**Pyropyga sp.: First Invasive Alien Firefly in Japan**

Where did this lampy come from?

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**Abstract**

Pyropyga sp. was collected in 1986 by the author (TF) from a wharf of Tokyo and is still only observed in Kanto area. This species is probably introduced accidentally from North America and spread along the grasslands of Edogawa, Tamagawa, and Arakawa rivers.

Adults emerge from June to October. By our laboratory rearing experiments, we found that (1) the larvae feed on earthworms and snails, (2) the larval period is about one month, (3) the larvae are luminous, possessing a pair of photophores on the 8th abdominal segment, (4) the pupal period is about 5 days.

Life cycle is very rapid (about 2 months) compared to the other fireflies, and the larva is easy to rear. We expect this species to spread along the grasslands of Edogawa, Tamagawa, and Arakawa rivers.

The genus *Pyropyga* contains 11 species in North, Central and South America (Green, 1961; *P. chemsaki* by Caballero, 1993).

**Conclusion:** We expected that *Pyropyga* in Japan is *P. minuta* introduced from somewhere in USA (or *P. alticola* from Mexico). As *P. minuta* is considered to be a species complex, we need to analyse COI sequences of various *Pyropyga* species, especially *P. minuta* from various localities to clarify the taxonomy of *Pyropyga* in the world and origin of *Pyropyga* in Japan.

We would be appreciate if you could provide American *Pyropyga* specimens, preferably in 99.5% ethanol for DNA analysis purpose.

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