The Afro–Oriental Genus *Yaeprimus* Sasa et Suzuki (Diptera: Chironomidae: Chironomini): Phylogeny, New Species and Expanded Diagnoses

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Abstract: Expanded generic diagnoses of all life stages of *Yaeprimus* Sasa et Suzuki, 2000 (*Lunditendipes* Harrison, 2000, syn. n.) are given. *Yaeprimus tropicus* comb. n. is redescribed as an adult based on type material. Additionally, a new species *Y. balteatus* sp. n. from Oriental China is described based on the adult male and pupa. The phylogenetic position of *Yaeprimus* within Chironomini and the validity of the new species are explored based on concatenated five genetic markers (*18S*, *28S*, *CAD1*, *CAD4*, and *COI-3P*) through both mixed-model Bayesian inference and maximum likelihood methods. The results strongly support *Yaeprimus* as sister to *Imparipuncta* Freeman, 1961, which counters a previously proposed systematical position based solely on morphology.

**Keywords:** *Yaeprimus*; *Lunditendipes*; synonymy; new species; phylogeny; Asia; Africa

1. Introduction

*Yaeprimus* Sasa et Suzuki, 2000, was established based on adult males of *Yaeprimus isigaabeus* Sasa et Suzuki [1] collected from Ishigaki Island in Japan. Subsequently, it was revised in detail of all stages by Yamamoto and Yamamoto [2] based on reared associated material. The genus was stated to show close relationship to some *Lauterborniella* related genera, such as *Apedilum* Townes, *Zavreliella* Kieffer and *Paralauterborniella* Lenz which are characterised in the larva by having a six-segmented antenna and alternate Lauterborn organs (*Microtendipes* group sensu Cranston et al. [3]), although the adult male of *Yaeprimus* lacks the median volsella or enlarged superior volsella base characteristic of the group.

Simultaneously, Harrison [4] described four new Chironomidae genera from South Africa, amongst which males of *Lunditendipes* Harrison shared similar fore tibia and anal tergite setae with the Asian *Yaeprimus*. Noticeably, an important diagnostic character that appears to distinguish *Lunditendipes* from *Yaeprimus* is the absence of basal setae of the superior volsella according to Harrison’s original description. However, this is a flawed observation according to the examination of the types materials deposited in ABM by Helen Barber-James. Actually, those specimens bear two inner basal setae clearly arising from tubercle-like setigers and two heavily sclerotized concavities each containing two strong setae in tergite IX, thus resembling *Y. isigaabeus* [5]. The same character states have been observed also on material deposited in ZSM, which were collected from Kruger National Park in north–eastern South Africa and identified as *Lunditendipes* by Martin Spies [6]. The two species of *Y. isigaabeus* and
L. tropicus show considerable similarity justifying our assessment that they are congeneric, despite differences in the anal tergite band and the shape of gonostylus.

During a survey of rural areas in Guangzhou, a distinct male adult was reared from stream sediment, which conformed largely to the generic diagnosis of Yaeprimus but its color pattern on the abdomen and legs clearly differs from that of the type species Y. isigaabeus. Subsequently, similar specimens collected by the NKU Chironomidae group in Hainan were allocated into the above unknown species after a thorough comparison [7]. Here we confirmed it as new to science and described it based on adult males and pupae.

The systematic position of Yaeprimus has received little attention since Yamamoto and Yamamoto’s morphological revision [8] which remains somewhat uncertain, and therefore a more integrated taxonomic work is needed to detect the placement of Yaeprimus within tribe Chironomini. Here, we conducted a phylogenetic inference based on five genetic loci (18S, 28S, CAD1, CAD4, and COI–3P) to test the Yamamoto’s hypothesis and to explore the boundary of the Microtendipes group. Additionally, some possible placement and dubious features are discussed.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Morphology

Fieldwork was conducted using several classical methods for chironomids collection [9–11]. Adults were caught by light trap and sweeping nets along the aquatic sites. Pupal exuviae were sampled using dip nets (mesh size 250 µm). All samples were preserved in the field with 85% ethanol, then transferred to the laboratory for sorting under a stereomicroscope. Thorax of adults were sampled for DNA extraction, after that, each cleared exoskeleton was mounted permanently in Euparal on microscopic slides with corresponding parts following standard procedures [12]. Identiﬁcations were made under a compound microscope with reference to a range of identiﬁcation tools and published papers [1,2,13,14]. Morphological terminology and abbreviations mainly followed Sæther [15] except the superior volsella. Here the superior volsella base and superior volsella digitus proposed by Cranston [16] are adopted. Measurements were taken according to Epler [17] and given as ranges and followed by average value. The number of observed specimens was recorded in parentheses if it differed from the number (n) stated at the beginning of the description.

2.2. Molecular Work

DNA was extracted using MAGEN® (Beijing, China) Tissue DNA kit in the Molecular Lab of Institute of Groundwater and Earth Science, Jinan University, and QIAGEN® (Hilden, Germany) DNA Blood and Tissue kits at the Tianjin Agricultural University. Standard protocols were followed except for the lysis time and ﬁnal elution volumes, and all the samples were lysed overnight at 55°C and eluted with 40 µL of eluent. Universal primers were adopted following previous studies (Table A1). Processes for gene fragments amplification were followed as previous studies except for slight moderation of annealing temperature [18–20]. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) products were electrophoresed in 1.0% agarose gel, then shipped to Majorbio Company, Guangzhou for puriﬁcation and bidirectional sequence. One mitochondrial gene (COI-3P), two ribosomal genes (18S and 28S), and two sections of the nuclear protein-coding gene (CAD1 and CAD4) were chosen as in Cranston’s work to match the comprehensive dataset of Chironomidae. Additionally, the standard barcode, one fragment of the mitochondrial gene (COI-5P) proposed by Hebert [21] was sequenced to explore cryptic species and calculate generic distance.

Forward and reverse sequences were assembled automatically and manually edited with Sequencher 4.8 (Gene Codes Corp.). Alignment of the sequences used Muscle algorithm [22] on nucleotides in MEGA X [23]. Some ambiguous bases were eliminated based on the results of alignments and trace ﬁle, while the remnants were adopted and showed in the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) code. For protein-coding genes, introns were excised using the GT–AG
rule [24] and an amino acid alignment was used as a guide to elucidate exon/intron boundaries. For 18S and 28S rDNA, ambiguous regions were excluded with GBlocks v0.91b using default setting except allowing half gap positions within the final blocks [25,26]. All selected genes except for the standard barcode (COI–5P) were concatenated with PhyloSuite v1.1.14 [27] to implement the maximum likelihood and Bayesian inference. In case of missing gaps, they were filled up by “?” to ensure that all sequences were in the same length. The optimal models for each subset were selected by Partition Finder 2 [28] based on the Bayesian information criterion (BIC) and corrected Akaike information criterion (AICc). The best scheme was as follows: GTR+I+G for the 18s, 28s and the first two codons for all protein-coding sequence, GTR+G for the third codon of COI–3P and GTR+I+G for third codon of CAD1 and CAD4. Maximum likelihood (ML) phylogenetic analysis was conducted using IQ–TREE 1.6.8 [29] with 1000 bootstrap replicates in a rapid bootstrap analysis and a “greedy search” for the best-scoring ML tree. Bayesian inference was performed in MrBayes v3.2.6 [30]. During the processes, Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) iterations were run with four chains on two runs for 10 million generations, sampled every 100 generations with a burn-in of 0.25. Convergence among the runs was monitored using Tracer v1.6 [31], with the first 25% trees discarded as burn-in. The final average standard deviation of split frequencies was 0.003. Both analyses were completed using the best fitting scheme selected by Partitionfinder. Two species of tribe Tanytarsini were selected as outgroups for this has been considered to be the nearest neighbor of the tribe Chironomini.

In total, 235 sequences of 51 specimens were added to the molecular dataset, 112 of which were downloaded from GenBank (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genbank/) and five of which retrieved from BOLD (Table A2). Forty species were chosen to stand for four complexes, two groups and some ambiguous genera within Chronomini referring to a previous study [3]. Members of Microtendipes were enlarged particularly to test the Yamamoto hypothesis. Specimens with less than three markers were excluded from the dataset of concatenated genes. List of all species, specimens, individual images, georeferences, primers, sequences, trace files and other relevant laboratory data of sequenced specimens can be seen online through the publicly accessible dataset “Yaeprimus” on the BOLD website (www.boldsystems.org) [32,33].

2.3. Mapping

The distribution map (Figure 1) was made using ArcGis™ software [34], with all possible GPS locations of 17 sites implanted into the vector of World Map (http://www.vectorworldmap.com). For older specimens without GPS data, estimates were made from the finest available detail (e.g., city/country) available from either specimens or publications.
without support. The positions of remaining genera mostly conform to previous results [3]. Besides (node C) in ML tree, while shifts to the assemblage of *Polypedilum* (BOLD:ADH0469), with a maximum intraspecific pairwise genetic distance of 0.64%, and 11.38%

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boundaries. For 18S and 28S rDNA, ambiguous regions were excluded with GBlocks v0.91b using

Figure 1. Distribution map of *Yaeprimus*.

2.4. Abbreviation

Institution: ABM, Albany Museum, South Africa; EJNU, Institute of Groundwater and Earth Science, Jinan University, China; NKU, College of Life, Nankai University, China; ZSM, Zoologische Staatsammlung Muenchen, Germany.

Terminology: Life stage, F, female; L, larva; M, male; P, pupa. Morphology, T II–X, tergite II to X; T1–T5, tarsus 1 to tarsus 5. Molecular, BS, bootstrap support; PP, posterior possibility.

3. Results

3.1. Molecular Analysis

3.1.1. DNA Barcode

Three COI DNA barcodes of new species from adult males clustered into the same BIN (BOLD:ADH0469), with a maximum intraspecific pairwise genetic distance of 0.64%, and 11.38% divergence to the nearest BIN (BOLD:ACT7861). The nearest neighbor (Sample ID: BIOUG28352–C08) from Guanacaste in Costa Rica, was unidentified in BOLD.

3.1.2. Phylogenetic Analysis

The structure of the maximum likelihood (ML) tree was basically similar with that of the Bayesian inference (BI) tree except for some weakly supported clades. As expected, both approaches strongly supported (node A, BS = 100, PP = 1) that *Y. isigaabeus* and new species group together. *Yaeprimus* together with *Imparipuncta* Freeman forms a new clade in both trees (node B, BS = 82, PP = 0.98), then the clade is sister to the assemblage of *Chironomus* complex, *Harnischia* complex and *Nilothauma* Kieffer (node C) in ML tree, while shifts to the assemblage of *Polypedilum* Kieffer, *Endochironomus* Kieffer and *Stenochironomus* Kieffer (node C) in BI tree, but either connections to *Chironomus* or *Polypedilum* clades without support. The positions of remaining genera mostly conform to previous results [3]. Besides *Yaeprimus*, something interesting has been discovered in our study. After the inclusion of Chinese populations, *Nilothauma* is verified as sister to the *Chironomus* complex + *Harnischia* complex (node D, BS = 83, PP = 0.99), which showed some tendency in previous work [3] but without robust support. In a *Microtenolipus* group (Node E, BS = 90, PP = 0.99), the Chinese populations of *Paratendipes* (node G) are paraphyletic although lack of support. Saether’s hypothesis [35], based on characters of female
adults that *Patatendipes* is sister to *Microtendipes* + *Nilothauma*, is rejected in both analyses. Our results show that *Patatendipes* (node F, BS = 100, PP = 1) is close to *Paralauterborniella* Lenz, while *Microtendipes* is close to Australian *Paucispiingera* Freeman (Node H, BS = 99). The positions of *Apedilum* Townes (node I) and *Paraborniella* Freeman (node J) vary within acceptable range between two analyses, tough both nodes are weakly supported (Figures 2 and 3).

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**Figure 2.** Maximum likelihood tree based on concatenated gene (18S, 28S CAD1, CAD4, COI–3P) fragments. Nodes are labeled by bootstrap support (BS), only BS > 0.8 are shown.
3.1.1. DNA Barcode

Three COI DNA barcodes of new species from adult males clustered into the same BIN (BOLD:ADH0469), with a maximum intraspecific pairwise genetic distance of 0.64%, and 11.38% divergence to the nearest BIN (BOLD:ACT7861). The nearest neighbor (Sample ID: BIOUG28352–C08) from Guanacaste in Costa Rica, was unidentified in BOLD.

3.1.2. Phylogenetic Analysis

Figure 3. Bayesian inference tree based on concatenated genes (18S, 28S CAD1, CAD4, COI–3P) fragments. Nodes are labeled by posterior possibilities (PP), only PP > 0.90 are shown.
3.2. Morphology

3.2.1. Generic Diagnosis Emendation

Yaeprimus Sasa et Suzuki
Yaeprimus Sasa et Suzuki, 2000 (M).
Yaertertius Sasa et Suzuki, 2000 (M), Yamamoto and Yamamoto, 2000.
Lunditendipes Harrison, 2000: 224 (M), syn. n., type species: Lunditendipes tropicum Harrison by original designation.
Yaeprimus Sasa et Suzuki; Yamamoto and Yamamoto, 2000 (M, F, P, L).
Type species: Yaeprimus isigaabeus Sasa and Suzuki, 2000: 4, by original designation. Other included species: Yaeprimus tropicus (Harrison, 2000), comb. n.; Yaeprimus balteatus sp. n.

Three species conformed to most generic diagnosis given by Yamamoto and Yamamoto [2], except for the following emendations.

Male

Head. Frontal tubules small, hemispheric.

Thorax (Figure 4D, Figure 8A). With a distinct scutal tubercle (Y. balteatus sp. n.) or flat hump (median protuberance) (Y. isigaabeus, Y. tropicus comb. n.), if the latter, smoothly curved in the middle. Humeral pits present.

Legs (Figure 4F, Figure 8B,C). Tibial combs of mid and hind tibiae nearly or completely fused; if separated narrowly (Y. balteatus, Y. tropicus), the large (inner) comb usually bears 0–2 straight spurs, the small (outer) comb always has a long apically hooked spur. If fused (Y. isigaabeus), there is only one hooked spur, arising more proximally on the outer surface of the comb base. The number of spurs per tibia variable even within a single specimen. Pulvilli present.

Abdomen (Figure 5A). Anterolateral areas of first segment slightly sclerotized with two distinct patches bearing several concentrated setae; T II–VIII with two rows of regular transverse setae centrally. Tergite VIII slightly tapered anteriorly (Figure 4G).

Hypopygium. Tergite IX with a regular row of median anal seta, usually grouped laterally, arising from the distinct pigmented oval field (Figure 4H) or blank oval pits (Figure 8F). Anal tergite band absent or weak. Superior volsella (Figure 6C,D, Figure 8F) with bare base, 1–3 basal setae, arising from the distinct tubercle base, digitus slender distally or with a slightly elongated ventro–lateral ledge distally (hooked), covering a partial or the whole width of digital apex, lacking any outer seta on digitus. Gonostylus was normal (Figure 4H) or reduced (Figure 8F), with several distal-medial setae of different sizes, the seta on the distal-inner corner being the longest and thickest.

Pupa

Tergite spinulation of III–V split into anterior and posterior patches or completely fused. All spinules were nearly uniform sized. Conjunctival bands present on T III and T IV, continuous or medially interrupted. Posteralateral corner of T VIII with ‘comb’ of 1 main tooth and 3–4 small side teeth. Taeniae pattern (Figure 7A) on A IV–VIII, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4. Uniserial fringe with 20–30 taeniae. Dorsal seta of anal lobe present.

Distribution. Yaeprimus was known only from two small Japanese islands for Y. isigaabeus. Our study has expanded the genus distribution to south China, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. All specimens have been collected from subtropical and tropical regions.

Remarks. The integrated systematical work of Yaeprimus has not been conducted completely before this study. The previous suggested phylogenetic placement was based solely on selected distinctive morphological character states of three life stages, rather than through a formal data matrix. Previously-argued conclusions were not fully reliable lacking rigorous parsimony analysis. Some important characters were ignored, for example, the anteriorly tapered tergite VIII, the inner setal arrangement of gonocoxite, the condition of humeral pit, and the abdominal setae and the pulvilli status. The current inclusion of an additional two species expands the variation within the genus,
complicating the generic diagnosis. The main morphological differences among the three species are summarized in Table 1.

Figure 4. *Yaeprimus balteatus* sp. n., male. Photos: (A) lateral view; (B) dorsal view; (C) antenna; (D) thorax; (E) wing; (F) tibia; (G) T VIII; (H) hypopygium. Scale bar: A, B, 500 μm; D–H, 100 μm.
Thorax (Figure 4D). Antepronotals 1–2; dorsocentrals 6–9, 6, usually accessorized with 3–5 tiny pits; acrostichals 10–16, 14 (3) arranged in robust two rows, ending in anterior 1/3 before the hump; prealars 3–4, 3, supraalars 1. Scutellum had 7–8 setae, in single row. Tiny trans-oval humeral pits present.

Wing (Figure 4E). VR 1.09–1.22, 1.16 (5); R without seta; R 1 with 0–1 seta; R4+5 with 1–2 setae in extreme apex. Squama bare.

Figure 5. Y. balteatus sp. n., male. Illustration. (A) abdomen; (B) fore legs; (C) mid legs; (D) hind legs. Scale bar: A, 250 µm; B–D, 100 µm.
Figure 6. *Y. balteatus* sp. n., male. Illustration: (A) hypopygium, dorsal view; (B) hypopygium, ventral view; (C,D) superior volsella. Scale bar: A–D, 100 µm.
Hypopygium (Figures 4H and 6A,B). T IX with a row of 4–6 setae, arising from fairly large microtrichia-free pit, without distinct lateral group. Distal margin with 3–5 setae both in the dorsal and ventral surfaces. Gonocoxite 115–132, 126 (4) µm long. Gonostylus relatively short, 35–48, 43 (4) µm long, distal portion with 6–10 inner–toward setae, the longest one about 25 long. Superior volsella (Figure 6C,D) with a base without microtrichia, bearing 2–3 inner setae from the tubercle base, distal digitus long and slender, distal curved inwardly, without inner seta. Inferior volsella slightly bullous distally, with 13–16 setae. HR 2.79–3.29, 2.97 (4); HV 5.58–7.14, 6.37 (4).

Figure 7. Y. balteatus sp. n., pupa. Illustration: (A) abdomen, dorsal view; (B) cephalothorax; (C) thorax, lateral view. Scale bar: A–C, 100 µm.
Table 1. The main morphological differences on male adults of three *Yaeprimus* species.

| Features of male | *Y. balteatus* sp. n. | *Y. isigaabeus* | *Y. tropicus* com. n. |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Scutum hump      | hump, with tubercle    | hump, without tubercle | normal, without tubercle |
| Tibial comb      | separated             | fused            | separated              |
| Anal tergite band| absent                | absent           | reduced                |
| Anal median setae| 5–6 setae, one row    | two pairs, grouped| two pairs, grouped      |
| TIX oval concavity| absent               | present          | present                |
| Gonostylus       | reduced               | reduced          | normal                 |

3.2.2. Description of Species

*Yaeprimus balteatus* Han et Tang, sp. n.

Material examined (all collected H.Q. Tang, deposited EJNU, unless stated otherwise). Holotype [EJNU–Ershan150910001], male, CHINA: Guangdong Province, Guangzhou City, Ershan county, 23°14’ N, 113°26’ E, 10.ix.2015, light trap; Paratype, 1 male[EJNU–Ershan150320001] and 1 reared pharate female [EJNU–Ershan150521001] as previous, except 20.iii.2015 (emerged 21.v.2015); 1 male [EJNU–Shantou 151014001], Guangdong Province, Shantou City, Chaonan District, Jinxi Reservoir Scenic spot, Fengzai Village, 23°10’ N 116°18’ E, alt. 210 m, 14.x.2016, light trap (ZSM); 1 male[NKU–XL1460], Hainan Province, Changjiang County, Bawangling National Nature Reserve, 19°07’ N, 109°05’ E, 13.iii.2016, light trap, B.J. Sun (NKU); 2 males[NKU–XL1509, NKU–XL1510], Hainan Province, Shuiman County, Wuzhi Mountain., 18°45’ N, 109°36’ E, sweep net, 2.iii.2016, C. Song (NKU).

Etymology. The new name ‘*balteatus*’, derived from Latin (meaning belted), referring to the color bands on the abdomen and legs.

Male (n = 5–6) (Figures 4–6)

Total length, 2.50–2.95, 2.70 (5) mm. Wing length, 1.30–1.60, 1.45 (5) mm.

Coloration (Figure 4A,B and Figure 5A). Generally brown with some pattern in legs and abdomen. Legs were yellow, except for dark brown all femur and complete mid tibia, and pale brown apex of fore and hind tibia. Fore-tarsus with brown apex and gradually brown in *Ta₂*–*Ta₅*, others tarsi all pale yellow (Figure 4A,B for colorful photo). Anterolateral corners of A I, posterior half of A III and A V, and almost entire A VI–VIII dark brown. A IX was dark brown, the hypopygium with brown gonocoxite and pale yellow gonostylus.

Head. Antenna (Figure 4C) with pale brown (approximal and distal) or brown (middle) flagellomeres, with almost dark plume. Flagellomere 1–12, 340–390, 358; flagellomere 13, 540–640, 570; AR 1.57–1.64, 1.60 (4). Palpomere lengths (in µm): 25–30, 28 (3); 25–35, 30 (3); 115–125, 120, (3); 100–124, 111 (3); 180–200, 190. Temporals were 10–12, 11. Clypeus had 14–17, 15 (5) setae. The diameter of cephalic tubercle 5 µm, bearing 3–5 small setae.

Thorax (Figure 4D). Antepronotals 1–2; dorsocentrals 6–9, 6, usually alternately accessorized with 3–5 tiny pits; acrostichals 10–16, 14 (3) arranged in robust two rows, ending in anterior 1/3 before the hump; prealars 3–4, 3, supraalars 1. Scutellum had 7–8 setae, in single row. Tiny trans-oval humeral pits present.

Wing (Figure 4E). VR 1.09–1.22, 1.16 (5); R without seta; R₁ with 0–1 seta; R₄₅ with 1–2 setae in extreme apex. Squama bare.

Legs (Figures 4F and 5B–D). Fore tibia with a conical scale bearing a slender, distal-hooked spur, 25–30 (2) µm long. Mid tibia with two separated combs, one bearing a distal-hooked spur, 23–37, 28 (3) µm long, another comb with even comb teeth, unspurred; hind tibia with two separated combs, the small one bearing a distal-hooked spur, 25–40, 35 µm (5) long, and the large one bearing 1–2 straight spurs, 12.5–20, 16.5 (5) long. LR₁ 1.30–2.19 (2); LR₂ 0.58–0.71, 0.65 (3); LR₃ 0.77–0.83, 0.80 (3). BV₁ 1.44–2.28 (2); BV₂ 5.31–5.88, 5.54 (3); BV₃ 2.44–2.61, 2.54 (3). SV₁ 1.30–2.12 (2); SV₂ 3.20–4.06, 3.54 (3); SV₃ 2.59–2.70, 2.63 (3). BR₁ 2.25–2.50 (2); BR₂ 3.57–4.00, 3.78 (3); BR₃ 3.2–5.36, 4.25 (3).
Hypopygium (Figures 4H and 6A,B). T IX with a row of 4–6 setae, arising from fairly large microtrichia-free pit, without distinct lateral group. Distal margin with 3–5 setae both in the dorsal and ventral surfaces. Gonocoxite 115–132, 126 (4) \( \mu m \) long. Gonostylus relatively short, 35–48, 43 (4) \( \mu m \) long, distal portion with 6–10 inner–toward setae, the longest one about 25 long. Superior volsella (Figure 6C,D) with a base without microtrichia, bearing 2–3 inner setae from the tubercle base, distal digitus long and slender, distal curved inwardly, without inner seta. Inferior volsella slightly bullous distally, with 13–16 setae. HR 2.79–3.29, 2.97 (4); HV 5.58–7.14, 6.37 (4).

Pupa \((n = 1)\) (Figure 7)

Total length ca. 3.0 mm. Cephalic tubercle absent (Figure 7B), frontal setae small, 40 \( \mu m \) long, subequal to the gap between two frontal setae. The thoracic setation as in Figure 7C, thoracic horn invisible. The abdomen (Figure 7A) with dense spinulations in T II–IV, no clear delimitation between the anterior patch and median patch. Continuous conjunctival spinule bands present in T III and IV. The tergite II hook row continuous, short, 30% of the width of segment II, comprising ca. 20 hooks. A V–VII distorted. Comb VIII with one main tooth and three small accessory teeth. The anal lobe 140 \( \mu m \) long and 150 \( \mu m \) wide, with 20–24 taeniae, dorsal seta present.

Remarks. The new species shares the same comb pattern with \( Y. \) tropicus and reduced gonostylus with \( Y. \) isigaabeus. It can be distinguished from the other two species by the distinct scutal tubercle and anal median tergal seta arising from the common pale pit rather than sclerotized concavities. For pupa, the new species can be separated from \( Y. \) isigaabeus by the fused sub-rectangular spinulations and small point-free area in the middle area of T II–IV and conjunctives continuously.

Distribution: China (Guangdong and Hainan).

\textit{Yaeprimus isigaabeus} Sasa et Suzuki

\textit{Yaeprimus isigaabeus}, Sasa and Suzuki, 2000: 4; Yamamoto and Yamamoto, 2011: 228.

\textit{Yaelertius iriojekeus} Sasa et Suzuki, 2000: 18, synonymized by Yamamoto and Yamamoto, 2011.

Material examined (all collected H.Q. Tang, deposited EJNU unless stated otherwise): 1 male, 1 female, CHINA: Fujian Province., Zhangzhou City, Nanjing County, a stream in Huboliao National Nature Reserve, 26°31’ N 117°18’ E, 15.xi.2012; 6 males, China: Guangdong Province, Guangzhou City, Zengcheng District, Xinian Village, 23°47’ N, 113°59’ E, alt. 240 m, hand net, 18.x.2014; 1 male, CHINA: Fujian Province, Nanjing City, a stream in Huboliao National Nature Reserve, 26°31’ N 117°18’ E, 15.xi.2012; 6 males, China: Guangdong Province, Guangzhou City, Zengcheng District, Xinian Village, 23°47’ N, 113°59’ E, alt. 240 m, hand net, 18.x.2014; 1 male, CHINA: Hainan Province, Baoting County, Xian’an Shilin scenic spot, 18°36’ N 109°25’ E, alt. 602 m, 14.ii.2015; 2 Pe, Guangxi Province, Congzuo City, Detian waterfall, 22°51’ N, 106°44’ E, alt. 380 m, 24.ii.2012, W. Xia and C.B. Duan; 1 male, CHINA: Yunnan Province, Xishuangbanna Prefecture, Jinghong City, Mengyang County, Xishuangbanna Prefecture, Wild Elephant Valley, 22°10’ N, 100°51’ E, 900 m asl., sweep net; 1 Pe, Yunnan Province, Xishuangbanna Prefecture, Jinghong City, Meng’un Town, Luosuo River, 21°55’ N 101°17’ E, 22.iii.2019.

Additional compared specimens: 2 males, JAPAN: 2 males, Iriomote Island, Funaura, one slide 24. iii. 2000, another 19.xi.2001, M. Yamamoto.

Conforms mostly to Yamamoto and Yamamoto [2], with the following supplementation and emendation:

\textbf{Male}

Total length 1.8–3.2 mm, wing length 1.1–1.8 mm. AR 1.15–1.50. LR \(_{1}\) 1.57–2.36. Distinct humeral pit present.

Anal tergite with two pairs or three pairs of median setae, arising from a heavily pigmented field, grouped laterally. Superior volsella base with 1–2 inner setae, without microtrichia, digitus with a basal inner seta, and distal elongated, with a ventro–lateral ledge apically.

\textbf{Pupa}

Cephalic tubercle absent, frontal setae reduced, subequal to the gap between two setae. Dorsal seta of anal lobe present.
Distribution. Japan (Ishigaki Island and Iriomote Island); China (Fujian, Guangdong, Hainan, Guangxi, Yunnan).

*Yaeprimus tropicus* **comb. n.**

*Lunditendipes tropicum* Harrison 2000: 224

Material examined (all observed by Helen Barber–James, confirmed with authors by the shared photos).

Holotype (CCA. 40G). M, Zimbabwe: Lower of Lundi River, 21°20′ S 32°15′ E, 25.iv.1962, A.D. Harrison; two paratype (GEN. 265AL; GEN. 268AL), Zimbabwe: Ndumu Game Rivers, KwaZulu–Natal, 26°53′ S 32°18′ E, 19.xi.1959, A.D. Harrison.

This species has been described by Harrison [4]: some emendations and additional characters are given here.

Male (*n* = 4) (Figure 8)

AR 1.2–1.5, LR 2.1–2.3; thorax (Figure 8A) slight hump, without scutal tubercle, small pale humeral pit present. Mid (Figure 8B) and hind tibia (Figure 8C) with two separated combs, the small combs with long–hooked spurs, the large comb without spur in the mid tibia, with 1–2 outstanding straight spurs in the hind tibia. Pulvilli present. Abdomen II–VIII with two regular rows of setae, T VII (Figure 8D–F) slightly tapered anteriorly. Location of anal tergite median setae (Figure 8D–G) as that in *Y. isigaabeus*, two pairs of strong setae arising from the heavily pigmented areas, with variation one side two setae, another side three. Apart from those two pigmented areas, an isolated additional seta may present, arising directly from the cuticle. Superior volsella basal (Figure 8H) with two inner basal setae arising from tubercles, digitus bare, with a weak ventro–lateral ledge apically. Gonostylus is not reduced, normal (Figure 8D–G).

Remarks. *Y. tropicus* was characteristic by having a normal gonostylus and a weak tergal band.

Distribution. Zimbabwe (Lundi River); South Africa (KwaZulu–Natal).
This species has been described by Harrison [4]: some emendations and additional characters are given here.

Male (n = 4) (Figure 8)

Figure 8. Yaeprimus tropicus comb. n., male. (A) Thorax, head, lateral view; (B) mid tibia; (C) hind tibia; (D) hypopygium, ventral view; (E), hypopygium, dorsal view; (G), hypopygium, illustration, dorsal view; (H) superior volsella. Scale bar: A, 200 µm; B–F, 100 µm. A, (F) Holotype (CCA. 40G]); B–C: Paratype (GEN. 268AL); D–E, G: Paratype (GEN. 265AL).
4. Discussion

It is a great challenge to include *Y. tropicus* and *Y. balteatus* into a single genus since the two species show great divergence comparing to species *Y. isigaabeus*, especially in the often-diagnostic tibial comb pattern. Although molecular results well support (BS = 100, PP = 1) the great affinity between *Y. balteatus* and *Y. isigaabeus* (see red clade), the monophyly of *Yaeprimus* could not be validated until the availability of molecular data of *Y. tropicus*. Here, the reasons why we allocate the three species into one genera are as follows. *Y. isigaabeus* and *Y. balteatus* lack tergite bands and bear a relatively short gonostylus, whereas *Y. tropicus* has a weak tergite band and normal gonostylus. The divergence is distinct yet can be also observed in other genera as well. For example, *Pontomyia* Edwards also contain two kinds of gonostylus, reduced in *P. oceana* Tokunaga, while, normal in other two species [36]. More examples can also be found in *Chironomus* (C. crassiforceps Kieffer) [10], *Polypedilum* (P. minimus Lin et al.) [37], Riethia (R. phengari Cranston) [16], *Sticotochironomus* (S. crassiforceps Kieffer) [10] and *Orthocladius* v. d. Wulp (O. brevistylus Yamamoto, Yamamoto et Tang) [38]. Actually, the shortened gonostylus has been assumed to relate to the convergent mating behavior since a range of species sharing this character has been found in some extremely habitats, such as karst cave and alpine fauna [39]. Variation on tergite IX band from normal to absent can be treated as a continuously varying trait in a single genus because such divergence can also be found in *Apedilum* [40–42], *Paralauterborniella* [8] and *Beardius* [43].

The conical scale bearing a slender apical spur in the fore tibia is an important character state allowing us to allocate the three species into one genus, but the differences in mid and hind tibial combs are noteworthy. The two different patterns of tibial comb in *Yaeprimus* seem to represent two different evolutionary trends. The pattern of fused comb with one curved spur will go to some non–core *Microtendipes* group such as *Nilodosis* Kieffer and *Kribioscosmus* Kieffer. Separated combs with 1–2 hooked spurs are typical in the core members of *Microtendipes* group and in the *Polypedilum* complex. Normally, species bearing two different kinds of tibial combs cannot be allocated into one genus, but some special cases can be also found in *Parachironomus* Lenz [6] and *Synendotendipes* Grodhaus [44].

The scutal tubercle can also be treated as a synapomorphy. That continual variation can also be found in some tanytods, like *Procladius* Skuse [45], *Coffmania* Hazra and Chaudhuri [46], and some orthoclads, such as *Parakiefferiella* Thienemann [47] and *Rheosmittia* Brundin [48], and also in *Demicryptochironomus* Lenz [49].

Our molecular analysis indicates that *Yaeprimus* is sister to *Imparipecten* and distant from the *Microtendipes* group. *Yaeprimus* shares similar characters with *Imparipecten*, such as the superior volsella formed as a digitus in male adults, alternate apically-located Lauterborn organ in the larval antenna, and pattern of pupal taeniae of T V–VIII is 4, 4, 4, 4, yet the two genera can be easily separated in all life stages. The conflict between Yamamoto’s hypothesis and our molecular analysis is likely a result of some subjective weighting of some morphological characters, such as female genitalia and larval antenna. Actually, some emphasized characters by Yamamoto and Yamamoto are common in a broader range of genera.

In larvae, alternate Lauterborn organs in *Yaeprimus* share the synapomorphy with most members in the *Microtendipes* group. But this trend is not constrained to this group, as similar Lauterborn organ pattern can be also found in *Polypedilum nubifer* group [50], *Imparipecten* [51] and *Sticotochironomus*. Yamamoto and Yamamoto [2] misinterpreted that larva bears a five-segmented antenna with two large Lauterborn organs on segment two which led them to regard it as an apomorphic condition.

Pupa of *Yaeprimus* shows apparent similarity to *Paralauterborniella* both in tergal spinulation and taeniae pattern. The two genera mainly differ in the condition of cephalic tubercle, which is absent in *Yaeprimus* while present in *Paralauterborniella* [9]. In this case, other pupal characters should be evaluated to balance the conflict between molecular analysis and morphology.

Meanwhile, we should notice that the position of clade *Yaeprimus* plus *Imparipecten* is unstable in both trees, which may be caused by an insufficient sample. Given the morphological divergence between *Imparipecten* and *Yaeprimus*, we hypothesized that there were still some other unknown genera...
showing great affinity with the above clade, linking the two genera and establishing their position within Chironomini.

In conclusion, we redefine genus *Yaeprimus* based on morphological and molecular evidence. Currently, there are three species included in the emended genus. Our molecular result supports *Yaeprimus* is close to *Imparipecten* rather than to the *Microtendipes* group, but some uncertainty remains due to limitations in sampling. To bridge the gap between morphologic and molecular results, more relevant genera are in demand for further studies.

**Author Contributions:** Conceptualization, H.T.; methodology, W.H. and X.L.; formal analysis, W.H. and X.L.; data curation, W.H. and J.W.; writing—original draft preparation, W.H.; writing—review and editing, H.T. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

**Appendix A**

| Gene  | Name  | Sequence       | Reference                  |
|-------|-------|----------------|----------------------------|
| 18S rDNA | 18S | CCTGAGAAACGGCTACCACATC | Whiting et al. (1997) [52] |
| 18S rDNA | 18S | GAGTCTCTGTTCTGTTATCGGA | Whiting et al. (1997) [52] |
| 28S rDNA | S3660 | GAGAGTMAASAGTACGTAAC | Morse and Normark (2006) [53] |
| 28S rDNA | A335 | TCGGAAGGAACCAGCTACTA | Whiting et al. (1997) [52] |
| CAD1  | 54F | GTNGTNTTYYCARACNNGNATGGT | Moulton and Wiegmann (2004) [54] |
| CAD1  | 405R | CCNGTTRGTYCNNGGRTGRAAYTG | Moulton and Wiegmann (2004) [54] |
| CAD4  | 787F | GGDGTNAACNACNGCNTGYTYARCC | Moulton and Wiegmann (2004) [54] |
| CAD4  | 1098R | TNNNGNAGYTGNCCNCCCAT | Moulton and Wiegmann (2004) [54] |
| COI-5P | LCO1490 | GTCTAACAAATATCATAAAGATATTGG | Folmer et al. (1994) [55] |
| COI-5P | HCO2198 | TAAACTCCAGGCTACCAAAAAATCA | Folmer et al. (1994) [55] |
| COI-3P | S2183 | CACACATTATTTATTTATTTTGG | Simon et al. (1994) [56] |
| COI-3P | A3014 | TCCAATGCACTAATCTGCCATATTA | Simon et al. (1994) [56] |
Table A2. List of analyzed specimens with corresponding Genbank ID/ Bold ID and accession number.

| Species Name | ID       | 28S     | COI-3P | 18S | CADIV | CADI | COI-5P |
|--------------|----------|---------|--------|-----|-------|------|--------|
| *Apedilum subcinctum* | APED | HQ440708 | HQ440869 | HQ440558 | HQ440416 | HQ440230 | N |
| *Chironomus sp. 1* | CHV1 | HQ440719 | HQ440883 | HQ440572 | HQ440428 | HQ440256 | N |
| *Cladotanytarsus sp. 1* | TH40 | HQ440720 | HQ440884 | HQ440573 | HQ440429 | HQ440257 | N |
| *Conochironomus tohadecuticus* | TH59 | HQ440724 | HQ440888 | HQ440577 | HQ440433 | HQ440261 | N |
| *Cryptochironomus sp. 1* | MODOC6 | HQ440729 | HQ440893 | HQ440582 | HQ440438 | HQ440266 | N |
| *Cryptotendipes sp. 1* | MODOC5 | HQ440730 | HQ440894 | HQ440583 | HQ440439 | HQ440267 | N |
| *Dicrotendipes perigegsurus* | Dper | HQ440732 | HQ440896 | HQ440585 | HQ440440 | HQ440270 | N |
| *Harriests sp. 1* | V604 | HQ440734 | HQ440916 | HQ440603 | HQ440456 | HQ440288 | N |
| *Imparipecten picipes* | N103 | HQ440759 | HQ440921 | HQ440608 | HQ440461 | HQ440294 | N |
| *Imparipecten schynacanthus* | 110210-01 | MH131689 | MH602431 | N | MH602428 | MH558540 | N |
| *Imparipsecten schynacanthus* | 110210-02 | MH131690 | MH602432 | N | MH602429 | MH558541 | N |
| *Kiefferulus calligaster* | KIEF2P | HQ440763 | HQ440924 | HQ440611 | HQ440464 | HQ440298 | N |
| *Lauterborniella agrayloides* | ZVRA | HQ440766 | HQ440927 | HQ440613 | HQ440467 | HQ440301 | N |
| *Microtendipes sp. 1* | TH02 | HQ440776 | HQ440937 | N | N | N | N |
| *Nilothauma sp. 1* | AUNT02 | HQ440782 | HQ440945 | HQ440629 | HQ440481 | HQ440316 | N |
| *Parac federally approximate* | PAUI | HQ440806 | HQ440969 | HQ440649 | HQ440500 | HQ440338 | N |
| *Paraborniella tomini* | PARAB | HQ440789 | HQ440952 | HQ440789 | HQ440485 | N | N |
| *Parachironomus sp. 1* | NCA2 | HQ440791 | HQ440954 | HQ440635 | HQ440486 | HQ440323 | N |
| *Paratendipes tobaquintus* | TANGA014-19 | HQ440837 | HQ441000 | HQ440677 | HQ440529 | HQ440372 | N |
| *Polypedilum sp. 1* | SAPP1 | HQ440813 | HQ440977 | HQ440567 | HQ440436 | N | N |
| *Zavreliella cranstoni* | ZAVR109 | HQ440831 | HQ440994 | HQ440672 | N | HQ440316 | N |
| *Zavreliella marmorata* | TANGB035-19 | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | N |
| *Conochironomus nuengthai* | TANGB033-19 | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Y |
| *Endochironomus albipennis* | TANGB036-19 | Y | N | Y | Y | N | Y |
| *Endochironomus pukanus* | TANGB014-19 | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Y |
| *Microtendipes tobaquintus* | TANGB014-19 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| *Nilohtauna sp. 1* | TANGB042-19 | Y | Y | N | Y | N | Y |
| *Nilohtauna sp. 2* | TANGB041-19 | Y | N | Y | N | N | Y |
| *Paralauterborniella nigrohalteralis* | CHIR.CH510 | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Y |
| *Paratendipes allivanus* | TANGA028-19 | Y | Y | Y | N | N | Y |
| *Paratendipes alpinus* | TANGA035-19 | Y | N | Y | N | N | Y |
| *Paratendipes sp. 2* | TANGA032-19 | Y | N | Y | N | N | Y |
| *Polypedilum bullum* | TANGB007-19 | Y | N | N | Y | Y | Y |
| *Syrphidodas sp. 2* | TANGB010-19 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| *Yaeprimus isigaabeus sp. n.* | CHCH170-19 | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Y |
| *Yaeprimus balteatus* | CHCH151-19 | Y | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| *Zavreliella crassoni* | TANGB035-19 | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | N |
| *Zavreliella marmorata* | TANGB034-19 | N | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |

* sequences retrieved from Bold, 'Y' means available, 'N' means not available. Accession number of # sequence was renewed by Cranston for the same entries listed for Paraborniella as for Paralauterborniella in Table A1 from their work in 2012.

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