

DISCOVERY OF THE GENUS *WILKINSONELLUS* MASON (HYMENOPTERA: BRACONIDAE) FROM INDIA

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ABSTRACT

A new species of the genus *Wilkinsonellus*, *W. granulatus* sp. nov., is described. This genus is reported for the first time from India, in Sholapur, Maharashtra.

KEYWORDS

Braconidae, first record, *Hymenoptera*, *Microgastrinae*, new species, *Wilkinsonellus granulatus* sp. nov.,

ABBREVIATIONS

OOL - Ocello-ocular line; POL - Post-ocellar line; AOL - Anterior-ocellar line; ØOD - Diameter of an ocellus; ZDAMU - Zoology Department, Aligarh Muslim University.

The genus *Wilkinsonellus* was described by Mason (1981) with *Apanteles iphitus* Nixon as its type species, comprising *daira* and *henicorpus* species group of *Apanteles* (Nixon, 1965). It is easily recognized by the shape of T1, sculpturing of propodeum; absence of an aerolete; short and solid hypopygium and short ovipositor sheaths. This is the first record of this genus from India and a new species is described.

Wilkinsonellus granulatus sp. nov.
(Figs. 1-3)

Material examined

Holotype: Female, 25.iii.1999, Solapur, Maharashtra, coll. Kapana Varshney, ZDAMU.

Paratype: 1 Female, with the same data as holotype.

Diagnosis

Female: Body length, 2.25mm; fore wing 2.2mm.

Head: Oval in anterior view, sub-rectangular in dorsal view with moderately long white pilosity including eyes; clypeus reticulate rugose, anterior tentorial pits large and about 0.75x as long as tentorio-ocular line; face reticulate rugose with a complete median dorsal node extending upto the clypeus; frons deeply concave behind antennal socket with some transverse striations; vertex and temple behind eyes somewhat indistinctly punctate with hairs; OOL 0.6x as long as POL; POL 1.5x as long as AOL; antennae 1.25x longer than body.

Mesosoma: Covered with sparse moderately long white pilosity except medial mesopleuron; mesoscutum reticulate with very fine granulate back ground sculpture, notauli faintly indicated by depressions posteriorly; disc of scutellum reticulate with very finely granulate back ground sculpture, with distinct up turned carinae on posterior margin; propodeum rugose with complete median carina, its spiracle ovoid in shape and enclosed by constulae; mesopleuron smooth and shiny medially, striate anteroventrally extending up to the mesosternum, epicnemial groove deep; sternaulus deep with 3-4 large fovea. Fore wing with even and dense pilosity; pterostigma about 3.1x as long as wide and about as long as 1-R1; r about as long as width of



Figures. 1-3. *Wilkinsonellus granulatus* sp. nov. (female)
1 - Fore wing; 2 - Propodeum; 3 - Head, dorsal view.
Scale - 0.5mm

pterostigma. Hind wing with vannal lobe convex and almost hairless. Hind coxae long and narrow in dorsal view, reaching well beyond posterior margin of T3, its surface reticulate with fine granulate background sculpture.

Metasoma: T1 about 4x as long as maximum width with a medial longitudinal furrow; T2 with indistinct narrow elongate median field; hypopygium smooth and hairless; ovipositor sheaths short with even width in lateral view.

Colour: Dull reddish-brown except for the following: scape, fore leg, mid leg, palpi, T1, T2, laterotergite 1, laterotergite 2, hypopygium are yellowish; hind-femur, tibia, tarsi, T3-T6, ovipositor sheaths and apical segments of antennae brownish; face, clypeus, checks are yellowish-brown; wings hyaline; venation and pterostigma brown.

Male: Unknown.

Host: Unknown.

Remarks

Wilkinsonellus granulatus, sp. nov. closely resembles *W. thyone* (Nixon) but differs in having mesoscutum, scutellum and hind coxae reticulate with finely granulate background sculpture (mesoscutum, scutellum dull in *thyone*) and frons strongly depressed behind antennal socket with few transverse striations (frons smooth in *thyone*).

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