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Systematic review of the firefly genus *Emeia* Fu, Ballantyne & Lambkin, 2012 (Coleoptera: Lampyridae) from China

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1 Systematic review of the firefly genus *Emeia* Fu, Ballantyne & Lambkin, 2012 (Coleoptera:

- 2 Lampyridae) from China
- 3

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11

12 Running head

13 SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF EMEIA FIREFLIES

14

15 Abstract

- 16 The Luciolinae genus *Emeia* Fu, Ballantyne & Lambkin, 2012 is reviewed. Firefly species tree is
- reconstructed based upon phylogenetic analysis of CO1 barcoding sequences from 42 fireflies
- and 2 outgroup species, including three main Lampyridae sub-families: Luciolinae, Photurinae
- and Lampyrinae. The genus *Emeia* belongs to Luciolinae based on morphological and DNA
- 20 sequence level evidences, the diagnostic features for male adults include pink-red pronotum with
- a black median stripe, subparallel-sided pronotum, un-developed elytral humeral carina. In this
- study, a new *Emeia* species, *Emeia pulchra* sp. nov. is described and illustrated from the wetland
- of Lishui, Zhejiang, China. The new species is sister to *E. pseudosauteri* in the *Emeia* genus
 which is supported by characteristic morphological features and DNA barcoding data. The two
- which is supported by characteristic morphological features and DNA barcoding data. The two species are separated geographically as shown on the distribution map. A key to the males of the
- species are separated geographically as shown on the distribution map. A key to the males of th species of *Emeia* is also provided.
- 26 27

29

28 Key words: Cytochrome oxidase subunit I, DNA barcoding, *Emeia*

30 Introduction

- The genus *Emeia* (Coleoptera, Lampyridae, Luciolinae) was established by Fu et al. (2012)
- 32 with *Emeia pseudosauteri* Fu, Ballantyne & Lambkin, 2012 as type species. *E. pseudosauteri*
- 33 was first described from Mount Emei, Sichuan, China by Michael Geisthardt in the genus *Curtos*
- Motschulsky, 1845 (Geisthardt, 2004), and then transferred to *Emeia* based on morphological
- and molecular evidence (Fu et al. 2012). The genus *Emeia* Fu, Ballantyne & Lambkin had only
- 36 one species (*E. pseudosauteri*) recorded in China before this study. Fu (Fu, Ballantyne, &
- Lambkin, 2012) first described the diagnostic phenotypic features of this new genus *Emeia* based
- on the *Emeia pseudosauteri* samples he collected, one feature of this genus is the trilobite-like
- 39 larva. Specifically, the thoracic and abdominal terga of *Emeia* larvae are quite different, the
- 40 lateral thoracic tergal margins are broad similar to that of a trilobite "cephalon", while the
- 41 abdomen is narrow and curve posteriorly. However, since the establishment of this genus in
- 42 2012, there has been only one species *Emeia pseudosauteri*, which makes the characteristics
- 43 description of this genus insufficient.
- 44 In this study, based on specimens collected from Lishui, Zhejiang, China, we characterized

- 45 a new *Emeia* species, *Emeia pulchra* sp. nov, both morphologically and molecularly. We
- 46 compared it with previously described *E. pseudosauteri*. The new species is morphologically
- 47 similar to *E. pseudosauteri*, but can be distinguished by body color, male genitalia, wing features
- and DNA barcoding sequences. We provide complementary information on adult wing feature to
- 49 the type species *E. pseudosautari* for the first time. With detailed examination of both species,
- 50 we present a systematic review of the genus *Emeia* and provide a key to species.
- 51

52 Materials and methods

53

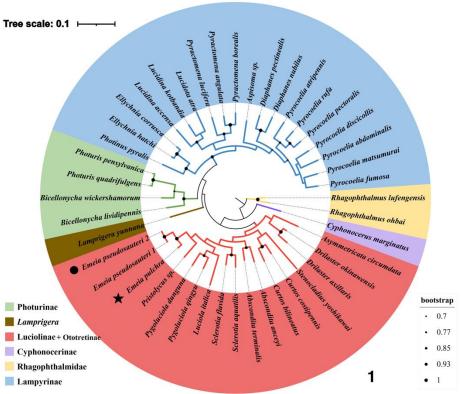
- 54 Abbreviations
- 55 **BOLD** Barcode of Life Data system
- 56 EL elytral length
- 57 EW elytra width
- 58 PL pronotal length
- 59 BL body length
- 60 **BW** body width
- 61 **T7, 8** visible abdominal tergites number
- 62 V6, 7 abdominal ventrites number, including hidden, nonvisible ventrites
- 64 Samples of both male and female Emeia pseudosautari were collected from Leshan, Sichuan Province in April, 2021. The adult male *Emeia pulchra* were collected from Jiulong 65 National Wetland Park, Lishui, Zhejiang Province in April, 2020. Holotypes and prototypes used 66 in this study are stored at School of Life Sciences, Westlake University, Hangzhou, Zhejiang. 67 Habitus images were taken using a Nikon D7500 camera. Images of the genitalia were 68 taken using a Nikon D7500 camera mounted on an SZ650 microscope (Chongqing Optec 69 70 Instrument Co., Ltd) under reflection or transmission light. Images were edited using Adobe Photoshop CS6. The dissected genital structures were preserved in pure glycerol in small vials 71 with corresponding specimens. 72 Total DNA of the described species was isolated using DNeasy Blood and Tissue Kit 73 (Zhejiang Easy-Do Biotech CO., LTD) according to manufacturer's protocol. Primers LCO 1490 74 and HCO 2198 (Folmer et al. 1994) were used to amplify barcoding fragment of the 75 mitochondrial gene for cytochrome c oxidase subunit I (CO1). We amplified in a 25 uL reaction 76 77 mix containing 1× PCR buffer, 1 uL of each primer in a final concentration of 1uM, 1 uL of 78 template, 0.2 mM of each dNTPs and 0.5 units of Tag polymerase (Takara Biomedical Technology CO., LTD). The PCR thermal regime consisted of an initial denaturation at 95 °C for 79 3 min; 30 cycles of 30 s at 94 °C, 30 s of 48 °C and 30 s at 72 °C, followed by a 5 min final 80 extension at 72 °C. The PCR products were checked by electrophoresis in 1% agarose gel, at 170 81 V for 20 min, and visualized under a UV transilluminator with nucleic acid dye (Cofitt life 82 83 science, HK). The PCR products were cleaned using Easy Gel Extraction & Clean-up kit (Zhejiang Easy-Do Biotech CO., LTD). The cleaned product was sequenced at ABI 3730XL 84 sequencer (Applied Biosystems, California, USA) in Zhejiang Sunya Biotechnology CO., LTD. 85 86 MEGA6 (Tamura et al. 2013) was used for phylogenetic reconstruction. CO1 barcoding 87 sequences from three main sub-families, *i.e.* Luciolinae, Photurinae and Lampyrinae, were included, and sequences from family Rhagophthalmidae were used as outgroups (Table 1). 88 89 Maximum likelihood method was used with 100 bootstrap replicates, and bootstrap values greater than 70 were shown on the tree. The phylogenetic relationships were displayed using 90

iTOL (v6; <u>https://itol.embl.de/</u>). The new CO1 sequences from *Emeia* have been deposited to
Genbank (accession numbers OK144132 and OK103803).

- 93
- 94 **Results**

95 **Phylogenetic analysis**

- 96 We sequenced the 658 bp DNA barcoding sequences of CO1 gene from *Emeia*
- 97 pseudosauteri and E. pulchra. The CO1 barcoding sequences of E. pseudosauteri and E. pulchra
- share 94% similarity. Phylogeny constructed from fireflies CO1 sequences formed three main
- 99 clades, *i.e.* Lampyrinae, Photurinae and Luciolinae (Fig. 1). *Emeia pseudosauteri* and *E. pulchra*
- belong to the subfamily Luciolinae. Based on the CO1 phylogeny, *E. pulchra* is a closest sister
- species to *E. pseudosauteri*, with strong support (100%).
- 102



- 104 Figure 1. Maximum likelihood tree of *Emeia. pulchra* sp. n. (black star), *E. pseudosauteri*
- (black dot) and related genera, based on CO1 barcoding sequences. Bootstrap values are shown
 on the tree (100 bootstrap replicates).
- 107

- 108 Taxonomic treatment
- 109 *Emeia pulchra* Zhu & Zhen, sp. nov.
- 110 (Figs. 2, 3, 4, 5)
- 111
- **Description.** *Male:* BL 10.0–10.4 mm; BW 3.5–3.7 mm. Body elongate. Pronotum pink-red,
- with a black median stripe, subparallel-sided; Elytral humeral surface smooth withoutlongitudinal carina.
- 115 Antennae pectinate and in black, 11 segments, almost as long as 2/3 body length; first 116 antennomere cone-shaped; second short and cylindrical; third to tenth compressed, without

inconspicuous branches originated; eleventh almost 1.5 times as long as the proceeding segment,slightly dilated from base to apex.

Head moderately depressed between eyes, eyes large and almost occupy the whole head,
eyes above labrum moderately separated, cannot fully contract to the pronotum. Mouthparts
functional, strongly flattened. Clypeolabral flexible, outer edges of labrum reach inner edges of
closed mandibles.

- Scutelllum black and ligulate. Elytra elongate, brownish in black, apices not deflexed,
 lateral margins slightly convex-sided, elytra humeral carina absent. Hind wing well developed, r3
- short than r4 (Fig. 3).

126 Legs long and thick, brown blackish, dense white hairs on the surface.

Abdominal terga shorter than elytra; abdomen in brownish, gradually smaller from basal to apical segments. Photic organs in yellowish white, occupying almost all V6 and half of V7, not reaching to posterior margins at V7. V6 and V7 rounded (Fig. 4), posterior half of V7 not arched,

shrink into a leaf-like protrusion with a little bifurcation (Fig. 4C). T7 rounded, without

anterolateral corners (Fig. 4A); T8 symmetrical with concealed anterolateral arms, widest across

middle with lateral margins subparallel-sided in anterior half, tapering evenly in posterior half to

a rounded and partly truncate posterior margin (Fig. 4B). Abdominal spiracles on lateral edges of

- each abdominal segments. EL/EW 2.26–2.27; EL/PL=3.92–4.12.
- 135

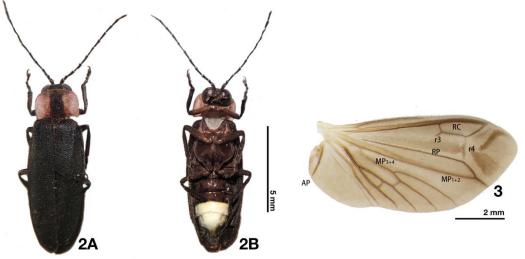


Figure 2-3. *Emeia pulchra* Zhu & Zhen, sp. nov, male. 2 Habitus of holotype. (A) dorsal
view. (B) ventral view. Scale bar: 5 mm. 3 Right wing. Dorsal view. Scale bar: 2 mm.

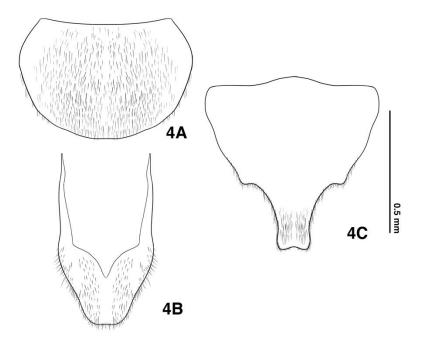




Figure 4. Male abdominal ventrites (V) and tergites (T) of *Emeia pulchra*. (A) T7 (B) T8 (C)
V7. Scale bar: 0.5 mm.

Male genitalia (Fig. 5): Aedeagal sheath (Fig. 5D–E) about 3.15 mm long; anterior half of
sternite broad, apically rounded; tergite without protrusion along posterior margin of T9.
Aedeagus (Fig. 5A–C) about 1.61 mm long, trilobate in form. Median lobe short and thick,
broadest at midlength, becoming thinner in apical and base, little shorter than parameres (lateral

148 lobes). Parameres robust and stretch in apical, subparallel-sided, symmetric, little curved outside

- 149 from about 1/3 length of parameres.
- 150

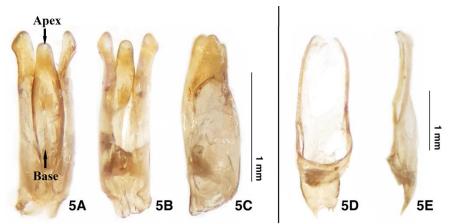


Figure 5. Male aedeagal of *Emeia pulchra*. (A) dorsal view (B) ventral view (C) lateral view.

Scale bar:1 mm; Male aedeagal sheath of *E. pulchra*. (D) dorsal view (E) ventral view. Scale
bar:1 mm.

- 155
- 156 **Etymology.** The specific name *pulchra* refers to bright color of its pronotum.

- **Holotype:** CHINA·1³; Zhejiang, Lishui; 28°37.56'N; 119°49.7'E; H: 60 m, 2. IV. 2020; Chengqi 157
- Zhu leg.; 'HOLOTYPE (red), *A*, *Emeia pulchra* sp. n., det. Zhu, Zhen, 2021' (Westlake 158
- University). 159
- **Paratype:** CHINA·1^A; Zhejiang, Lishui; 28°37.56'N; 119°49.7'E; H: 60 m, 2. IV. 2020; Chengqi 160
- Zhu leg.; 'PARATYPE (yellow), *A*, *Emeia pulchra* sp. n., det. Zhu, Zhen, 2021' (Westlake 161
- University). 162
- Distribution. China: Zhejiang Province. 163
- Habitat and occurrence. The males were found in an open forest dominant with Chinese 164
- 165 wingnut [Pterocarya stenoptera C. DC.] (Fig. 6). The ground of Emeia pulchra habitat is
- covered with lush weeds with a height of 20-30 cm. We also found that there are many terrestrial 166
- snails and slugs in this habitat, which may be potential food for *Emeia pulchra* larvae. 167
- Combining descriptions from local people and our field observations, adult fireflies are usually 168
- observed in mid-March every year. With the restoration of habitat and strengthening of 169
- protection measures, the observed population size of fireflies has increased from 2014 to 2019 170
- (Fan, 2019). 171
- 172



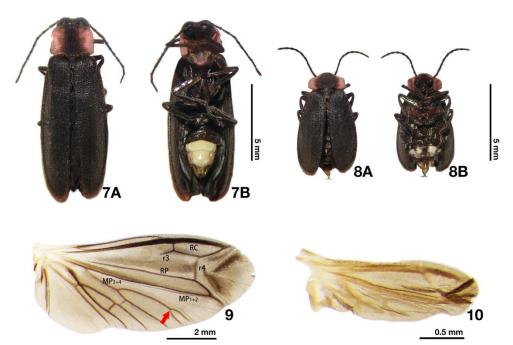
- 173 Figure 6. Habitat of *Emeia pulchra*. 174
- 175

Behavioral remarks. There are two obvious luminous bands at the terminal end of the adult 176 177 male abdomen. The two adult male luminous bands both emit intermittent bright light during courtship. The male courtship behavior usually starts at 17:00 (approximately 1h after sunset), 178 and peaks at about 20:30. Adult males rest on higher weeds and emit yellow and green flashing 179

- 180 light. Males are not good at flying; the distance of each flight ranges from 0.5 to 5 m.
- 181
- 182

183 Emeia pseudosauteri Fu, Ballantyne & Lambkin, 2012

- (Figs. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11) 184
- 185
- Emeia pseudosauteri Fu, Ballantyne & Lambkin, 2012. Zootaxa (3403), 1-53. TL: 'Mt. Tiantai 186 Shan'
- 187
- 188



190 Figure 7-10. *Emeia pseudosauteri* Fu, Ballantyne & Lambkin, 2012. Male and female. 7

Habitus of male. (A) dorsal view (B) ventral view. Scale bar: 5 mm. 8 Habitus of female. (A)
dorsal view (B) ventral view. Scale bar: 5 mm. 9 Right wing of male. Dorsal view. Scale bar: 2

193 mm. **10** Right wing of male. Dorsal view. Scale bar: 0.5 mm.

194







Figure 11. Male aedeagal of *Emeia pseudosauteri*. (A) dorsal view (B) ventral view (C) lateral view. Scale bar: 1 mm; Male aedeagal sheath of *E. pseudosauteri*. (D) dorsal view (E) ventral

- 199 view. Scale bar: 1 mm.
- 200

201 Key to species (adult male)

202	1.	Body elongate; elytral humeral carina not developed; pronotum pink-red, with a black
203		median stripe, subparallel-sided; male aedeagal median lobe little shorter than
204		parameresEmeia Fu, Ballantyne & Lambkin
205	2.	Lateral margins of elytra orange (Fig. 7A); the upper vein of MP ₃₊₄ forks and reaches the
206		margin of hind wings (Fig. 9), the median lobe and parameres tubbiness, approx. 2 times

as long as wide (Fig. 11A)*E. pseudosauteri* Fu, Ballantyne & Lambkin
The lateral margins of elytra is almost black (Fig. 2A); the upper vein of MP₃₊₄ reaches the
margin of hind wings, but without forks (Fig. 3), the median lobe and parameres slender,
approx. 3 times as long as its width (Fig. 5A) *E. pulchra* Zhu & Zhen

211 212

213 **Discussion**

We examined the type species Emeia pseudosauteri and tried to look for other undescribed 214 species in Emeia in major collections of National Animal Collection Resource Center 215 (http://museum.ioz.ac.cn/index.html), and we didn't find any sample that may belong to Emeia. 216 Based on adult males of two identified *Emeia* species, we summarize the diagnostic features of 217 the Emeia genus. A distinct external feature is the pronotum that is subparallel-sided and pink-218 red with a black median stripe. In contrast with other firefly species, Luciola and Pteroptyx 219 species have bright orange pronotum and dark elytra (Ballantyne, 1987; Ballantyne & Lambkin, 220 2009), and Aquatica wuhana and A. lateralis have black marks on pronotum (Fu, Ballantyne, & 221 Lambkin, 2010), however, the *Emeia* species have a relatively red pronotum with broad black 222 223 stripe that is easily distinguished from the other species (Fig 2; Fig 7; Fig 8). Emeia pulchra sp. nov. is morphologically similar to E. pseudosauteri Fu, Ballantyne & 224 Lambkin, 2012 from Sichuan of Southwestern China. The main morphological differences 225 226 between these two species are in antennae, elytra, pronotum and male genitalia. The antennae of male E. pulchra (Fig. 2) is narrower than that of E. pseudosauteri (Fig. 7); The female E. 227 pseudosauteri is about 2/3 in body length compared to male and have normal elytra (Fig. 8), but 228 its hind wings are small and shrunken, about $\sim 1/4$ length of male hind wings (Fig. 9-10). For 229 male, we find hind wing of *E. pseudosauteri* is relatively narrower and longer than *E. pulchra*, 230 and the upper vein of MP₃₊₄ forks and reaches the margin of wing (marked in red arrow in Fig. 231 9). The lateral margins of elytra is orange in *E. pseudosauteri* while black in *E. pulchra*. 232 Typically, the body size of *E. pseudosauteri* (BL 6.6–7.2 mm; BW 2.7–2.9 mm) is much smaller 233 than E. pulchra (BL 10.0-10.4 mm; BW 3.5-3.7 mm). The pronotum of the new species is more 234 pink and narrower than E. pseudosauteri. For male genitalia, the median lobe and parametes of 235 new species (Fig. 5A) are slender than E. pseudosauteri (Fig. 11A), and parametes are not as 236 curved as those in E. pseudosauteri (Fig. 5B; Fig. 11B). In addition, the new species is only 237 known from S. Zhejiang while E. pseudosauteri is only found in SW. Sichuan. There is broad 238 239 geographical isolation between two localities (Fig. 12). 240

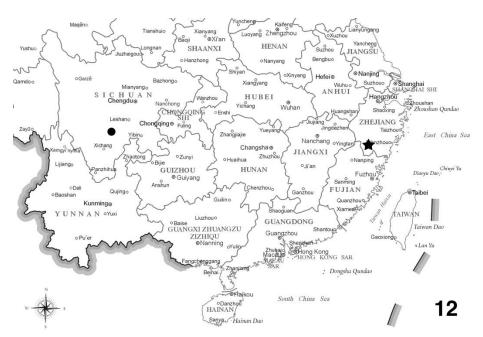


Figure 12. Distribution map of the genus *Emeia* from China. Black star indicates the *E. pulchra* **sp. n.**, black dot indicates the *E. pseudosauteri* (map of China from: http://bzdt.ch.mnr.gov.cn/).

243

In this paper, we report one new species, *Emeia pulchra* sp. nov and present a systematic review of the genus *Emeia*. The discovery of this new species increases the number of species in genus *Emeia*. These two sister species share high morphological similarity, but could be readily distinguished using morphological characters and CO1 barcoding sequences. To date, there are only very few CO1 submissions in Lampyridae and further efforts are needed to fill this gap.

251

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253

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- 259

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- 289

Table 1. CO1 sequences used for phylogenetic reconstruction.

Species	Family	Sub-family	Accession
-	-	-	number
Pyrocoelia pectoralis	Lampyridae	Lampyrinae	KP763467.1
Pyrocoelia rufa	Lampyridae	Lampyrinae	AF452048.1
Pyrocoelia abdominalis	Lampyridae	Lampyrinae	AB608766.1
Pyrocoelia atripennis	Lampyridae	Lampyrinae	AB608767.1
Pyrocoelia discicollis	Lampyridae	Lampyrinae	AB608768.1
Pyrocoelia fumosa	Lampyridae	Lampyrinae	AB608769.1
Pyrocoelia matsumurail	Lampyridae	Lampyrinae	AB608770.1
Diaphanes nubilus	Lampyridae	Lampyrinae	MG200080.1
Diaphanes pectinealis	Lampyridae	Lampyrinae	NC 044793.1
Photinus pyralis	Lampyridae	Lampyrinae	KY778696.1
Ellychnia corrusca	Lampyridae	Lampyrinae	KR483038.1
Ellychnia hatchi	Lampyridae	Lampyrinae	JF887410.1
Pyractomena lucifera	Lampyridae	Lampyrinae	MF640134.1
Pyractomena borealis	Lampyridae	Lampyrinae	HQ928227.1
Pyractomena angulata	Lampyridae	Lampyrinae	JN290381.1
Aspisoma sp.	Lampyridae	Lampyrinae	EU009322.1
Lucidina accensa	Lampyridae	Lampyrinae	AB608771.1
Lucidina kotbandia	Lampyridae	Lampyrinae	FJ462784.1
Lucidota atra	Lampyridae	Lampyrinae	HQ984304.1
Photuris pensylvanica	Lampyridae	Photurinae	MF634963.1
Photuris quadrifulgens	Lampyridae	Photurinae	HM433520.1
Bicellonycha lividipennis	Lampyridae	Photurinae	KJ922151.1
Bicellonycha wickershamorum	Lampyridae	Photurinae	EU009302.1
Pristolycus sp.	Lampyridae	Luciolinae	MK292099.1

Sclerotia flavida	Lampyridae	Luciolinae	KP763460.1
Sclerotia aquatilis	Lampyridae	Luciolinae	KP763466.1
Pygoluciola dunguna	Lampyridae	Luciolinae	MT106243.1
Pygoluciola qingyu	Lampyridae	Luciolinae	MK292093.1
Curtos bilineatus	Lampyridae	Luciolinae	NC_044789.1
Curtos costipennis	Lampyridae	Luciolinae	AB608764.1
Abscondita terminalis	Lampyridae	Luciolinae	NC_044776.1
Abscondita anceyi	Lampyridae	Luciolinae	NC_039706.1
Emeia pseudosauteri 1	Lampyridae	Luciolinae	MN722654.1
Emeia pseudosauteri 2	Lampyridae	Luciolinae	OK103803
Emeia pulchra	Lampyridae	Luciolinae	OK144132
Luciola italica	Lampyridae	Luciolinae	KM448530.1
Asymmetricata circumdata	Lampyridae	Luciolinae	NC_032062.1
Drilaster axillaris	Lampyridae	Ototretinae	AB608756.1
Drilaster okinawensis	Lampyridae	Ototretinae	AB608758.1
Stenocladius yoshikawai	Lampyridae	Ototretinae	AB608759.1
Lamprigera yunnana	Lampyridae	Incertae_sedis	MG200082.1
Cyphonocerus marginatus	Lampyridae	Cyphonocerinae	AB608754.1
Rhagophthalmus lufengensis	Rhagophthalmidae	-	DQ888607.1
Rhagophthalmus ohbai	Rhagophthalmidae	-	AB608775.1