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Research article

# New records of Psocodea (Insecta) from Vietnam

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**Abstract:** In this study, we contribute to the knowledge of the psocid fauna of Vietnam by reporting four species for the first time for the territory of the country: *Amphipsocus unitoides* New & Thornton, 1976, *Isophanes capeneri* Smithers, 1956, *Peripsocus medimacularis* Li, 1995, and *Sigmatoneura kolbei* (Enderlein, 1906). Additionally, we provide four new distribution localities for *Caecilius fuscopterus* (Latreille, 1799), a species first recorded in Vietnam as a smaller variety by Enderlein (1903). All specimens were collected from various habitats in northern Vietnam during October 2025.

**Keywords:** biodiversity, equatorial, habitats, insects, SE Asia

## Introduction

The study of the Psocoptera fauna in Vietnam dates back to the beginning of the 20th century with the works of Enderlein (1903) and Navas (1924). Despite this early start, taxonomic research in the region remained sporadic for a long period. By 2016, the checklist of species known to the country included only 26 taxa, with subsequent studies adding only a few more records (Lienhard, 2016; Liang et al., 2013, 2017; Ning et al., 2020). Given the exceptional biodiversity of tropical ecosystems in Indochina, these figures remain relatively small and reflect a poorly known fauna. Significant progress in documenting this species richness was recently published by Georgiev et al. (2024), who reported 19 new species for Vietnam, primarily collected from the Tam Dao National Park. This publication highlighted the presence of species previously unknown not only to the country but also to the Indochina Peninsula and continental Asia, underscoring the vital need for continued entomological exploration.

In this article, we further contribute to the knowledge of the regional psocid fauna by reporting an additional four species for the first time for the territory of Vietnam.

## Material and methods

Barkflies were collected between 11.10.2025 and 17.10.2025 from Vietnam in open habitats – grasses and shrubs at a forest edge (Fig. 1). All specimens were collected by Ognyan Todorov by sweep netting then preserved in 96% ethanol. All material was deposited at the Regional Natural History Museum – Plovdiv. Identification was based on the original descriptions or identification keys provided by Enderlein (1906), Smithers (1956), New & Thornton (1976), Lienhard (1998), Li (2002), and New & Lienhard (2007). Distributional data follows Lienhard (2016).

## Results and discussion

A total of five species were identified, from which four were new country records for Vietnam, as follows:

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Fig. 1. Some of the Psocodea habitats surveyed during present study: A – locality of *I. capeneri*, B – locality of *A. unitoides*, C – locality of *P. medimacularis*, D – locality of *S. kolbei*. Photos: O. Todorov.

Amphipsocidae

*Amphipsocus unitoides* New & Thornton, 1976 Material examined: 16.10.2025, Mường Phăng, Điện Biên Phủ District, 21°25′56.9″N 103°06′03.9″E, 958 m a. s. l., 1 ♀. Remark: This species was known only from its type locality in Singapore (New & Thornton, 1976). New record for Vietnam.

Caeciliusidae

*Caecilius fuscopterus* (Latreille, 1799) Material examined: 10.10.2025, Sa Pa District, Lào Cai Province, Phan Xi Păng/Fansipan Summit, 22°18′19.4″N 103°46′31.6″E, 3020 m a. s. l., 1 ♂; 11.10.2025, Tam Đường District, Lai Châu, 22°21′13.0″N 103°46′19.9″E, 1965 m a. s. l., 1 ♀; 13.10.2025, Séo Mý Tỷ, Tả Van, Sa Pa, Lào Cai, Hoàng Liên National Park, 22°16′07.0″N 103°53′15.2″E, 1719 m a. s. l., 1 ♀; 19.10.2025, Mường Phăng, h. Điện Biên, 21°24′03.8″N 103°05′19.3″E, 961 m a. s. l., 1 ♀. Remark: This species is widely distributed across Europe and Asia (Lienhard, 2016). In Vietnam, it was first reported by Enderlein (1903) under the name *C. fuscopterus* var. *tonkinensis*, based on a single female specimen collected by Hans Fruhstorfer from the Mau Son Mountains (Mauson-Gebirge) in Tonkin. Enderlein noted that the Vietnamese specimen aligned perfectly with European individuals in its microscopic structure and leg pubescence, differing only in its smaller size (forewing length of 2.5 mm vs. the 3 mm minimum typical for European females). The four localities recorded in our study represent new distribution data for the species within Vietnam.

*Isophanes capeneri* Smithers, 1956 Material examined: 13.10.2025, Séo Mý Tỷ, Tả Van, Sa Pa, Lào Cai, Hoàng Liên National Park, 22°16′07.0″N 103°53′15.2″E, 1719 m a. s. l., 1 ♂ (Fig. 2). Remark: This species was originally described from South Africa based on a male specimen (Smithers, 1956).

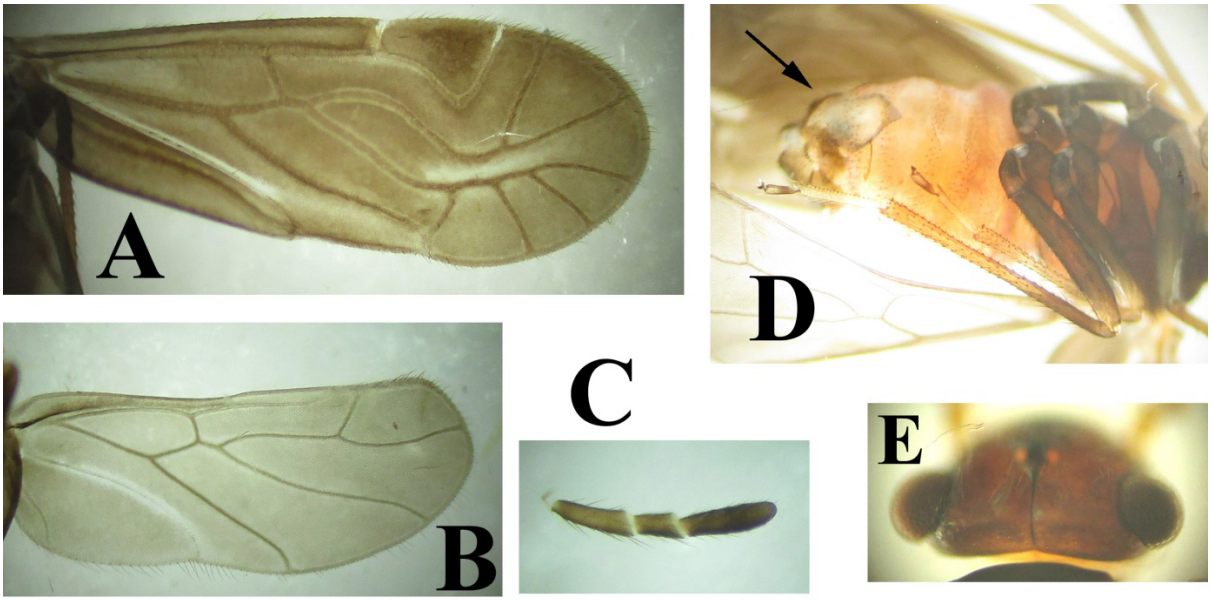



Fig. 2. *Isophanes capeneri* from Vietnam, male: A – forewing, B – hind wing, C – palpus, D – ventral side of the abdomen with legs (specific male genitalia is pointed by an arrow), E – head. FW length 2.02 mm, scale also to B and D; C and E not to scale. Photos: D. Georgiev.

Although Vietnam is geographically distant from the type locality, such distribution patterns are not uncommon, similar cases have been documented for several species previously considered Asian but subsequently found in Africa. While the exact origin of these species remains unclear, they were likely dispersed through the historical maritime transport of fruits and plants (Georgiev, 2021, 2022, 2024). New record for Vietnam.

Peripsocidae

*Peripsocus medimacularis* Li, 1995 Material examined: 16.10.2025, Mường Phăng, Điện Biên Phủ District, 21°25′56.9″N 103°06′03.9″E, 958 m a. s. l., 1 ♀. Remark: The species was known only from China (Lienhard, 2016). New record for Vietnam.

Psocidae

*Sigmatoneura kolbei* (Enderlein, 1906) Material examined: 17.10.2025, Mường Phăng, h. Điện Biên, 21°26′29.5″N 103°06′59.5″E, 960 m a. s. l., 1 ♂. Remark: The species was known from Japan (type locality), Taiwan and China (Lienhard, 2016). New record for Vietnam.

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**Conflicts of interest**

No potential conflict of interest has been reported by the authors, reviewers, or subject editor.

**Author' contributions**
(using CrediT)

Dilian Georgiev: conceptualisation, data curation, formal analysis, investigation, methodology, resources, visualisation, writing—original draft, writing—review and editing; Ognyan Todorov: funding acquisition, investigation, writing—review and editing.

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