

## Articles




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# *Agalope oshikirii* n. sp., the first chalcosiine fossil (Lepidoptera, Zygaenidae) from Akita Prefecture, Japan

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## Abstract

*Agalope oshikirii* n. sp. (Zygaenidae, Chalcosiinae) is described from the uppermost Miocene–Pliocene Sanzugawa Formation in Akita Prefecture, northern Japan. Because we found a single fossil forewing in this study, we give a table of the forewing characters of various groups of the genus *Agalope* and related genera and compared them with this new species, confirming that it does not match any of the species. This is the first discovery of chalcosiine fossils in Japan and provides evidence of a historically broader distribution of the genus.

<http://zoobank.org/999828b5-4f91-470f-bc15-6b6fe7a8ec61>

## Non-technical Summary

*Agalope oshikirii* n. sp. (Zygaenidae, Chalcosiinae) is described from the uppermost Miocene–Pliocene Sanzugawa Formation in Akita Prefecture, northern Japan. This is the first discovery of chalcosiine fossils and provides evidence of a historically broader distribution of the genus.

## Introduction

The subfamily Chalcosiinae (Lepidoptera, Zygaenidae) is distinguished by its high morphological and ecological diversity. The group comprises ~70 genera and 370–400 species (e.g., Bryk, 1936; Tremewan, 1973; Fletcher and Nye, 1982; Yen et al., 2005) and is distributed from Palaearctic eastern Asia, through subtropical southeastern Asia, to the Melanesian and Micronesian archipelagos (with the exception of the western Palaearctic genus *Aglaope* Latreille, 1809). To date, no fossil record of the subfamily has been identified (Sohn et al., 2012) largely due to the lepidopterans' low preservation potential, even in lacustrine deposits, as suggested by taphonomic simulations with extant species (Duncan, 1997).

The genus *Agalope* Walker, 1854, consists of small to medium-sized chalcosiine moths known for their translucent and thinly-scaled broad wings with a colored forewing base and various blackish patterns on the forewing upperside. Adults are active from spring to late summer and are typically observed flying slowly during the day (Huang et al., 2022). The genus currently includes 15 species, divided into four species groups—*hyalina*, *eronioides*, *livida*, and *geoffi*—distributed in the eastern Palaearctic and Oriental regions, including Kashmir, India, Nepal, Bhutan, northern Myanmar, various provinces in southwestern, central, and southern mainland China, Taiwan Island, and northern Vietnam (Huang et al., 2023).

Previously, six species groups—*hyalina*, *eronioides*, *bieti*, *pica*, *glacialis*, and *immaculata*—were recorded within *Agalope* (Yen et al., 2005). Huang et al. (2023) recently reviewed and modified the generic concept; they transferred the *pica* and *glacialis* species groups to a newly established genus *Paragalope* Huang and Horie in Huang et al., 2023 and the *immaculata* species group to another new genus, *Rotundagalope* Huang and Horie in Huang et al., 2023. Yen et al. (2005) highlighted that *Agalope* is not monophyletic, recommending the exclusion of *Agalope glacialis* (Moore, 1872) and *Agalope immaculata* Leech, 1898, supporting their transfer to other genera. Huang et al. (2023) further excluded all species of the *pica* and *bieti* species groups (sensu Yen et al., 2005) from *Agalope*, combining them with *Agalope glacialis* under a new genus based on similar genitalia structures. Thus, the concept of the genus *Agalope* is complex. Here, we report the first fossil specimen belonging to the genus *Agalope* (sensu Huang et al., 2023), which is also the first fossil representative within the subfamily Chalcosiinae.

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## Geological setting

The Sanzugawa caldera is located in the southern part of Akita Prefecture, northern Japan. It is filled by the Torageyama Formation, Sanzugawa Formation, and post-caldera volcanics (Takeno, 1988; Fig. 1.1, 1.2). The Torageyama Formation primarily consists of felsic pumice lapilli tuff formed by deisitic pyroclastic flows. The Sanzugawa Formation, made up of lake deposits, includes tuffaceous siltstone, mudstone, and sandstone with fossiliferous layers. The postcaldera Quaternary volcanics are distributed in the central part of the caldera (Takeno, 1988). Takeno (1988), Ito et al. (1989), and Ito (2023) discussed the history of the Sanzugawa caldera. According to these studies, the first stage of a caldera-forming eruption occurred ~6–5 million years ago (Ma) at the Sanzugawa caldera, resulting in the deposition of the Torageyama Formation. Approximately 4–3 Ma, another major caldera-forming eruption happened in the eastern part of the Sanzugawa Caldera, leading to thick lacustrine sedimentation of the Sanzugawa Formation, with continuous deposition of the Torageyama Formation. The former is represented by lake deposits found in Minase-dam, Sanzugawa, and Oyasu areas in the southern part of Yuzawa. The formation mainly comprises alternating layers of tuffaceous sandstone and siltstone (Takeno, 1988). Well-preserved fossils, e.g., plants and insects, are found in the main part of the formation.

The Sanzugawa Flora consists of 45 species and 30 genera, belonging to 20 families (Huzioka and Uemura, 1974). With seven species, Salicaceae is the largest family in the flora, followed by Betulaceae with five species, and Fagaceae and Sapindaceae with four species each. Prominent genera include *Salix* Linnaeus, 1753 with five species and *Acer* Linnaeus, 1753 with four species. Their probable habitats closely resemble the cool-temperate forest of northern Japan. Moreover, a majority of the Sanzugawa species are believed to have lived in forested valleys and on mixed slopes (Huzioka and Uemura, 1974), with the flora deposited in a freshwater lake basin. Oshikiri (2001) also reported plant fossils, e.g., winged seeds of Oleaceae and *Styrax protoobassia* Tanai and Onoe, 1961. Most Sanzugawa plants are

identical or similar to late Miocene to earlier Pliocene species (Huzioka and Uemura, 1974).

Studies of insect fossils have been promoted by S. Oshikiri, a high school teacher, who described such species as *Bibio* sp. indet. (Bibionidae) and Tipulidae gen. indet. sp. indet., likely belonging to Ctenophorinae or Tipulinae (Oshikiri, 1979). Oshikiri (1982) reported 27 specimens belonging to 14 families with brief descriptions, and seven different Aphididae types based on additional specimens (Oshikiri, 1988). Fujiyama (1983) reviewed fossil localities in northern Japan, noting that Mycetophilidae and Bibionidae (Diptera), Ichneumonidae and Formicidae (Hymenoptera), and Aphididae (Homoptera) are well represented among the insect fossils based on the occurrence list.

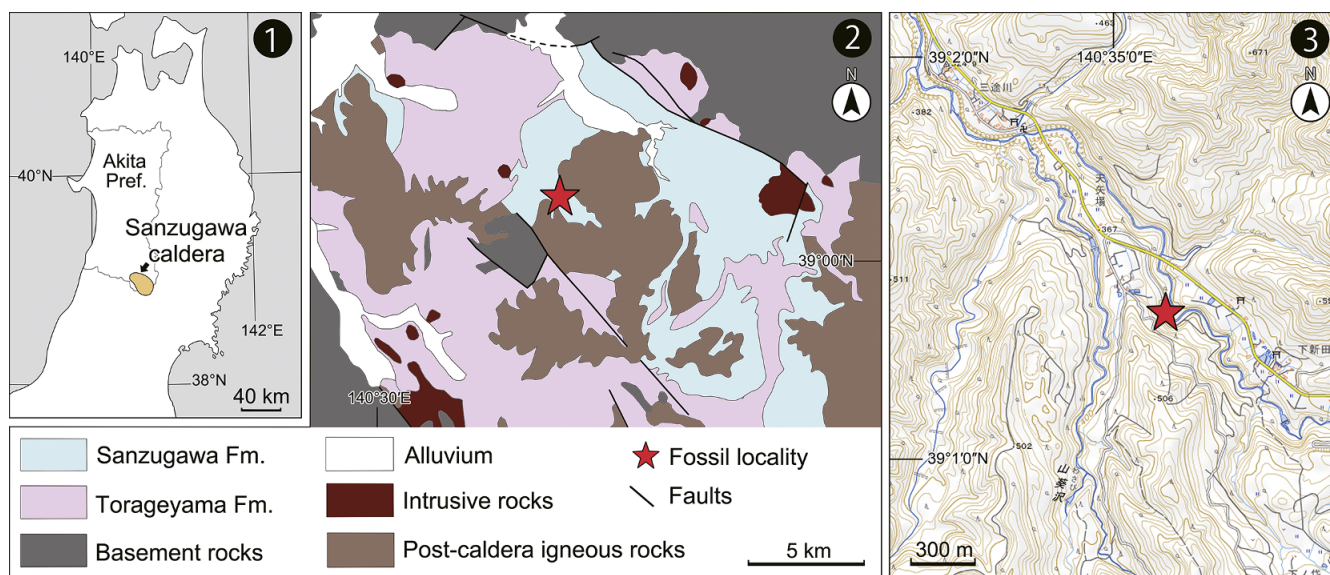
## Material

The studied fossil is preserved in whitish tuffaceous siltstone and is part of Oshikiri's insect fossil collection. It was derived from an outcrop of the uppermost Miocene–Pliocene Sanzugawa Formation beside the old Kurotakibashi Bridge (39°1'21"N, 140°35'12"E; Fig. 1.3), which was lost due to a landslide in 2008. The studied specimen is deposited in Geosta Yuzawa, Yuzawa City, Akita Prefecture with a repository number OF-I74. In describing the characters of the specimens below, we follow Efetov and Tarmann's (2017) terminology of Zygaenidae.

**Repository and institutional abbreviation.** Type specimen examined in this study is deposited in Geosta Yuzawa—Oshikiri Fossil Insect Collections (OF-I).

## Systematic paleontology

Order **Lepidoptera** Linnaeus, 1758  
 Superfamily **Zygaenoidea** Latreille, 1809  
 Family **Zygaenidae** Latreille, 1809  
 Subfamily **Chalcosiinae** Hampson, 1893  
 Genus **Agalope** Walker, 1854



**Figure 1.** Locality of the studied fossil. (1) Location of the Sanzugawa caldera in Tohoku region, northern Japan; based on Ito (2023). (2) Simplified geological map of the Sanzugawa caldera; based on Ito et al. (1989). (3) The location map based on the digital topographic map published by the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (GSI).



**Type species.** *Agalope basalis* Walker, 1854, by monotypy (currently a junior synonym of *Chalcosia hyalina* Kollar in Kollar and Redtenbacher, 1844).

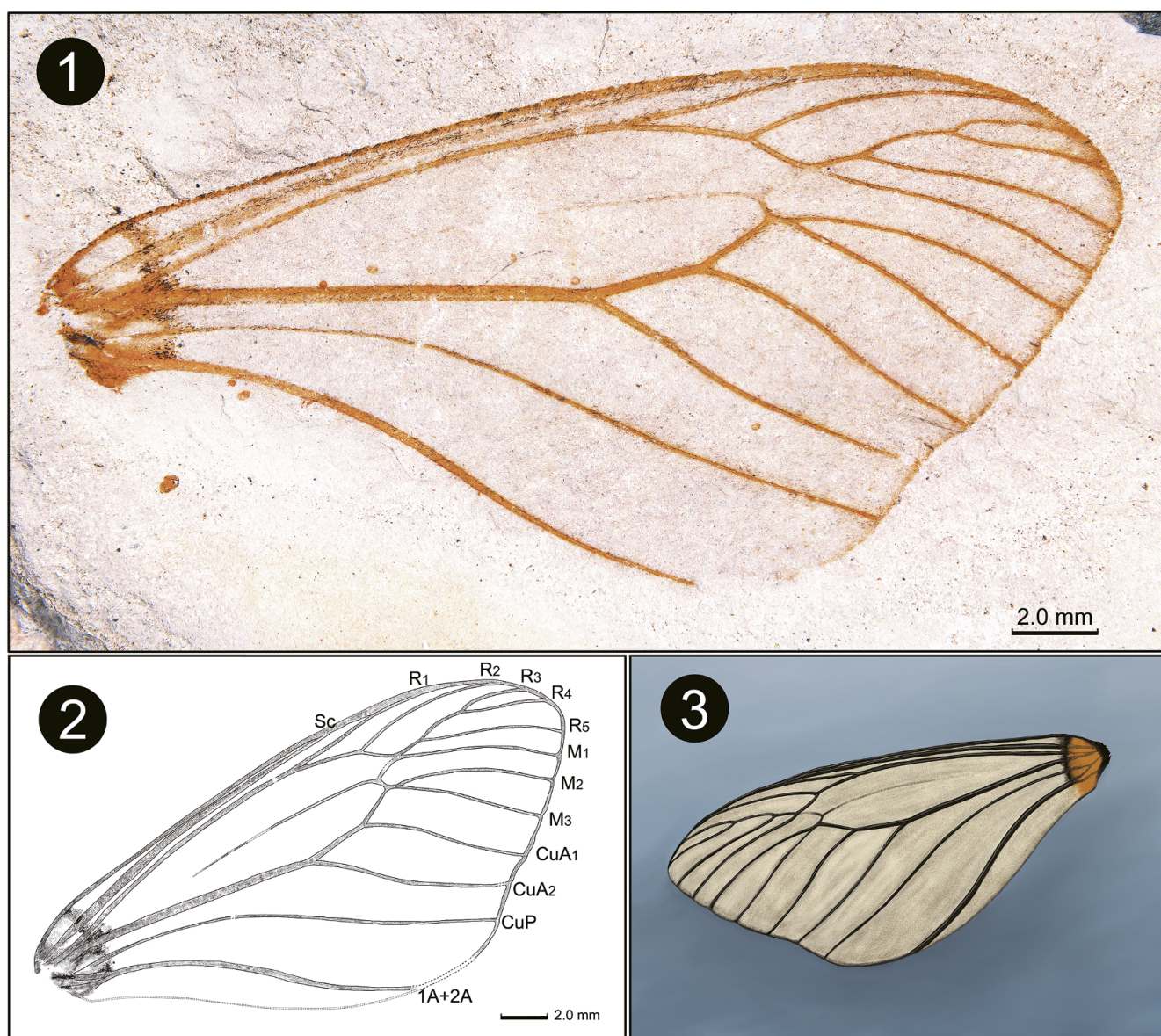
***Agalope oshikirii*** new species  
[Japanese name: Oshikiri-usuba-hotaruga]  
Figure 2

**Holotype.** OF-I74, a separated forewing (Fig. 2.1), Geosta Yuzawa, Yuzawa City, Akita Prefecture, Japan.

**Diagnosis.** *Agalope oshikirii* n. sp. is distinguished by the following combination of characteristics: medium-sized forewing (approximately 25 mm long) lacking blackish patterns;  $M_2$  and  $M_3$  veins are quite shortly stalked;  $R_4$ ,  $R_5$ ,  $M_1$ , and  $M_2$  veins are parallel to each other;  $M_3$  vein is parallel to  $CuA_1$ .

**Occurrence.** This species was discovered in the Sanzugawa Formation (latest Miocene–Pliocene) located in Sanzugawa Caldera, Yuzawa City, Akita Prefecture, Japan.

**Description.** Forewing 25.3 mm long, 12.2 mm wide, transparent, semitriangular. Forewing costa arched just before apex forming rounded wing tip. Termen almost straight, slightly concave between  $CuA_1$  and  $CuP$ . Deeper colored small patch occupying basal one-eighth of wing, bordered with thin black arcuate band. Discal and terminal blackish maculations absent. Wing venation including full complement of veins. Sc vein ending near two-thirds of costa. Cross veins between costa and Sc absent. Discal cell slender, 17.2 mm long, 3.7 mm wide, spanning two-thirds of wing length. Discal cell closed with rudimentary medial stem vein in its distal part.  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  separated and arising independently from anterior part of cell.  $R_1$  separated from Sc.  $R_2$  and  $R_{3-5}$  separated.  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  stalked.  $R_3 + R_4$  shortly stalked with  $R_5$ .  $R_5$  not strongly sinuate basally. Discocellular



**Figure 2** *Agalope oshikirii* n. sp. (1) Holotype, OF-I74, a separated forewing. (2) Drawing of OF-I74. We follow the terminology of Zygaenidae by Efetov and Tarmann (2017), with abbreviations for wing venation as follows: A = anal vein;  $CuA$  = cubital anterior;  $CuP$  = cubital posterior; M = median vein; R = radial vein; Sc = subcosta. (3) Color reconstruction of separated forewing of *Agalope oshikirii* n. sp. on the water surface in the lake. Art (2) and (3) are drawn by Kazuki Mera.

**Table 1.** Correlations of *Agalope oshikirii* n. sp. and relatives using the following ten elements: (1) forewing length; (2) forewing width; (3) L/W ratio; (4) discal cell length/forewing length ratio; (5) presence of colored patch in base; (6) length from base to basal black band/forewing length ratio; (7) presence of distinct maculations except for base; (8) presence of paralleled  $R_4$ ,  $R_5$ ,  $M_1$ , and  $M_2$ ; (9) presence of quite shortly stalked  $M_2$  and  $M_3$ ; (10) presence of parallel  $M_3$  and  $CuA_1$ . Cells in red font are elements shared with *Agalope oshikirii* n. sp. Measurements in mm.

| Taxon  |   | Character elements |           |           |           |   |           |   |   |   |    | Source                                       |
|--|---|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---|-----------|---|---|---|----|--|
|  |   | 1                  | 2         | 3         | 4         | 5 | 6         | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |  |
| <i>Agalope oshikirii</i> n. sp.                                |   | 24.9               | 11.8      | 2.11      | 0.70      | + | 0.11      | — | + | + | +  | This study                                   |
| Genus <i>Agalope</i> Walker, 1854                              |   |                    |           |           |           |   |           |   |   |   |    |  |
| The <i>hyalina</i> species group                               |   |                    |           |           |           |   |           |   |   |   |    |  |
| <i>Agalope hyalina</i> (Kollar, 1844)                          | ♂ | 20.6               | 11.5      | 1.79      | 0.71      | + | N/A       | + | ± | + | —  | Huang et al., 2023, p. 293, fig. 1           |
|  | ♀ | 21.3               | 10.9      | 1.95      | 0.72      | + | N/A       | ± | ± | + | —  | Huang et al., 2023, p. 293, fig. 2           |
| <i>Agalope glacialis</i> (Moore, 1872)                         | ♂ | 17.1–18.0          | 8.8–9.8   | 1.84–1.94 | 0.70–0.72 | + | N/A       | + | ± | — | —  | Huang et al., 2023, p. 293, figs. 4–6        |
|  | ♀ | 17.1               | 9.4       | 1.82      | 0.73      | + | N/A       | + | — | — | —  | Huang et al., 2023, p. 293, fig. 3           |
| <i>Agalope grandis</i> Mell, 1922                              | ♂ | 25.2               | 14.0      | 1.80      | 0.63      | + | N/A       | + | — | — | —  | Owada and Horie, 2000, pl. 161, fig. 18      |
|  | ♀ | 29.2               | 15.9      | 1.84      | 0.70      | + | N/A       | + | — | — | —  | Owada and Horie, 2000, pl. 161, fig. 19      |
| <i>Agalope harutai</i> Horie in Owada and Horie, 2000          | ♂ | 17.5–19.3          | 9.4–10.7  | 1.80–1.86 | 0.69–0.70 | + | N/A       | + | — | + | —  | Owada and Horie, 2000, pl. 161, figs. 14, 15 |
| <i>Agalope jianqingi</i> Huang in Huang et al., 2022           | ♂ | 20.0               | 11.2      | 1.79      | 0.68      | + | N/A       | ± | — | — | —  | Huang et al., 2022, p. 561, fig. 29          |
| <i>Agalope kishidograndis</i> Owada and Horie, 2000            | ♂ | 22.0               | 12.1      | 1.82      | 0.68      | + | N/A       | + | — | — | —  | Owada and Horie, 2000, pl. 161, fig. 20      |
|  | ♀ | 21.2               | 11.3      | 1.88      | 0.68      | + | N/A       | + | — | — | —  | Owada and Horie, 2000, pl. 161, fig. 21      |
| <i>Agalope mineti</i> Owada in Owada and Horie, 2000           | ♂ | 18.8               | 10.4      | 1.81      | 0.68      | + | N/A       | + | — | — | +  | Owada and Horie, 2000, pl. 161, fig. 17      |
| <i>Agalope primularis</i> Butler, 1875                         | ♂ | 17.5               | 9.7       | 1.80      | 0.66      | + | N/A       | + | — | — | —  | Owada and Horie, 2000, pl. 161, fig. 16      |
| <i>Agalope suzukikojii</i> Horie in Owada and Horie, 2000      | ♂ | 16.0               | 8.8       | 1.82      | 0.66      | + | N/A       | + | — | — | —  | Owada and Horie, 2000, pl. 161, fig. 12      |
|  | ♀ | 14.0               | 7.4       | 1.89      | 0.70      | + | N/A       | + | — | — | —  | Owada and Horie, 2000, pl. 161, fig. 13      |
| The <i>eronioides</i> species group                            |   |                    |           |           |           |   |           |   |   |   |    |  |
| <i>Agalope eronioides</i> Moore, 1879b                         | ♂ | 27.4–31.3          | 12.8–14.8 | 2.11–2.14 | 0.72–0.74 | + | 0.06–0.08 | + | — | — | —  | Huang et al., 2023, p. 293, figs. 7, 9       |
|  | ♀ | 28.7–33.3          | 14.0–16.0 | 2.05–2.08 | 0.72–0.74 | + | 0.06–0.07 | + | — | — | —  | Huang et al., 2023, p. 293, figs. 8, 10      |
| The <i>livida</i> species group                                |   |                    |           |           |           |   |           |   |   |   |    |  |
| <i>Agalope livida</i> Moore, 1879a                             | ♂ | 24.2               | 12.4      | 1.95      | 0.73      | + | 0.08      | — | — | + | ±  | Huang et al., 2023, p. 293, fig. 11          |
|  | ♀ | 27.6               | 14.2      | 1.94      | 0.74      | + | 0.08      | — | — | ± | ±  | Huang et al., 2023, p. 293, fig. 12          |
| The <i>geoffi</i> species group                                |   |                    |           |           |           |   |           |   |   |   |    |  |
| <i>Agalope geoffi</i> Huang and Horie in Huang et al., 2023    | ♂ | 19.3               | 10.0      | 1.93      | 0.69      | + | N/A       | — | — | + | ±  | Huang et al., 2023, p. 293, fig. 13          |
| <i>Agalope liuzihaai</i> Huang and Horie in Huang et al., 2023 | ♂ | 21.1               | 11.9      | 1.77      | 0.72      | + | N/A       | — | — | — | —  | Huang et al., 2023, p. 293, fig. 14          |

(Continued)

Table 1. (Continued)

| Taxon   |   | Character elements |           |           |           |   |           |   |   |         |    | Source                                       |
|---|---|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---|-----------|---|---|---------|----|--|
|   |   | 1                  | 2         | 3         | 4         | 5 | 6         | 7 | 8 | 9       | 10 |  |
| Genus <i>Rotundagalope</i> Huang and Horie in Huang et al., 2023  |   |                    |           |           |           |   |           |   |   |         |    |  |
| <i>Rotundagalope immaculata</i> (Leech, 1898)                     | ♂ | 24.7–28.3          | 13.4–15.3 | 1.83–1.85 | 0.71–0.74 | + | N/A       | — | + | no stem | +  | Huang et al., 2023, p. 298, figs. 15–17      |
|   | ♀ | 24.5               | 12.7      | 1.93      | 0.71      | + | N/A       | — | + | no stem | +  | Huang et al., 2023, p. 298, fig. 18          |
| Genus <i>Paragalope</i> Huang and Horie in Huang et al., 2023     |   |                    |           |           |           |   |           |   |   |         |    |  |
| <i>Paragalope basiflava</i> Huang and Horie in Huang et al., 2023 | ♂ | 29.8               | 12.5      | 2.38      | 0.70      | + | 0.17      | + | — | —       | —  | Huang et al., 2023, p. 299, fig. 29          |
|   | ♀ | 30.3               | 13.7      | 2.21      | 0.70      | + | 0.16      | + | — | —       | —  | Huang et al., 2023, p. 299, fig. 30          |
| <i>Paragalope bieti</i> (Oberthür, 1886)                          | ♂ | 22.4–25.9          | 10.4–11.8 | 2.14–2.22 | 0.69–0.73 | + | 0.09–0.15 | + | ± | ±       | —  | Huang et al., 2023, p. 299, figs. 33, 35–37  |
|   | ♀ | 19.8–21.3          | 9.1–9.6   | 2.18–2.22 | 0.71–0.75 | + | 0.10–0.15 | + | ± | —       | —  | Huang et al., 2023, p. 299, figs. 34, 38     |
| <i>Paragalope dejeani</i> (Oberthür, 1893)                        | ♂ | 30.7               | 15.3      | 2.01      | 0.72      | + | 0.11      | + | — | —       | ±  | Huang et al., 2023, p. 298, fig. 19          |
|   | ♀ | 21.9–28.8          | 10.8–13.3 | 2.03–2.17 | 0.67–0.70 | + | 0.09–0.11 | + | — | —       | —  | Huang et al., 2023, p. 298, figs. 20, 21     |
| <i>Paragalope gracilis</i> (Moore, 1872)                          | ♂ | 21.4–26.8          | 10.7–13.1 | 1.96–2.05 | 0.69–0.74 | + | 0.14–0.17 | + | ± | ±       | +  | Huang et al., 2023, p. 301, figs. 40, 41, 43 |
|   | ♀ | 27.1–33.6          | 14.2–17.7 | 1.90–1.97 | 0.71–0.74 | + | 0.12–0.16 | + | — | —       | ±  | Huang et al., 2023, p. 301, figs. 39, 42, 44 |
| <i>Paragalope haoi</i> (Huang in Huang et al., 2022)              | ♂ | 21.5               | 10.7      | 2.01      | 0.71      | ± | N/A       | + | — | —       | —  | Huang et al., 2023, p. 299, fig. 31          |
|   | ♀ | 17.4               | 7.9       | 2.20      | 0.69      | ± | N/A       | + | — | —       | —  | Huang et al., 2023, p. 299, fig. 32          |
| <i>Paragalope lucia</i> (Oberthür, 1923)                          | ♂ | 24.9               | 12.3      | 2.02      | 0.69      | — | N/A       | + | — | —       | —  | Huang et al., 2023, p. 298, fig. 23          |
|   | ♀ | 25.2–29.7          | 12.0–14.1 | 2.10–2.11 | 0.70–0.71 | + | N/A       | + | — | —       | —  | Huang et al., 2023, p. 298, figs. 22, 24     |
| <i>Paragalope pica</i> (Wileman, 1910)                            | ♂ | 19.8–23.6          | 10.8–12.5 | 1.83–1.89 | 0.68–0.73 | ± | 0.13      | + | — | —       | —  | Huang et al., 2023, p. 299, figs. 25, 26     |
|   | ♀ | 21.6–22.1          | 10.7      | 2.01–2.07 | 0.71–0.73 | ± | 0.08–0.10 | + | — | —       | —  | Huang et al., 2023, p. 299, figs. 27, 28     |
| Genus <i>Agacysma</i> Huang and Horie in Huang et al., 2023       |   |                    |           |           |           |   |           |   |   |         |    |  |
| <i>Agacysma sinica</i> Huang and Horie in Huang et al., 2023      | ♂ | 22.8–26.3          | 11.0–13.6 | 1.93–2.10 | 0.70–0.72 | ± | N/A       | — | + | no stem | +  | Huang et al., 2023, p. 304, figs. 45–48      |
| Genus <i>Elcysma</i> Butler, 1881                                 |   |                    |           |           |           |   |           |   |   |         |    |  |
| <i>Elcysma westwoodii</i> (Vollenhoven, 1863)                     | ♂ | 32.3               | 17.0      | 1.90      | 0.69      | + | 0.12      | ± | — | —       | —  | Huang et al., 2023, p. 304, fig. 49          |
|   | ♀ | 32.3               | 16.8      | 1.92      | 0.70      | + | 0.12      | ± | — | —       | —  | Huang et al., 2023, p. 304, fig. 50          |



cross vein  $M_1$ – $M_2$  bent inward at medial stem.  $M_1$  anterior,  $M_2$  slightly posterior of medial stem vein in discal cell.  $M_1$  close to R veins at base.  $R_4$ ,  $R_5$ ,  $M_1$ , and  $M_2$  almost parallel to each other.  $M_2$  and  $M_3$  quite shortly stalked.  $M_2$  not strongly curved anteriorly.  $M_3$  not strongly curved posteriorly, parallel to  $CuA_1$ .  $CuA_1$  and  $CuA_2$  arising independently from discal cell.  $CuP$  distinctly present, complete.  $1A+2A$  sinuate with basal fork. Cross vein between  $CuP$  and  $1A+2A$  absent.

**Etymology.** The specific name is derived from Oshikiri S., a high school teacher who studied insect fossils from the Sazugawa Formation.

**Remarks.** The specimen is characterized by its semitriangular forewing, presence of a medial stem vein, a closed discal cell spanning two-thirds of wing length, and a complete  $CuP$  vein, as well as  $1A+2A$  veins with a basal fork. These characteristics clearly indicate the association of this specimen with the subfamily Chalcosiinae.

The translucent broad forewing with a colored wing base in this specimen is consistent with the genus *Agalope* and closely related genera among members of the subfamily. Huang et al. (2023) revised the concept of *Agalope*, diagnosed the genus by a forewing base bearing an orange patch extending from the costa to the base of cell  $1A+2A$ , forewing veins  $M_2$  and  $M_3$  stalked, and the forewing bearing only one transverse band, which is sometimes vestigial or absent. The studied specimen shares these diagnostic characters of *Agalope*. It can be distinguished from members of the genera *Rotundagalope* and *Agacysma* Huang and Horie in Huang et al., 2023, because these genera have forewing veins  $M_2$  and  $M_3$  arising independently from the discal cell. Although the wing venations of *Agalope* and *Paragalope* are similar, they can be differentiated by the blackish bands on the forewing: *Paragalope* typically has two clear transverse bands extending from the base to the basal half of forewing or one thick, distinct black band occupying the basal third to half, whereas *Agalope* has only one narrow and blurry band present or lacks such black bands. Therefore, the specimen clearly belongs to the genus *Agalope*.

The genus *Agalope* is currently composed of four species groups: *hyalina*, *eronioides*, *livida* and *geoffi* (Huang et al., 2023). The studied specimen is different from the *hyalina* and *geoffi* species groups, which are characterized by relatively smaller forewings and the lack of a black band surrounding the basal patch. Although *Agalope grandis* Mell, 1922, belonging to the *hyalina* species group has a medium-sized forewing, it also lacks basal black band. Additionally, members of the *geoffi* species group have a more rounded forewing termen. The new species is also distinct from the *eronioides* species group because species in this group have darker wings. The forewing of the *livida* species group, represented solely by *Agalope livida* Moore, 1879a, is most similar in appearance to the studied specimen. The forewing of *Agalope livida* is medium-sized with an almost straight termen and lacks a dark transverse band on forewing. However, the wing venation of the specimen differs from *Agalope livida* due to the presence of a rudimentary medial stem vein. Additionally, the forewing veins  $R_4$ ,  $R_5$ ,  $M_1$ , and  $M_2$  are parallel to each other, and  $M_3$  is parallel to  $CuA_1$ . This vein configuration is distinctive within the genus. Therefore, the studied fossil is identified as *Agalope oshikirii* n. sp.

## Discussion

Recent members of *Agalope* are distributed across a range that includes Kashmir, India, Nepal, Bhutan, northern Myanmar, and several provinces in southwestern, central, and southern mainland China, Taiwan Island, and northern Vietnam (Huang et al., 2023).

The discovered fossil offers direct evidence of the presence of the species of *Agalope* related to the *livida* species group in the latest Miocene–Pliocene of Japan, suggesting a broader historical distribution for the genus.

Interestingly, the forewing of *Agalope oshikirii* n. sp. has characteristics more commonly found in other genera, e.g., *Rotundagalope*, *Paragalope*, and *Agacysma*, rather than most congeners of *Agalope* (Table 1). We compared the following ten character elements: (1) forewing length, (2) forewing width, (3) length-to-width (L/W) ratio, (4) discal cell length-to-forewing-length ratio, (5) presence of a colored patch in the base, (6) length from base to basal black band-to-forewing-length ratio, (7) presence of distinct maculations aside for base, (8) presence of paralleled  $R_4$ ,  $R_5$ ,  $M_1$ , and  $M_2$  veins, (9) presence of quite shortly stalked  $M_2$  and  $M_3$  veins, and (10) presence of paralleled  $M_3$  and  $CuA_1$  veins. *Agalope oshikii* sp. n. is most similar to *Agalope livida*, sharing eight elements. It also shares six to eight elements with *Rotundagalope immaculata* (Leech, 1898), *Paragalope gracilis* (Moore, 1872), and *Agacysma sinica* Huang and Horie in Huang et al., 2023. In contrast, other species groups within *Agalope*—the *hyalina* species group (with two to five elements), the *eronioides* species groups (with four or six elements), and *geoffi* species group (with three or five elements)—display notable different from *Agalope oshikirii* n. sp. These distinctions offer insights into the evolution of *Agalope* and its related genera.

One hypothesis is that these *Agalope*-related genera were derived from the ancestral groups closely related to *Agalope oshikirii* n. sp. This hypothesis is supported by two main arguments. First, the overlapping of distributions of these genera suggests a broader historical range. Modern *Agalope*'s wide distribution implies that fossil congeners like *Agalope oshikirii* n. sp. could have extended farther into northern Japan. According to Huang et al. (2023), *Rotundagalope* is endemic to mainland China (Sichuan and Gansu provinces). *Agacysma* is also endemic to mainland China (Shaanxi, Hubei Province, and Chongqing), and *Paragalope* has wider distribution in northeastern India, southwestern mainland China, Taiwan Island, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Greater Sunda Islands (Java). These wide distributions indicate that unknown *Agalope* groups could have branched out in various regions.

Second, shared wing venation characteristics between *Agalope oshikirii* n. sp. and these related genera indicate a common primitive origin. For instance, a length-to-width (L/W) ratio of ~2.0, a discal cell length-to-forewing-length ratio ~0.7, paralleled  $R_4$ ,  $R_5$ ,  $M_1$ , and  $M_2$  veins, paralleled  $M_3$  and  $CuA_1$  veins, presence of basal patch with surrounding black band extending to the wing's posterior margin could represent primitive features preserved in the fossil species *Agalope oshikirii* n. sp., with the long-stalked  $M_2$  and  $M_3$  veins being a derived trait. Therefore, it is plausible that unknown ancestral groups of *Agalope* related to *Agalope oshikirii* n. sp. branched into these *Agalope*-related genera. Primitive characteristics could be relatively well preserved in modern *Agalope livida*.

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