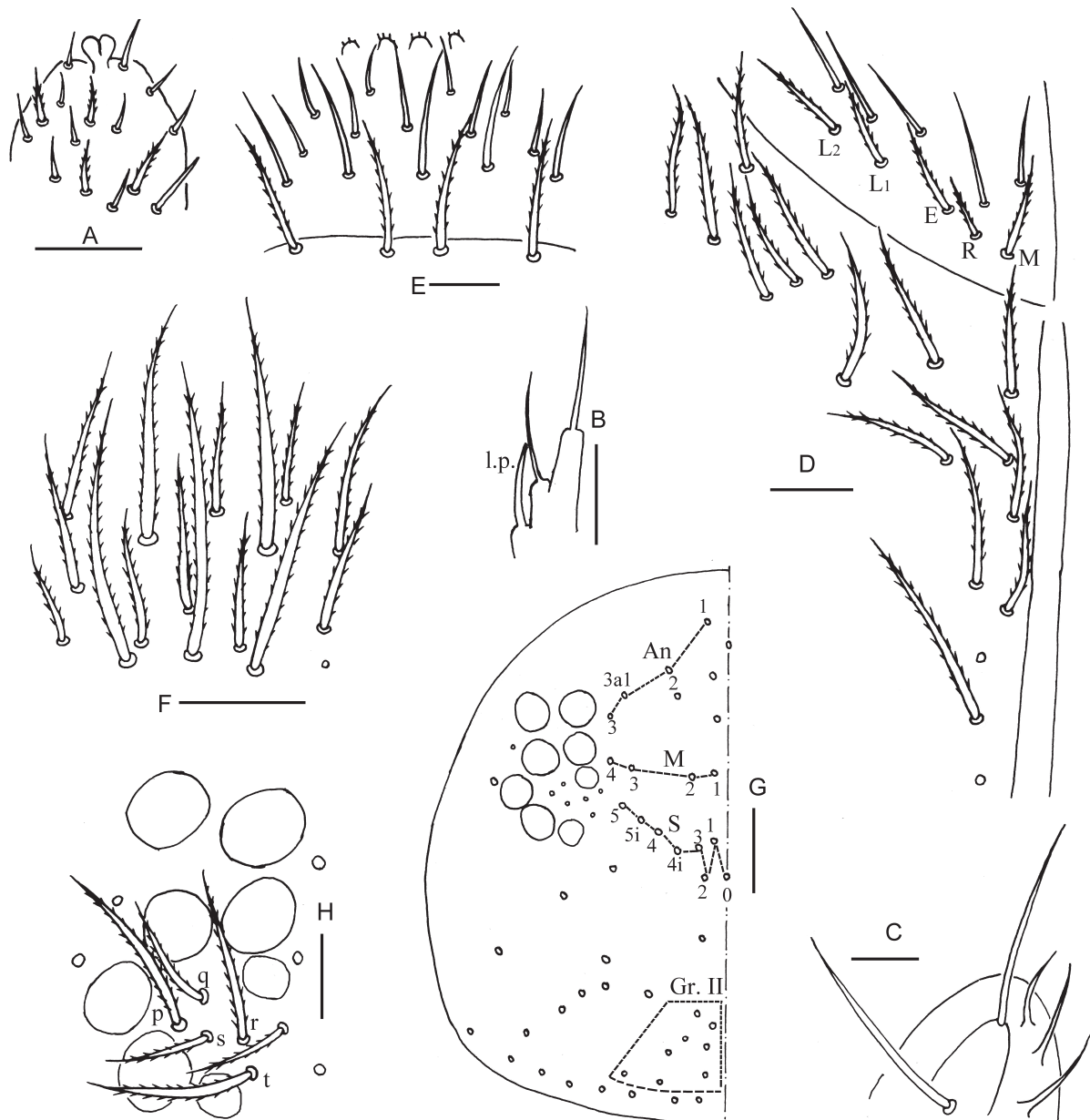


Fig. 12. *Entomobrya dingi* sp. nov. A. Apex of Ant. IV. B. Lateral process of labial palp. C. Maxillary outer lobe. D. Labium. E. Labrum. F. Clypeal chaetae. G. Dorsal chaetotaxy of head. H. Eyes and interocular chaetotaxy. Scale bars: A–C, E–F, H= 20 μ m; D, G = 50 μ m.

to ms. Abd. II with 5 (a2, a3, m3e, m3ep, m3) central, 1 (m5) lateral mac and 2 sens. Abd. III with 5 (a1, a2, a3, m3, m3e) central, 3 (am6, pm6, p6) lateral mac and 1 ms and 2 sens (Fig. 14A). Abd. IV with 18–26 central and 7–12 lateral mac (Fig. 14B). Abd. V with 3 sens (Fig. 14C–D). Ventral tube with 14–16 ciliate chaetae on anterior face (Fig. 15A), 2 smooth and 9–14(6) ciliate or much ciliate chaetae on posterior face (Fig. 15B), 3–4 smooth and 4–7 ciliate chaetae on each lateral flap (Fig. 15C). Manubrial plaque with 4–5 ciliate chaetae and 2 pseudopores on each side (Fig. 15D). Distal smooth part of dens about 2.67–3.70 times as long as mucro. Mucro bidentate and subapical tooth smaller than or equal to apical tooth. Basal spine almost reaching apex of subapical tooth (Fig. 15E).

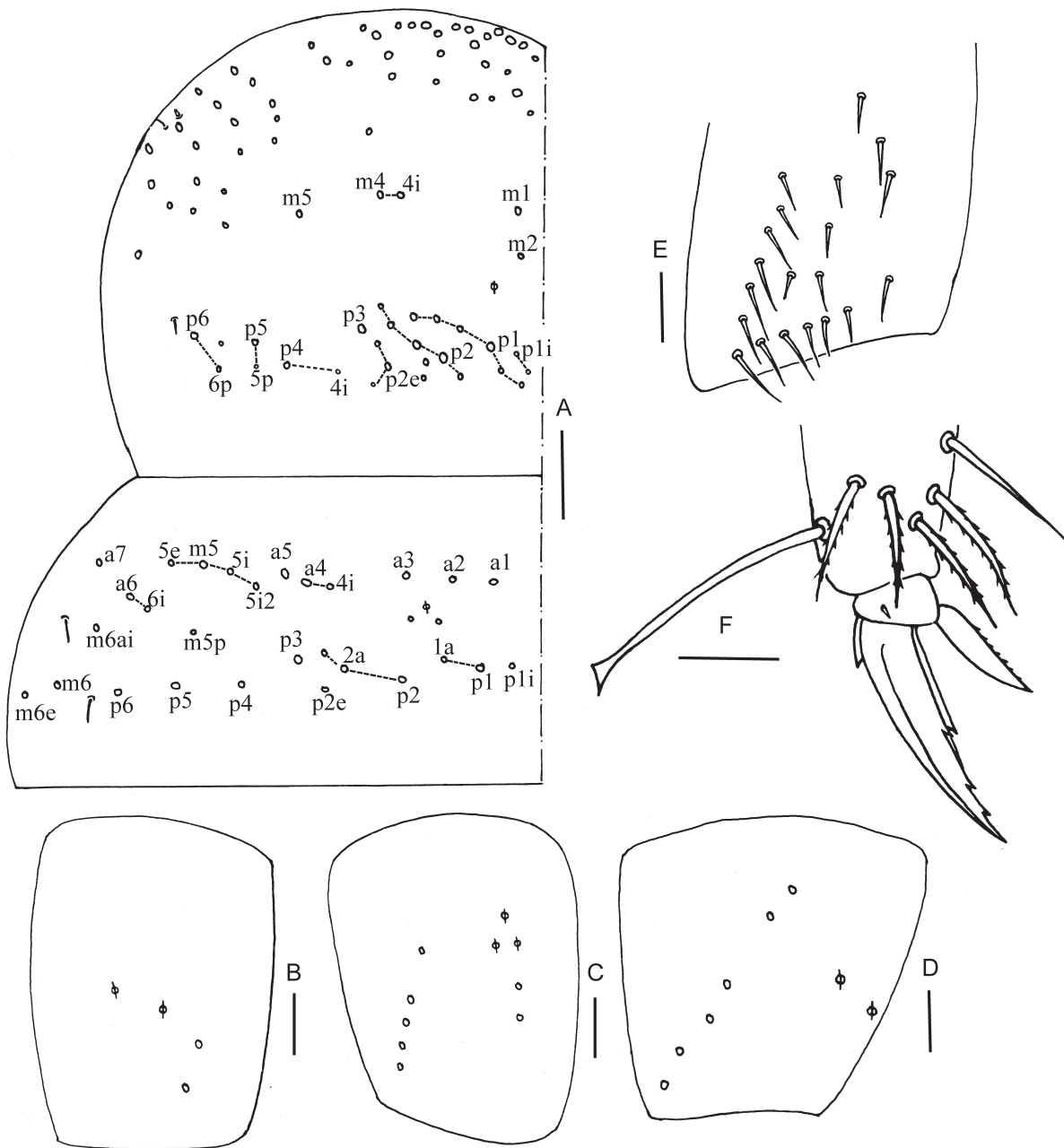


Fig. 13. *Entomobrya dingi* sp. nov. **A.** Chaetotaxy of Th. II–III. **B.** Coxal macrochaetal formula of fore leg. **C.** Coxal macrochaetal formula of middle leg. **D.** Coxal macrochaetal formula of hind leg. **E.** Trochanteral organ. **F.** Hind foot complex. Scale bars: A = 50 μ m; B–F = 20 μ m.

Remarks

The colour pattern of the new species is simple and there is only a little pigment on the body. It is similar to *E. dungeri* Jordana, Schulz & Baquero, 2011, *E. lhotseae* Yosii, 1971 and *E. huangi* Chen & Ma, 1998 in colour pattern, but can be distinguished by the following characters: presence of S_1 on head, 8–10 mac on Abd. I, 5 central mac on Abd. II & III respectively and 18–26 central mac on Abd. IV (Table 3).

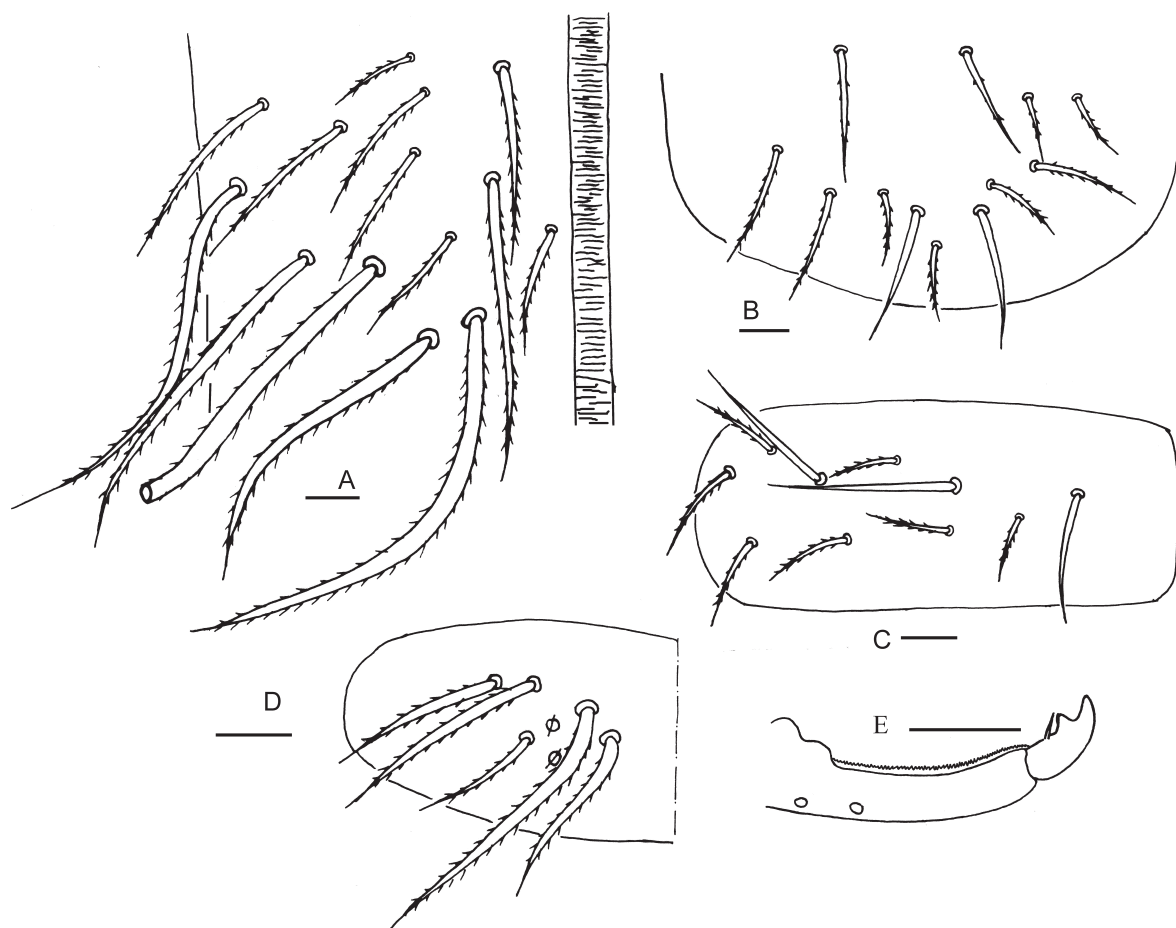


Fig. 15. *Entomobrya dingi* sp. nov. **A.** Anterior face of ventral tube. **B.** Posterior face of ventral tube. **C.** Lateral flap of ventral tube. **D.** Plaque of manubrium. **E.** Distal part of dens and mucro. Scale bars: A–E = 20 μ m.

Key to the Chinese species of the genus Entomobrya

1. Body yellowish without obvious blue patches or stripes2
 - Body blue uniformly or with obvious blue patches or stripes3
2. Abd. I with 8–10 mac *E. dingi* sp. nov.
 - Abd. I with 4 mac *E. huangi* Chen & Ma, 1998
3. Body blue uniformly except head *E. griseoolivata* (Packard, 1873)
 - Body with obvious blue patches or stripes4

4. A broad transverse blue stripe present on Abd. III	5
– No broad transverse blue stripes present on Abd. III	9
5. No transverse blue stripes present on Th. III	<i>E. aino</i> (Matsumura & Uchida, 1931)
– A transverse blue stripe present on Th. III	6
6. Posterior half of Abd. IV dark blue	<i>E. dorsosignata</i> Stach, 1963
– Posterior half of Abd. IV not wholly dark blue	7
7. A pair of small patches present on anterior of Abd. IV	<i>E. pekinensis</i> Stach, 1963
– No pair of patches present on anterior of Abd. IV	8
8. A narrow blue stripe present on posterior margin of Th. II	<i>E. corticalis</i> (Nicolet, 1842)
– No stripes present on posterior margin of Th. II	<i>E. imitabilis</i> Stach, 1963
9. Longitudinal stripes present from Th. II to Abd. III	10
– No longitudinal stripes present from Th. II to Abd. III	12
10. Th. II with 7–9 medio-medial mac	<i>E. polychaeta</i> sp. nov.
– Th. II with less than 7–9 medio-medial mac	11
11. Four mac present on Abd. III centrally	<i>E. fjellbergi</i> Baquero & Jordana, 2008
– Three mac present on Abd. III centrally	<i>E. karlstetterae</i> Baquero & Jordana, 2008
12. Abd. II with 3–4 central mac	13
– Abd. II with 6–9 central mac	15
13. Th. II with 2 medio-medial mac	<i>E. marginata</i> (Tullberg, 1871)
– Th. II without medio-medial mac	14
14. Abd. III with 2 central mac	<i>E. chungseensis</i> Baquero & Jordana, 2008
– Abd. III with 4 central mac	<i>E. mieheorum</i> Baquero & Jordana, 2008
15. Th. II with a longitudinal stripe along midline	16
– Th. II with no longitudinal stripe along midline	17
16. Irregular patches present on Abd. I–III respectively ...	<i>E. retingensis</i> Baquero & Jordana, 2008
– No irregular patches present on Abd. I–III	<i>E. leviseta</i> sp. nov
17. A pair of oblique stripes present on Abd. II laterally	<i>E. hortensis</i> Stach, 1963
– No oblique stripes present on Abd. II laterally	<i>E. cheni</i> Baquero, Arbea & Jordana, 2010

Discussion

The colour pattern is variable in *Entomobrya* and in most species completely pale specimens and very dark ones are found (Christiansen 1958). However, the latest studies indicate that specimens sharing similar colour patterns may be different species (Katz *et al.* 2015; Pan *et al.* 2015). From 270 known species of the genus, most were described mainly based on the colour pattern and some of them are undoubtedly erroneously determined. The colour pattern, combined with other useful characters, especially the dorsal chaetotaxy, is very important in classification.

The dorsal chaetotaxy, a key character in species delimitation, is weakly variable. The chaetotaxy on Abd. I and lateral part of Abd. III is interspecifically variable, but it is sometimes neglected. There are usually many chaetae on Abd. IV and it is very difficult to assess their homology.

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