Two new species of Paramesosciophilodes (Diptera, Nematocera, Mesosciophilidae) from the Middle Jurassic of China

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Abstract
Two new species, Paramesosciophilodes bellus sp. n. and Paramesosciophilodes rarissima sp. n., from the Jiulongshan Formation at Daohugou Village, Inner Mongolia, China, are described in the extinct family Mesosciophilidae. Altogether seven genera with 21 species of mesosciophilids have been described from the Jurassic of Siberia and Kazakhstan, the Lower Cretaceous of Transbaikalia, and the Middle Jurassic of Inner Mongolia. An emended generic diagnosis of Paramesosciophilodes and a list of known taxa of mesosciophilids are provided.

Keywords
Paramesosciophilodes, Daohugou, Inner Mongolia, China

Introduction
Mesosciophilidae is one of the extinct dipteran families of the suborder Nematocera. Rohdendorf (1946) described a species, Mesosciophila venosa, which was assigned to a new subfamily, Mesosciophilinae, within the family Allactoneuridae, along with Fungivoritinae. Later he implicitly synonymized Mesosciophilinae with Fungivoritidae and excluded Allactoneura DeMejere, 1907 from the family (Rohdendorf 1957,
1962). Kovalev (1985) elevated Mesosciophilinae to family level; and synonymized Fungivoritidae under the First Reviser Rule. Blagoderov (1993) erected the genus Mesosciophilopsis with three species within the family Mesosciophilidae, and also revised the diagnosis of the Mesosciophilidae. Two important generic characters of Mesosciophilia Kovalev, 1985, reported from the Middle Jurassic, are cell r distinctly large, longer than 1/6 of wing length, and r-m significantly shorter than bRs, which are regarded as “obvious ancestral characters” (Kovalev 1985). On the other hand, the generic features of Mesosciophilopsis Blagoderov, 1993, described from the Early Cretaceous, are cell r distinctly small, shorter than 1/6 of wing length, and r-m significantly longer than bRs, which are regarded as “derived characters” (Blagoderov 1993, Zhang 2002). Zhang (2007) established a monotypic genus Paramesosciophilodes for his new species, *P. ningchengensis*, and described another species within the genus Mesosciophila. The generic diagnosis of Paramesosciophilodes includes cell r 0.16–0.18 times as long as wing length, bRs markedly shorter than r-m and R_{4+5} is strongly arched near its midlength. Later, Zhang (2008) assigned three new species to three genera, including Paramesosciophilodes eximia Zhang, 2008, and reviewed all the records of mesosciophilids. Li and Ren (2009) described two species of *Jurasciophila* from the late Middle Jurassic Jiulongshan Formation of Daohugou in southeastern Inner Mongolia, China. Species of *Jurasciophila* Li & Ren, 2009 have cell r small, shorter than 1/6 of wing length, and r-m significantly shorter than bRs, which are regarded as “transitional characters” (Li and Ren 2009). Wang et al., in 2012, assigned two species respectively to Mesosciophila and Paramesosciophilodes of Mesosciophilidae (Wang et al. 2012). Shi et al. recently described a new genus with two new species, *Similsciophila singularis* and *S. sinuate*, from the late Middle Jurassic of Jiulongshan Formation (Shi et al. 2014). To date, 7 genera and 19 species of mesosciophilids have been described from the Jurassic of Siberia and Kazakhstan, the Lower Cretaceous of Transbaikalia, and the Middle Jurassic of Inner Mongolia, which are summarized in Table 1. In addition, an emended generic diagnosis of Paramesosciophilodes, based on the new findings, is provided.

There have been many transfers and corrections regarding species belonging to the Mesosciophilidae. *Eoboletina gracilis* Rohdendorf, 1946 from the Upper Jurassic of Kazakhstan might belong to the family Mesosciophilidae (Blagoderov 1993). The Mongolian genus *Mesosciophilites* Kovalev, 1985 of the Lower Cretaceous should be transferred to the Mycetophilidae (Blagoderov 1993). The Australian species *Pseudalysiinia fragmenta* Jell & Duncan, 1986 should be transferred to an unnamed genus of Mesosciophilidae rather than to the extant genus of *Pseudalysiinia* Tonnoir, 1929 of Mycetophilidae (Blagoderov 1993), and we agree with this change. The genus *Sciophilites* Kovalev, 1990 from the Lower Cretaceous of Transbaikalia might belong to either the Mesosciophilidae or to the Mycetophilidae (Blagoderov 1993). *Sinosciophila meiLEYINGZIENSI* Hong, 1992 from the Lower Cretaceous of Kezuo has been transferred to the Sciophilidae (Zhang 2008), but it might be a representative of Mesosciophilidae. The other three species *Liaoxifungivora simplicis* Hong, 1992, *Atalosciophila yanensis* Ren, Lu, Guo & Ji, 1995 and *Huaxiasciophilites jingxiensis* Zhang, Hong & Li, 2001 from the Lower Cretaceous of China might belong to the family Mycetophilidae,
Table 1. A list of the described fossil Mesosciophilidae.

| Genus              | Species                        | Locality                      | Age       |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| **Mesosciophila**  | *Mesosciophila venosa* Rohdendorf, 1946 | Karatau, Chimkent Oblast, Kazakhstan | Karabastau Fm., J₃ |
|                    | *Mesosciophila eucalla* Zhang, 2007 | Daohugou, Ningcheng, Inner Mongolia, China | Jiulongshan Fm., J₂ |
|                    | *Mesosciophila abstracta* Zhang, 2008 | Daohugou, Ningcheng, Inner Mongolia, China | Jiulongshan Fm., J₂ |
|                    | *Mesosciophila signoidea* Wang, Zhao & Ren, 2012 | Daohugou, Ningcheng, Inner Mongolia, China | Jiulongshan Fm., J₂ |
| **Mesosciophilodes** | *Mesosciophilodes augustinipes* Rohdendorf, 1946 | Karatau, Chimkent Oblast, Kazakhstan | Karabastau Fm., J₃ |
|                    | *Mesosciophilodes similis* Rohdendorf, 1964 | Karatau, Chimkent Oblast, Kazakhstan | Karabastau Fm., J₃ |
|                    | *Mesosciophilodes synchrona* Zhang, 2008 | Daohugou, Ningcheng, Inner Mongolia, China | Jiulongshan Fm., J₂ |
| **Mesosciophilina** | *Mesosciophilina bolshakovi* Kovalev, 1985 | Siberia, Russia | Itat Fm., J₂ |
|                    | *Mesosciophilina irinae* Kovalev, 1985 | Siberia, Russia | Itat Fm., J₂ |
| **Mesosciophilopsis** | *Mesosciophilopsis curts* Blagoderov, 1993 | Baissa, Buryat, Yeravnenskiy, Transbaikalia | Zaza Fm., K₁ |
|                    | *Mesosciophilopsis expletus* Blagoderov, 1993 | Baissa, Buryat, Yeravnenskiy, Transbaikalia | Zaza Fm., K₁ |
|                    | *Mesosciophilopsis minor* Blagoderov, 1993 | Baissa, Buryat, Yeravnenskiy, Transbaikalia | Zaza Fm., K₁ |
| **Paramesosciophilodes** | *Paramesosciophilodes ningchengensis* Zhang, 2007 | Daohugou, Ningcheng, Inner Mongolia, China | Jiulongshan Fm., J₂ |
|                    | *Paramesosciophilodes eximia* Zhang, 2008 | Daohugou, Ningcheng, Inner Mongolia, China | Jiulongshan Fm., J₂ |
|                    | *Paramesosciophilodes aequus* Wang, Zhao & Ren, 2012 | Daohugou, Ningcheng, Inner Mongolia, China | Jiulongshan Fm., J₂ |
|                    | *Paramesosciophilodes bellus* Gao, Shi, Shih & Ren, sp. n. | Daohugou, Ningcheng, Inner Mongolia, China | Jiulongshan Fm., J₂ |
|                    | *Paramesosciophilodes rarissima* Gao, Shi, Shih & Ren, sp. n. | Daohugou, Ningcheng, Inner Mongolia, China | Jiulongshan Fm., J₂ |
| **Jurasciophila**  | *Jurasciophila curvula* Li & Ren, 2009 | Daohugou, Ningcheng, Inner Mongolia, China | Jiulongshan Fm., J₂ |
|                    | *Jurasciophila lepida* Li & Ren, 2009 | Daohugou, Ningcheng, Inner Mongolia, China | Jiulongshan Fm., J₂ |
| **Similsciophila** | *Similsciophila singularis* Shi, Shih & Ren, 2014 | Daohugou, Ningcheng, Inner Mongolia, China | Jiulongshan Fm., J₂ |
|                    | *Similsciophila sinuate* Shi, Shih & Ren, 2014 | Daohugou, Ningcheng, Inner Mongolia, China | Jiulongshan Fm., J₂ |

(Notes: J₂-Middle Jurassic, J₃-Late Jurassic, K₁-Early Cretaceous)
sosciophilodes rarissima sp. n. These specimens with bodies and complete wings were collected from the late Middle Jurassic Jiulongshan Formation of Daohugou Village in the Ningcheng County, Chifeng City, southeastern Inner Mongolia, China. Many well-preserved fossil insects have been described from this locality recently (Ren et al. 2010, 2012), such as dipterans, neuropterans, orthopterans, heteropterans, etc. (Zhang et al. 2008, 2011; Wang et al. 2010; Gu et al. 2012; Yao et al. 2012).

Materials and methods

This study is based on two specimens housed in the Key Lab of Insect Evolution & Environmental Changes, Capital Normal University, Beijing, China (Curator: Dong Ren). The specimens were examined under a LEICA MZ12.5 dissecting microscope. The photos of fossils were taken with a Nikon SMZ1000 stereo microscope. Line drawings were prepared with the aid of CorelDraw 12 graphic software. The method of calculating the ratio of cell r length vs. wing length is as follows: the length of cell r is the length along R₁, while the length of wing is the length from wing base to wing apex. Wing venation nomenclature follows that of Wootton and Ennos (1989) and Shcherbakov et al. (1995): bRs or dRs = section of R₄+₅ basal or distal to r-m, respectively; bM₁₂ or dM₁₂ = section of M₁₂ basal or distal to r-m, respectively.

Systematic paleontology

Order Diptera Linnaeus, 1758
Suborder Nematocera Latreille, 1825
Family Mesosciophilidae Rohdendorf, 1946

Genus Paramesosciophilodes Zhang, 2007

Type species. Paramesosciophilodes ningchengensis Zhang, 2007.

Included species. Type species; Paramesosciophilodes eximia Zhang, 2008; Paramesosciophilodes aequus Wang, Zhao & Ren, 2012; Paramesosciophilodes bellus Gao, Shi, Shih & Ren sp. n., Paramesosciophilodes rarissima Gao, Shi, Shih & Ren, sp. n.

Emended diagnosis. Medium (sized mesosciophilid gnats. Body (including legs) covered with long, dense pubescence. Mesonotum convex. Scutellum sharp, clearly projecting. Wing, Sc₁ elongate, slightly shorter than one-half of wing length (0.43–0.47 times as long as wing length); Sc₂ situated distinctly basad to Rs origin, arising near midway between h to Sc₁ ending; bRs shorter than r-m; R₁ slightly curved; both R₁ and R₄+₅ divergent terminally; Rs furcated distad or at level of fork of M₁₂; R₂₃ oblique and curved; R₄₅ arched near its midlength; cell r 0.16–0.19 times as long as wing length; stem of M not developed; M₁₂ furcated slightly distad, or basad, to level of Sc₁ ending. Tibiae and tarsi with sparse, short setae.
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**Paramesosciophilodes bellus** Gao, Shi, Shih & Ren, sp. n.
http://zoobank.org/8FEE85B5-4556-40CA-8B60-B8309F5B1504
Figs 1, 2

**Etymology.** The specific name is from the Latin of *bellus*, meaning beautiful and delicate, for the well-preserved and beautiful specimen.

**Material.** Holotype No. CNU-DIP-NN2013631 p/c, part and counterpart. A well-preserved insect with complete body and two wings but poorly preserved halter, without head, in dorsoventral aspect.

**Locality and horizon.** Daohugou Village, Shantou Township, Ningcheng County, Inner Mongolia, China, Jiulongshan Formation, late Middle Jurassic.

**Diagnosis.** The Sc₁ ending proximad of the midlength of cell r; bRs 0.7 times of the length of r-m; R₄+₅ strongly curved; M₁₂ forking basad of forking of Rs, and distad of the level of Sc₁ ending; CuA strongly arched, reaching the posterior margin of the wing markedly basad of Rs forking to R₃ and R₄+₅.

**Description of holotype.** Medium-sized mesosciophilid with dark body, adult male, in dorsal aspects (Figs 1 and 2A). Wings out-spread, length 5.4 mm, width 2.0 mm. Body length 7.2 mm. Head and antennae not preserved. Thorax convex, length 2.0 mm, width 1.3 mm. Scutellum clearly projecting. Abdomen thin, subcylindrical, length 5.2 mm, width 1.7 mm, approx. 2.6 times as long as head and thorax combined, with eight abdominal segments, first four segments gradually widened distally, last four segments gradually narrowed terminally. Partially preserved male genitalia relatively small, distinctly narrower than eighth abdominal segment. Halters poorly preserved. Legs relatively thin and long, femora clearly thicker in the middle; femora, tibiae and tarsi with two rows of sparse and short setae. Hind leg length 6.3 mm (femur 1.7 mm, tibia 2.4 mm, tarsus 2.2 mm).

Wings membranous, oblong, darker in color in costal area, moderately wide (length 2.7 times of width), and not reaching the apex of abdomen at rest (Fig. 2). C strong, ending beyond wing apex, at which R₄+₅ ending. Sc₁ relatively long, approx. 0.4 times

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**Figure 1.** *Paramesosciophilodes bellus* sp. n., holotype. Photographs of habitus (dorsoventral aspect): A part No. CNU-DIP-NN2013631 p B counterpart CNU-DIP-NN2013631 c.
the length of wing, ending far distad of the intersection of bRs and r-m. Humeral vein distinct and oblique. Sc\textsubscript{2} well developed, starting in front of bRs. Cell r distinctly small (0.89 mm), approx. 0.165 times the wing length (5.4 mm). Section of R from Sc\textsubscript{2} to bRs origin approx. 2.4 times as long as bRs. R forking into three branches: R\textsubscript{1}, R\textsubscript{2+3} and R\textsubscript{4+5}. R\textsubscript{1} and R\textsubscript{4+5} somewhat divergent terminally; R\textsubscript{2+3} and R\textsubscript{4+5} arched. Forking of Rs

Figure 2. Paramesosciophilodes bellus sp. n., Line drawings of holotype: A part B wing venation.
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.distad of the level of M forking. Rs strong, arising from beyond the basal one-third of length of wing, bRs+dRs nearly 0.4 times the R_{4+5}. Rs forking to R_{2+3} and R_{4+5} distad of forking of M_{1+2}. Section bRs 0.7 times the r-m. R_{1} slightly curved, relatively long (nearly 0.5 times the length of wing), slightly deflected after junction with R_{2+3}; R_{2+3} slightly curved, shifted toward wing base, beyond the level of M_{1+2} forking. Vein R_{4+5} strongly arched near its midway, almost parallel with R_{1}, but slightly oblique at apex. Stem of M completely reduced basad of crossvein m-cu, with only a short segment distad of m-cu. Stem of M forking into M_{1+2} and M_{3+4}. M_{1+2} forking into M_{1} and M_{2} near R_{2+3} level. M_{1} arched anteriorly, M_{2} nearly straight. Crossvein r-m short, curved, slightly oblique, shorter than bRs, nearly perpendicular to M_{1+2}, almost parallel to R_{2+3}, intersected at M_{1+2} forking to bM_{1+2} and dM_{1+2}. bM_{1+2} approx. 6.6 times as long as m-cu. dM_{1+2} approx. as long as bM_{1+2}, and longer than r-m. CuA running parallel close to M_{3+4} basally. CuA reaching the posterior margin of wing at approx. the same level of M_{1+2} forking to M_{1} and M_{2}. CuP short, slightly curved at its midway, not reaching the posterior margin of wing.

Remarks. Paramesosciophilodes bellus sp. n. resembles most closely P. ningchengensis, but can be distinguished from the latter in having Sc_{1} ending at C proximad of the m-g length of cell r (vs. at the m-g length of cell r for P. ningchengensis) and CuA reaching the posterior margin of the wing markedly basad of Rs forking to R_{2+3} and R_{4+5} (vs. slightly basad of Rs forking to R_{2+3} and R_{4+5}).

This new species is differentiated from P. ningchengensis, P. eximia, P. aequus, and P. rarissima sp. n. based on a combination of characters listed in Table 2.

Paramesosciophilodes rarissima Gao, Shi, Shih & Ren, sp. n.
http://zoobank.org/2DC54917-79F7-4919-8B03-3BDA9BAF3B00
Figs 3, 4

Etymology. The specific name is from the Latin word of rarissimus, meaning rare.

Material. Holotype No. CNU-DIP-NN2013145 p/c, part and counterpart. A well-preserved insect with complete body with two wings, without head and halteres, in dorsoventral aspect.

Locality and horizon. Daohugou Village, Shantou Township, Ningcheng County, Inner Mongolia, China, Jiulongshan Formation, late Middle Jurassic.

Diagnosis. Sc_{1} ending near the m-g length of cell r; bRs 0.8 times the r-m; R_{4+5} strongly curved; M_{1+2} forking basad of R_{2+3} level and distad of level of Sc_{1} ending at C; CuA strongly arched, reaching the posterior margin of the wing at the level of intersection of Rs forking to R_{2+3} and R_{4+5}.

Description of holotype. Medium-sized mesosciophilid gnats, in dorsal aspect (Figs 3 and 4A). Body length (without head and part of thorax) 7.2 mm as preserved. Legs covered with long, dense pubescence. Head, antennae, and halteres not preserved. Thorax length 1.8 mm, width 1.5 mm. Mesonotum convex. Scutellum sharp, clearly projecting. Wings membranous, oblong, length 5.0 mm, width 2.2
| Character                          | *P. ningchengensis*                  | *P. eximia*                     | *P. aequus*                      | *P. bellus* sp. n. | *P. rarissima* sp. n. |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Length ratio of cell r and the wing length | 0.167 (left wing) 0.180 (right wing) | 0.183 (left wing) 0.172 (right wing) | 0.22 as described. But, the missing wing base was not included in wing length measurement. | 0.165             | 0.184                |
| Length of Sc₁                      | 46–47% of the wing length            | 46% of the wing length         | 24% of the wing length as described. But, the missing wing base was not included in wing length measurement. |                   |                      |
| Sc₁ ending at C                    | at the midlength of cell r           | distal of midlength of cell r  | proximad of midlength of cell r | proximad of the midlength of cell r | near the midlength of cell r |
| bRs vs r-m                         | 0.6–0.7 times of length of r-m       | 0.5 times of the length of r-m | 0.9 times of the length r-m      | 0.7 times of the length of r-m       | 0.8 times of the length of r-m |
| R₄+₅                               | slightly curved                      | slightly curved                | strongly curved                  | strongly curved       | strongly curved       |
| The position of base of M₁₂ forg as the forking of Rs | M₁₂ forg as the forking of Rs almost at level of forking of Rs | M₁₂ forg as the forking of Rs | M₁₂ forg as the forking of Rs | M₁₂ forg as the forking of Rs | M₁₂ forg as the forking of Rs |
| The position of base of M₁₂ forg as the level of Sc₁ ending | M₁₂ forg as the level of Sc₁ ending | M₁₂ forg as the level of Sc₁ ending | M₁₂ forg as the level of Sc₁ ending | M₁₂ forg as the level of Sc₁ ending | M₁₂ forg as the level of Sc₁ ending |
| CuA shape                          | CuA strongly arched                 | CuA smoothly arched           | CuA smoothly arched             | CuA strongly arched       | CuA smoothly arched       |
| CuA ending at the posterior margin vs. Rs forking to R₂₃ and R₄₅ | CuA ending slightly distal of Rs forking to R₂₃ and R₄₅ | CuA ending slightly distal of Rs forking to R₂₃ and R₄₅ | CuA ending slightly distal of Rs forking to R₂₃ and R₄₅ | CuA ending slightly distal of Rs forking to R₂₃ and R₄₅ | CuA ending slightly distal of Rs forking to R₂₃ and R₄₅ |
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mm, darker in color in costal area, length 2.3 times width, and not reaching the apex of abdomen at rest. Abdomen thin, subcylindrical, length 5.4 mm, width 1.5 mm, with first five segments gradually widened distally, other segments gradually narrowed terminally. Legs poorly preserved, femora thicker in the middle, covered with numerous setae.

C strong, ending beyond wing apex, at which R$_{4+5}$ ending (Fig. 4). Sc converging with C before the level of R$_{4+5}$, Sc$_1$ elongate, slightly shorter than one-half of wing length (0.43–0.47 times the wing length), and ending far distad of the intersection of bRs and r-m. Vein h distinct and oblique. Sc$_2$ developed well, starting in front of Rs, situated distinctly basal to Rs origin, arising beyond midway between h to Sc$_1$ ending. Cell r relatively large (0.92 mm), approx. 0.18 times the wing length (5.0 mm). The section of R from Sc$_2$ to Rs origin approx. 0.7 times the section bRs. R forking to R$_1$ and Rs, then Rs to R$_{2+3}$ and R$_{4+5}$. Both R$_1$ and R$_{4+5}$ somewhat divergent terminally; R$_{2+3}$ and R$_{4+5}$ arched. Rs usually strong, arising from basal one-half of length of wing, forking to R$_{2+3}$ and R$_{4+5}$ beyond the forking of M$_{1+2}$. Section bRs 0.8 times the r-m. R$_1$ slightly curved, relatively long, nearly 0.5 times the wing. Both R$_1$ and R$_{4+5}$ divergent terminally. R$_{2+3}$ curved, beyond the level of M$_1$ and M$_2$ forking. R$_{4+5}$ strongly arched near its midlength. Stem of M, basad to crossvein m-cu completely reduced, with only a short segment distal to m-cu. Stem of M forking into M$_{1+2}$ and M$_{3+4}$. M$_1$ forking into M$_1$ and M$_2$ basad of R$_{2+3}$ level and distad to level of Sc$_1$ ending at C. M$_1$ arched cephalad. M$_2$ nearly straight. Crossvein r-m short, curved, slightly oblique, shorter than bRs, r-m intersecting M$_{1+2}$ and dividing M$_{1+2}$ into bM$_{1+2}$ and dM$_{1+2}$. Section bM$_{1+2}$ approx. 4.3 times the crossvein m-cu. Section dM$_{1+2}$ approx. 1.2 times the section bM$_{1+2}$, and longer than r-m. CuA running parallel and close to M$_{3+4}$ basally. CuP short, slightly curved midway, reaching the posterior margin of wing at the same level as Sc$_1$ ending at C.

Remarks. Paramesosciophilodes rarissima sp. n. is distinguished from all other species of Paramesosciophilodes based on a combination of characters listed in Table 2.
Discussion

As shown in Table 1, a total of 7 genera and 21 species of mesosciophilids have been reported from various localities in the Jurassic of Siberia and Kazakhstan, Lower Cretaceous of Transbaikalia, and Middle Jurassic of Inner Mongolia. One genus with 2
Two new species of Paramesosciophilodes (Diptera, Nematocera, Mesosciophilidae) was described in the Middle Jurassic Itat Formation, Siberia; 6 genera with 13 species were reported from the Middle Jurassic Jiulongshan Formation of Daohugou, Inner Mongolia, China; 2 genera with 3 species were described from the Late Jurassic Karabastau Formation in Kazakhstan; and one genus with 3 species was documented from the Early Cretaceous Zaza Formation at Baissa, Transbaikalia.

The data show that the known earliest mesosciophilids have been reported from the Middle Jurassic, while the latest ones are described from the Early Cretaceous. It seems that mesosciophilids became less diverse in the Early Cretaceous, and were possibly replaced by Mycetophilidae (Blagoderov 1993), which is supported by Zhang’s data, who listed all the mesosciophilids and mycetophilids from Daohugou, and compared them with other faunas (Zhang 2002).

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