



# Article **First Report on Mitochondrial Gene Rearrangement in Non-Biting Midges, Revealing a Synapomorphy in** *Stenochironomus* Kieffer (Diptera: Chironomidae)

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**Simple Summary:** Gene rearrangement is an additional type of data to support relationships of taxa, with rearrangement synapomorphies identified across multiple orders and at many different taxonomic levels. The concept to use mitochondrial gene rearrangements as phylogenetic markers has been proposed since the mid-1980s, the synapomorphic gene rearrangements have been identified from many lineages. However, mitochondrial gene rearrangement has never been observed in the nonbiting midges (Diptera: Chironomidae). Here, seven new mitogenomes of the genus *Stenochironomus* were sequenced and analyzed. Coupled with published data, phylogenetic analyses were performed within Chironominae. The present study showed that mitogenomes of *Stenochironomus* are showing a higher A+T bias than other chironomid species. A synapomorphic gene rearrangement that the gene order rearranges from *trnI-trnQ-trnM* to *trnI-trnQ*-was identified within *Stenochironomus*, which is the first instance of mitochondrial gene rearrangement discovered in the Chironomidae. The monophyly of the genus *Stenochironomus* was strongly supported by mitogenomes. Our study provides new insights into the mitochondrial gene rearrangements.

Abstract: (1) Background: Gene rearrangement of mitochondrial genome, especially those with phylogenetic signals, has long fascinated evolutionary biologists. The synapomorphic gene rearrangements have been identified across multiple orders and at many different taxonomic levels, supporting the monophyletic or systematic relationships of related lineages. However, mitochondrial gene rearrangement has never been observed in the non-biting midges (Diptera: Chironomidae); (2) methods: in this study, the complete mitogenomes of seven Stenochironomus species were sequenced and analyzed for the first time; (3) results: each mitogenome of Stenochironomus contains 37 typical genes and a control region. The whole mitogenomes of Stenochironomus species exhibit a higher A+T bias than other published chironomid species. The gene order rearranges from trnI-trnQ-trnM to trnI-trnM-trnQ in all the seven mitogenomes of Stenochironomus, which might be act as a synapomorphy of the genus, supporting the monophyletic of Stenochironomus species. In addition, another derived gene cluster: trnA-trnG-ND3-trnR exists in Stenochironomus tobaduodecimus. The derived gene orders described above are the first case of mitochondrial gene rearrangement in Chironomidae. Coupled with published data, phylogenetic relationships were reconstructed within Chironominae, and strongly supported the monophyly of Stenochironomus; (4) conclusions: our study provides new insights into the mitochondrial gene order of Chironomidae, and provides a valuable resource for understanding the synapomorphic gene rearrangements.

Keywords: mitochondrial genome; gene rearrangement; chironomid; phylogeny



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## 1. Introduction

Gene rearrangement of mitochondrial genome (mitogenome) has long fascinated evolutionary biologists, and insects are one of the most studied organisms [1–3]. The typical mitogenome of insect is a 14–20 kb circular molecule, containing 37 genes (13 proteincoding genes, two ribosomal RNA genes, and 22 transfer RNA genes) and a control region on a single chromosome [4] characterized by the small genome size, maternal inheritance, low sequence recombination, and fast evolution rates [1,5,6]. Benefited by the high-throughput sequencing technology, nucleotide sequences of mitogenomes are now widely used in phylogenetic and evolutionary studies [7–9]. Besides, gene rearrangement is an additional type of data to support relationships of taxa, with rearrangement synapomorphies identified across multiple orders and at many different taxonomic levels [1,10,11]. Since the concept of using mitochondrial gene rearrangements as phylogenetic markers has been proposed in the mid-1980s [3], the synapomorphic gene rearrangements have been identified in many taxa, supporting the monophyletic or systematic relationships of related lineages [9,12,13]. In insect mitogenomes, patterns of gene arrangement are usually conserved within lineages [6], but gene rearrangements have also been observed involving tRNA and PCG within many orders, such as Blattodea [14], Ephemeroptera [15,16], Hemiptera [17,18], Hymenoptera [12,19], Lepidoptera [20], Mantodea [21,22], Orthoptera [23,24], Phthiraptera [25], Psocoptera [9], and Thysanoptera [26]. For the mitogenomes of Diptera, gene rearrangements have been detected within several families, e.g., Calliphoridae [27], Cecidomyiidae [28], and Mycetophilidae [29]. Published mitogenome data of Chironomid are relatively rare compared with other insects of Diptera. Previous studies have focused on the genome organization and the application of nucleotide sequence information in phylogenetic analysis [30–37]. However, mitochondrial gene rearrangement has never been reported in the Dipteran family Chironomidae. In the current study, we found mitochondrial gene rearrangements in the genus Stenochironomus Kieffer for the first time in Chironomidae. *Stenochironomus* is species-diverse, and occurs in all zoogeographic regions except Antarctica, with more than 100 named species [38]. The larvae of *Stenochironomus* (Figure 1) are found mining leaves or immersed wood in standing and flowing waters [38]. Due to its strictly mining habit which contributes to decomposition of wood, leaves, and aquatic macrophytes, Stenochironomus is regarded as important bioindicator in freshwater ecosystems [39–41].



Figure 1. Larva of Stenochironomus okialbus in immersed wood from Zhejiang, China.

Prior to this study, the mitogenomic characteristics of *Stenochironomus* have never been studied. We sequenced and annotated the complete mitogenomes of seven species of *Stenochironomus*. The mitogenomic organization, evolutionary rates, and gene rearrangement pattern within *Stenochironomus* were revealed. Coupled with published data, phylogenetic relationships of Chironominae were reconstructed based on mitogenomes to explore the monophyly of *Stenochironomus*.

# 2. Materials and Methods

# 2.1. Taxon Sampling and DNA Extraction

Seven species of *Stenochironomus* were used for mitogenome sequencing (Table 1). Specimens were preserved in ethanol (85% for adults, 95% for immature) and stored in a freezer at -20 °C in the College of Life Sciences at Nankai University (Tianjin, China). The total genomic DNA was the extracted thorax of adult and larva using a Qiagen DNA Blood and Tissue Kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) following the manufacturer's protocol. The DNA and vouchers of the species are deposited at the College of Life Sciences, Nankai University, Tianjin, China.

**Table 1.** Taxonomic information, sampling metadata, GenBank accession numbers and references of mitochondrial genomes used in the study.

Sample ID	Subfamily	Genus	Species	Sampling Metadata Life Sta		Accession No	Reference
ZJ497	Orthocladiinae	Rheocricotopus	Rheocricotopus villiculus	Tianmu Mountain National Nature Reserve, Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China, 30.3222° N, Adult male 119.442° E, 22-July-2019, leg. XL. Lin		MW373526	[33]
CNUISI- 020005203	Chironominae	Chironomus	Chironomus flaviplumusYeondeung stream, Yeosu, South Korea 34°45′26.0″ N, E 127°42′51.2″ E, May-2020		Larva	MW770891	[42]
JN861749	Chironominae	Chironomus	Chironomus tepperi	NA NA		JN861749	[30]
XL3993	Chironominae	Microchironomus	Microchironomus tabarui	Hengshui, Hebei, China, 37.651626° N, 115.650831° E, 1-September-2020	Adult male	MZ261913	[35]
BSZ13	Chironominae	Polypedilum	Polypedilum unifascium	Lishui, Zhejiang, China, 27°45′16″ N, 119°11′15″ E, Larva August-2020		MW677959	[34]
KT251040	Chironominae	Polypedilum	Polypedilum vanderplanki	rock pool, Nigeria, 11.088821° NA N, 7.734533° E NA		KT251040	[31]
XL690	Chironominae	Stenochironomus	Stenochironomus gibbus	Trondheim, Norway, 63.4224° N, 10.3451° E, leg. XL. Lin	Adult male	OL742440	Present study
ZJ761	Chironominae	Stenochironomus	Stenochironomus okialbus	Xianju, Taizhou, Zhejiang, 28.674° N, 120.600° E, November-2019, leg. XL. Lin	Larva	OL753645	Present study
MYK13	Chironominae	Stenochironomus	Stenochironomus sp. 1CZ	Zunyi, Guizhou, China, 27.834° N, 107.569° E, Adult male June-2020, leg. PP. Li		OL753646	Present study
NLCH802	Chironominae	Stenochironomus	Stenochironomus sp. 2CZ	Ganzhou, Jiangxi, China, 24.583° N, 114.446° E, Larv August-2020, leg. XL. Lin		OL742441	Present study
XL1244	Chironominae	Stenochironomus	Stenochironomus sp. 3CZ	Fogong, Nujiang, Yunnan, China, 26.5533° N, 98.9203° E, Adult male May-2018, leg. XL. Lin		OL753647	Present study
XL1443	Chironominae	Stenochironomus	Stenochironomus tobaduodecimus	Ledong, Hainan, China, 18.6927° N, 108.7960° E, Adult male OI March-2016, leg. BJ. Sun		OL753648	Present study
DWS114	Chironominae	Stenochironomus	Stenochironomus zhengi	Pingbian, Honghe, Yunnan, China, 22.913178° N, 103.695553° E, leg. LZ. Meng		OL753649	Present study

#### 2.2. Sequencing and Mitogenome Assembly

Whole mitogenomes were sequenced individually using the Illumina NovaSeq 6000 platform with a 350-bp insert size and a paired-end 150-bp sequencing strategy at Novogene Co., Ltd. (Beijing, China). Adapter sequences and low-quality reads were trimmed with Trimmomatic 0.36 [43], and finally about two Gb of clean data were obtained for each sample. A de novo assembly was performed using IDBA-UD [44] with minimum and maximum k values of 40 and 120 bp, respectively. The partial COI sequence for each species was downloaded from GenBank, and served as the "bait" reference to acquire the targeted mitogenome sequence from the pooled sequencing file. To check the accuracy of the assembly, clean reads were mapped onto the obtained mitogenome sequences using Geneious 2020.2.1 [45].

#### 2.3. Genome Annotation and Sequence Analyses

The MITOS2 webserver (available at http://mitos2.bioinf.uni-leipzig.de/index.py, access on 24 May 2021) was used to identify transfer RNA (tRNA) genes based on the invertebrate mitochondrial genetic code. Protein coding genes (PCGs) and ribosomal RNA (rRNA) genes were annotated by aligning with homologous regions of other published chironomid mitogenomes using Geneious 2020.2.1. Newly sequenced mitogenomes were submitted to GenBank (accession numbers: OL742440, OL742441, OL753645–753649). The CG View server V 1.0 [46] was used to draw the mitogenome maps. Nucleotide compositions of the whole mitogenome and individual genes were calculated by MEGA X [47]. The bias of the nucleotide composition was measured by AT-skew [(A-T)/(A+T)] and GC-skew [(G-C)/(G+C)]. The codon usage of PCGs were computed by MEGA. The non-synonymous substitution rate (Ka) and synonymous substitution rate (Ks) of PCGs were calculated with DnaSP 6.12.03 [48].

### 2.4. Phylogenetic Analyses

Phylogenetic analyses were conducted using the seven newly sequenced Stenochironomus mitogenomes and five Chironominae species available in GenBank as ingroup taxa (Table 1). One Orthocladiinae species (*Rheocricotopus villiculus*) was chosen as an outgroup. Individual genes of PCGs were aligned using muscle implemented in MEGA based on amino acid sequences, and then concatenated using SequenceMatrix v1.7.8 [49]. A total of three datasets were prepared for phylogenetic analyses: PCG123 (all three codon positions of the 13 PCGs), PCG12 (the 1st and 2nd codon positions of the 13 PCGs), and AA (amino acid sequences of the 13 PCGs). PartitionFinder 2.0 [50] was used to select the best partitioning scheme and best-fit substitution model. Bayesian inference (BI) and maximum likelihood (ML) methods were used for phylogenetic analyses. BI analysis was conducted using MrBayes 3.2.7a [51] with substitution model in Supplementary Table S1. Two simultaneous Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) runs of 10,000,000 generations were conducted, trees were sampled every 1000 generations and the first 25% of trees discarded as burn-in. The convergence of runs was checked using Tracer 1.7 [52]. The ML analysis was performed using IQ-TREE 1.6.10 [53] with the best-fit substitution model and 1000 bootstrap replicates.

#### 3. Results and Discussion

# 3.1. General Features of Stenochironomus Mitogenomes

Seven mitogenomes of *Stenochironomus* were newly sequenced with the length range from 17,694 bp in *Stenochironomus* sp. 2CZ to 18,759 bp in *Stenochironomus tobaduodecimus* (Figure 2). Among them, the control regions of *Stenochironomus gibbus* and *Stenochironomus* sp. 2CZ failed to complete sequencing due to the complicated structure and high AT content. The entire length of mitogenomes of the *Stenochironomus* species is larger than other published chironomid species, mainly due to the large number of intergenic spacers [30–33]. Each mitogenome of *Stenochironomus* contains 37 typical genes (13 PCGs, two rRNAs, and 22 tRNAs) and one control region. Among these genes, four PCGs, eight tRNAs, and two rRNAs are coded on the minority strand (N strand), while the other genes are coded on the majority strand (J strand) (Figure 2).

The whole mitogenomes of *Stenochironomus* are significantly biased toward A and T with the A+T content range from 81.7% in *Stenochironomus tobaduodecimus* and *Stenochirono*-

*mus* sp. 1CZ to 83.6% in *Stenochironomus* sp. 3CZ (Table 2), showing a stronger A+T bias than other chironomid species [30–33]. Among the mitogenomes of *Stenochironomus*, the 3rd codon of PCGs and the control region exhibit the highest A+T content while the 1st and 2nd codons of PCGs have the lowest A+T content (Table 2). The whole mitogenomes of all the seven *Stenochironomus* species exhibit positive AT-skew (0.01 to 0.02) and negative GC-skew (-0.34 to -0.21), except for *Stenochironomus tobaduodecimus* and *Stenochironomus zhengi* (Table 2).



**Figure 2.** Mitogenome maps of the represented species of *Stenochironomus*. The names of PCGs and rRNAs are indicated by standard abbreviations, while names of tRNAs are represented by a single letter abbreviation. The first circle shows the gene arrangement and arrows indicate the orientation of gene transcription. Red, blue, green, and yellow arrows refer to PCGs, rRNAs, tRNAs, and the control region, respectively. The second circle indicates the GC content, which is plotted as the deviation from the average GC content of the entire sequence. The third circle shows the GC-skew, which is plotted as the deviation from the average GC-skew of the entire sequence. The innermost circle shows the sequence length.

	Species	Whole Genome	Protein Coding Genes	1st Codon Position	2nd Codon Position	3rd Codon Position	tRNA Genes	12S rRNA	16S rRNA	Control Region
	Stenochironomus gibbus	82.6	78.0	73.0	69.5	91.5	83.8	88.1	89.3	97.6
	Stenochironomus okialbus	82.2	77.4	73.3	69.8	89.1	84.4	87.0	89.0	96.2
	Stenochironomus tobaduodecimus	81.7	77.0	72.0	70.2	88.7	83.9	87.3	88.1	94.9
	Stenochironomus zhengi	81.8	77.8	73.0	69.8	90.7	85.1	86.1	87.2	90.6
	Stenochironomus sp. 1CZ	81.7	77.5	72.6	69.9	90.0	83.4	86.1	87.5	97.0
	Stenochironomus sp. 2CZ	82.7	79.4	74.7	70.6	93.0	84.3	88.2	89.0	98.2
	Stenochironomus sp. 3CZ	83.6	79.0	75.1	70.3	91.7	84.4	89.7	89.4	95.2
AT- Skew	Stenochironomus gibbus	0.01	-0.18	-0.05	-0.41	-0.11	0.05	-0.03	0.00	-0.08
	Stenochironomus okialbus	0.01	-0.19	-0.08	-0.42	-0.10	0.02	-0.09	0.01	-0.17
	Stenochironomus tobaduodecimus	-0.01	-0.18	-0.05	-0.41	-0.10	0.03	-0.06	-0.04	-0.09
	Stenochironomus zhengi	-0.02	-0.21	-0.08	-0.41	-0.15	0.02	-0.08	0.00	0.06
	Stenochironomus sp. 1CZ	0.01	-0.19	-0.07	-0.41	-0.10	0.03	-0.08	0.01	-0.02
	Stenochironomus sp. 2CZ	0.01	-0.18	-0.08	-0.41	-0.09	0.05	-0.06	0.01	-0.11
	Stenochironomus sp. 3CZ	0.02	-0.18	-0.08	-0.41	-0.09	0.06	-0.05	0.01	-0.09
GC- Skew	Stenochironomus gibbus	-0.24	0.00	0.18	-0.11	-0.18	-0.15	-0.33	-0.46	-0.33
	Stenochironomus okialbus	-0.22	-0.03	0.19	-0.14	-0.23	-0.13	-0.33	-0.42	0.32
	Stenochironomus tobaduodecimus	-0.34	-0.04	0.12	-0.13	-0.20	-0.16	-0.40	-0.43	-0.02
	Stenochironomus zhengi	-0.27	-0.04	0.13	-0.13	-0.23	-0.15	-0.25	-0.45	-0.55
	Stenochironomus sp. 1CZ	-0.29	-0.01	0.18	-0.14	-0.16	-0.16	-0.38	-0.46	-0.50
	Stenochironomus sp. 2CZ	-0.21	0.02	0.22	-0.13	-0.07	-0.12	-0.27	-0.45	0.00
	Stenochironomus sp. 3CZ	-0.24	-0.01	0.20	-0.13	-0.18	-0.14	-0.22	-0.36	0.00

 Table 2. Nucleotide composition of mitochondrial genomes of the seven Stenochironomus species.

Most PCGs in *Stenochironomus* mitogenomes initiate with a standard start codon ATN (N represents one of four nucleotides, A, T, C, G). While the start codon of COI is TTG in *Stenochironomus zhengi* and *Stenochironomus* sp. 1CZ. The start codon of ND5 in *Stenochironomus zhengi*, *Stenochironomus* sp. 1CZ, and *Stenochironomus* sp. 3CZ is GTG

(Supplementary Table S2). All PCGs in *Stenochironomus* mitogenomes end with TAA or TAG as the termination codon (Supplementary Table S2). The total codon numbers, except the termination codons among *Stenochironomus* mitogenomes range from 3707 in *Stenochironomus* sp. 1CZ to 3716 in *Stenochironomus* sp. 3CZ (Supplementary Table S3). The highest and lowest frequent codon families are Phe and Cys, respectively (Supplementary Figure S1), which is congruent with those of previously published chironomid species [32–35]. The Ka/Ks value ( $\omega$ ) is used to test for signatures of natural selection. The  $\omega$  value of all PCGs in *Stenochironomus* mitogenomes is less than 1 (Figure 3), suggesting that they are under purifying selection. ND6 exhibits the highest  $\omega$  value among the 13 PCGs of *Stenochironomus* mitogenomes (Figure 3), while ATP8 evolves at the fastest rate in previously published chironomid species [32,33].



**Figure 3.** Evolution rate of each PCG of the seven *Stenochironomus* mitogenomes. Ka refers to nonsynonymous substitution rate, Ks refers to synonymous substitution rate, Ka/Ks refers to evolution rate of each PCG.

Each mitogenome of *Stenochironomus* contains 22 typical tRNA genes, with A+T content ranging from 83.4% to 85.1% (Table 2). The nucleotide skew of tRNA genes among *Stenochironomus* mitogenomes is consistent, the concatenated tRNA genes exhibit a positive AT-skew, and negative GC-skew (Table 2). The A+T content of 12S rRNA and 16S rRNA genes range from 86.1% to 89.4%, and 87.2% to 89.4%, respectively. The 12S rRNA exhibits a negative AT-skew and negative GC-skew, while the 16S rRNA exhibits a positive AT-skew and negative GC-skew in most *Stenochironomus* mitogenomes (Table 2).

#### 3.2. Gene Rearrangement

The gene arrangement of mitogenomes is conservative in most groups of Diptera [30,54–56]. New gene orders have only been reported in a few taxa, for example: The *trnI* gene inverted and transposed from the position between the control region and the *ND2* gene to the block of tRNA genes between *ND3* and *ND5* in two gall midges [28], and the midge *Arachnocampa flava* has an inversion of the *trnE* gene [30]. Prior to this study, no examples of gene rearrangement were reported from mitogenomes of non-biting midge species. The gene order rearranges from *trnI-trnQ-trnM* to *trnI-trnM-trnQ* in all the seven *Stenochironomus* mitogenomes and the *trnA gene* moves to upstream, forming a new gene cluster: *trnA-trnG-ND3-trnR* in *Stenochironomus tobaduodecimus* (Figure 4), which is the first instance of mitochondrial gene rearrangement can act as a synapomorphy and be shared within different taxonomic levels [1,11,57,58]. In this study, the gene rearrangement (*trnI-trnI*)

IQM CR ND2 G ND3 ARNSEF Drosophila yakuba CR I M Q ND2 G ND3 ARNSEF Stenochironomus gibbus CR I MQ ND2 G ND3 ARNSEF Stenochironomus okialbus I MQ ND2 CR AG ND3 RNSEF Stenochironomus tobaduodecimus I MQ ND2 G ND3 ARNSEF CR Stenochironomus zhengi ND2 ND3 ARNSEF CR I MQ G Stenochironomus sp. 1CZ CR I MQ ND2 G ND3 ARNSEF Stenochironomus sp. 2CZ ARNSEF CR I MQ ND2 G ND3 Stenochironomus sp. 3CZ

**Figure 4.** Gene rearrangement of *Stenochironomus* mitogenomes. The names of PCGs are indicated by standard abbreviations and the names of tRNAs are represented by a single letter abbreviation.

In the insect mitogenome, the gene cluster *trnI-trnQ* is one of the regions with the highest probability of gene rearrangement. Many gene rearrangement events related to this region have been reported, including gene duplication [2,20,59], and gene translocation [21,60]. The derived gene order *trnI-trnM-trnQ*, same as in this study have been observed in 14 species belonging to 5 different orders in previous studies [2]. The gene cluster *trnI-trnM-trnQ* is adjacent to the control region of mitogenome, and transcription of the entire mitogenome starts from this region. The probability of rearrangement may be higher at the beginning of transcription [1,2,11]. The six-tRNA gene cluster *trnA-trnR-trnN-trnF* is also a gene rearrangement the hotspot region. Cases of gene rearrangement in this region have been reported in many different orders of insects [1,2].

# 3.3. Phylogenetic Relationships

The phylogenetic analyses were performed based on the concatenated nucleotide sequences of 13 PCGs. All phylogenetic trees based on different datasets show that the seven *Stenochironomus* species form a monophyletic group with strong support (Figure 5 and Supplementary Figures S2–S4). Our study reveals that the mitogenomes of *Stenochironomus* are useful for phylogenetic inference. Although mitogenomes have poor phylogenetic signals at the subfamily level of Chironomidae [33], mitogenomes are still useful for phylogeny at the genus level within Chironomidae according to the present and recent studies [32].

*trnM-trnQ*) is discovered in all the seven *Stenochironomus* mitogenomes, which might act as a synapomorphy of the genus, supporting the monophyletic of the *Stenochironomus* species.



Figure 5. Phylogenetic tree of Chironominae based on dataset AA. Numbers at the nodes are BI.

## 4. Conclusions

In this study, seven new mitogenomes of the genus *Stenochironomus* were sequenced and analyzed. Coupled with published data, phylogenetic analyses were performed within Chironominae. The present study showed that mitogenomes of *Stenochironomus* show a higher A and T bias than other chironomid species. A synapomorphic gene rearrangement that the gene order rearranges from *trnI-trnQ-trnM* to *trnI-trnM-trnQ* was identified within *Stenochironomus*, which is the first instance of mitochondrial gene rearrangement discovered in Chironomidae. The monophyly of the genus *Stenochironomus* was strongly supported by mitogenomes.

**Supplementary Materials:** The following supporting information can be downloaded at: https: //www.mdpi.com/article/10.3390/insects13020115/s1, Supplementary Table S1: The best model for each partition of the three datasets. Supplementary Table S2: Start and stop codons of PCGs among the seven *Stenochironomus* mitogenomes. Supplementary Table S3: Total number of codons of the seven *Stenochironomus* mitogenomes. Supplementary Figure S1: Patterns of codon usage of the seven *Stenochironomus* mitogenomes. The *X*-axis shows the codon families and the *Y*-axis shows the total codons. Supplementary Figure S2: Phylogenetic relationships of Chironominae based on AA. Numbers at the nodes are ML bootstrap values. Supplementary Figure S3: Phylogenetic relationships of Chironominae based on PCG12. Numbers at the nodes are BI posterior probabilities and ML bootstrap values. Supplementary Figure S4: Phylogenetic relationships of Chironominae based on PCG123. Numbers at the nodes are BI posterior probabilities and ML bootstrap values.

**Author Contributions:** X.-L.L. and C.-G.Z. conceived the research. X.-L.L. collected samples. Y.-M.Z. performed laboratory work. Y.W. and C.-G.Z. conducted analyses. X.-L.L. and C.-G.Z. drafted the manuscript. Z.L., W.-J.B. and X.-H.W. revised the manuscript. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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Informed Consent Statement: Not applicable.

**Data Availability Statement:** The following information was supplied regarding the availability of DNA sequences: The new mitogenomes of *Stenochironomus gibbus, Stenochironomus okialbus, Stenochironomus* sp. 1CZ, *Stenochironomus* sp. 2CZ, *Stenochironomus* sp. 3CZ, *Stenochironomus tobaduodecimus, Stenochironomus zhengi* are deposited in GenBank of NCBI under accession numbers OL742440, OL753645, OL753646, OL742441, OL753647, OL753648 and OL753649, respectively.

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**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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