

A NEW *PHILOPLITIS* SPECIES (HYMENOPTERA: BRACONIDAE) FROM INDIAZubair Ahmad¹, Kavita Pandey, Arshad Ali Haider and Shujauddin¹ Department of Zoology, Section of Entomology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh 202002, IndiaE-mail: ¹ drazubair@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

A new species of the genus *Philoplitis* from India is described and illustrated in this paper.

KEYWORDS

Braconidae, *Hymenoptera*, *Microgastrinae*, new description, *Philoplitis adustipalpus* Ahmad sp. nov.

ABBREVIATIONS

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

Nixon (1965) described this genus from the Phillipines Island (Los Banos, Mindanano & Pangasinan). It can be easily characterized by scutellum coarsely rugose and conically prolonged backward over propodeum. The abparent feature of scutellum makes it one of the easiest genera to identify within the microgastrine genera. The host for this genus is unknown. *Philoplitis* is known only from type species. The genus was recorded from India based upon an undescribed species by Mason (1981). A new species is described from India in this paper.

Philoplitis adustipalpus Ahmad, sp. nov.

(Figs. 1-3)

Material examined

Holotype: Female, 13.iv.2002, Etawah, Uttar Pradesh, coll. M. Shamim (ZDAMU);

Paratype: 1 female with the same data as holotype (ZDAMU).

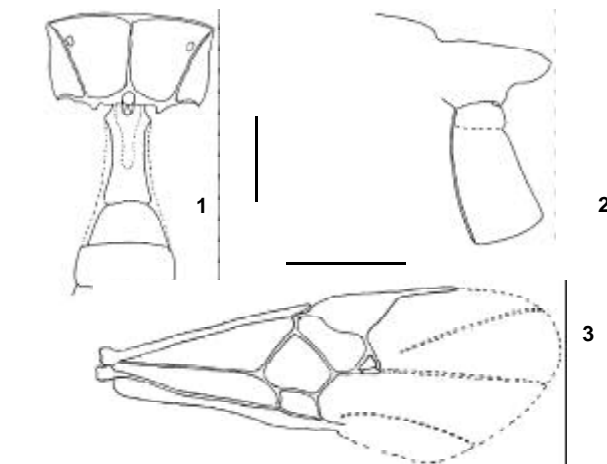
Etymology

Refers to the brown colour of the palps.

Female: Body length, 3mm; fore wing 3.3mm.

Head: Rugose with sparse pilosity including eyes except for a small, shiny, median excavation behind ocelli; clypeus rugose convex in lateral view; malar suture present and malar space about 1.2x as wide as basal width of mandible; face rugose about as long as wide, with an indistinct median dorsal node; frons transversely striate; vertex and temple rugose; temple 1.5x longer than eye in dorsal view; OOL 0.6x as long as POL; POL 3.5x as long as AOL; antennae about 0.8x longer than body.

Mesosoma: 1.3x as long as wide with moderately long sparse white pilosity; mesoscutum strongly rugose; notauli deep not meeting posteriorly; scutellum coarsely rugose-reticulate about as long as scutum and prolonged backwards over the propodeum in the form of long cone; mesopleuron rugose except for a smooth and shiny area medially; propodeum with complete median longitudinal carina, propodeal spiracle rounded in shape. Fore wing with pterostigma 2.2x as long as wide; r 0.5x as long as width of pterostigma, meeting straight on 2RS forming a small quadrangular areolet. Hind wing with vannal lobe convex, basally with long hairs, hairless apically. Hind coxae rugose, reaching up to T3; outer side of hind tibia rugose-punctate while inner side is rather flat, punctate with sparse



Figures 1-3. *Philoplitis adustipalpus* Ahmad, sp. nov. (female) 1 - Propodeum, T1, T2 and T3, Dorsal view; 2 - Scutellum and Propodeum, Lateral view; 3 - Fore wing. Scale = 0.5mm

hairs; inner hind tibial spur 1.28x longer than outer tibial spur and 0.45x longer than hind basitarsus.

Metasoma: T1 finely rugulose-aciculate, 2.0x longer than maximum width, almost parallel-sided, its medial longitudinal groove reaching up to the middle of T1:T2 smooth, medial area 1.8x as long as wide; T3-T6 with one row of sparse white pilosity; hypopygium short, evenly sclerotized; ovipositor sheaths short with few hairs apically.

Colour: Black, except for the following: apical one-fourth of T1, T2, fore tibia, and tarsi yellowish; apex of mid tibia, tarsi, antennae yellowish-brown; basal fore leg, mid leg, hind leg, propleuron, mesopleuron, clypeus reddish black; fore wing almost hyaline in basal half and subhyaline in apical half with a brown patch below the pterostigma; venation and palpi brown.

Male: Unknown

Remarks

Philoplitis adustipalpus sp. nov. closely resembles *P. coniferens* Nixon but differs for having T1 2.0x as long as wide; (T1 3x as long as wide in *coniferens*), palpi brown (palpi pale in *coniferens*) basal half of fore wing is almost hyaline (wings faintly darkened throughout in *coniferens*).

REFERENCES

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