

FIRST RECORD OF *COELOPISTHIA* FORSTER (CHALCIDOIDEA: PTEROMALIDAE) FROM THE ORIENTAL REGION WITH THE DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES FROM SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

Coelopisthia Forster (Hymenoptera: Pteromalidae) is reported for the first time from the Oriental Region with the description of a new species from Sri Lanka. Affinities of the new species with related species is discussed.

KEYWORDS

Chalcidoidea, *Coelopisthia*, Hymenoptera, new species, oriental region, Pteromalidae, Sri Lanka

ABBREVIATIONS

F1-F6 - Funicular segments 1 to 6; OOL - Ocellocular distance; POL - Postocellar distance; SMV - Submarginal vein; MV - Marginal vein; PMV - Postmarginal vein; STV - Stigmal vein; T1 - Gastral tergite 1

Coelopisthia Forster is a rare genus of Pteromalidae in the subfamily Pteromalinae, the species of which are only known from Palearctic and Nearctic regions of the world. Altogether 12 species are known under the genus, most of them hail from the northern temperate zone (Noyes, 2001). Host records of *Coelopisthia* species are scarce and as per the available biological information they are primary parasites of various Lepidoptera (moths) mainly of family Tortricidae (Askew, 1980; Boucek & Rasplus, 1991; Boucek & Heydon, 1997). One new species of *Coelopisthia* is described here from Sri Lanka based on the collection received from the Bohart Museum of Entomology, University of California that was made available for my study by the kind courtesy of Dr. Steven L. Heydon.

Coelopisthia lankana sp. nov. (Figures 1-5)

Material Examined

Holotype: Female, 23-30.viii.1999, Rantembe Sanctuary, Viet. Randenigala, Kandy dist., Central Province, Sri Lanka, 07°13'N & 080°57'E, coll. M.T.M & J. Wasbauer (in Bohart Museum of Entomology, University of California, USA), loan number 203035.

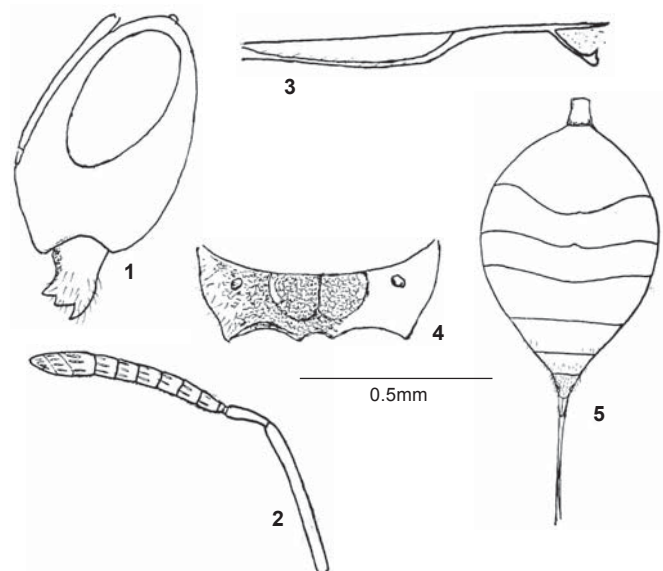
Etymology

The species is named after the country of origin.

Diagnositic characters

Female: Length 2.4mm. Head and thorax dark metallic bluish-green, almost black on head; gaster dark brown with slight metallic blue reflection dorsally on T1, ovipositor testaceous; legs with coxae concolorous with thorax, remainder brownish-yellow; mandibles brown; eyes pale cupreous; antenna with scape, pedicel and anelli testaceous, remainder brown with tips of club paler; tegulae pale brown, wings hyaline, veins pale testaceous.

Head: (Fig. 1) Moderately reticulate with small white pubescence, almost 2x as broad as long in dorsal view; temple half as long as the eye; occipital carina fine but distinct; eyes not hairy; POL 1.75x OOL; head in front view 1.2x as broad as high; genae almost straight; malar sulcus fine; eyes separated 1.3x by their height (measured at middle of face) their inner orbits diverging ventrally; malar space about 0.4x the height of an eye; right mandible with four and left with three teeth. Head in profile with face receding below toruli and forming an angle of about 130° with the frons; clypeus finely reticulate with elongated areoles, anterior margin with two teeth; scrobe deep, reaching front ocellus; lower edges of antennal toruli little above lower margin of eyes; antennae (Fig. 2) with scape not reaching median ocellus, about one diameter of median ocellus away, little shorter than height of an eye (9:10), combined length of pedicellus plus flagellum 0.9x breadth of head, pedicellus (in profile) about 2.6x as long as broad, almost equal to anelli and F1 combined, first anellus little shorter than second, second anellus little wider; maximum width of funicle 1.25x pedicellus in profile, F1 as broad as pedicellus, little longer than wide, F2 little longer than F1, F3 and F4 as long as F2, F5 and F6 little shorter than F4, club little broader than funicle, bluntly pointed, as long as three preceding segments combined; sensillae rather short, in a single row on each funicular and club segments.



Figures 1-5. *Coelopisthia lankana* sp. nov. (Female).
1 - Head in profile; 2 - Antenna; 3 - Forewing venation;
4 - Propodeum in dorsal view; 5 - Gaster in dorsal view

Thorax: (Fig. 1) 1.23x as long as broad, collar not margined anteriorly without smooth strip posteriorly. Mesoscutum 2.4x as long as broad, moderately reticulate. Scutellum 1.14x as long as mesoscutum, slightly wider than long; similarly reticulate as on mesoscutum, frenal area marked by finer reticulation. Propodeum (Fig. 4) medially 0.56 x as long as scutellum, median carina and plicae complete, median area finely but distinctly reticulate, 1.8x as broad as long; nucha small, fine; spiracular sulci not distinct; spiracles large, round, separated by a distance less than their diameter from hind margin of metanotum; callus finely reticulate, moderately hairy. Legs slender, hind tibial spur slightly shorter than breadth of hind tibia at its apex. Forewing (Fig. 3) 2.12x as long as broad, pubescence sparse, hairs very short, margin without apical fringe, speculum open below, costal cell hairy towards the tip only, stigmal vein straight. Relative lengths of SMV, MV, PMV, and STV as 20:9:6:5.5.

Gaster: (Fig. 5) Petiolate, petiole smooth, posteriorly little wider, about 1.3x as long as broad; gaster 1.7x as long as broad in dorsal view, elongatedly ovate, 1.4x as long as thorax; T1 occupying 0.33x total length, hind margin slightly produced.

Remarks

This species closely resembles *C. caledonica* Askew in general morphology but differs from it in having clypeus bidentate, antenna with first anellus small, second not much broad, F1 elongate, pronotum without a smooth strip posteriorly, median area of propodeum 1.8x as broad as long, gaster with hind margin of T1 produced (in *caledonica* clypeus almost straight anteriorly, antenna with both anelli broad and large, F1 quadrate, pronotum with a smooth shiny strip posteriorly, propodeum with median area 3x as broad as long and gaster with hind margin of T1 nearly straight). In facial features this new species readily resembles *C. pachycera* Masi i.e. face receding from frons at angle of 130° so that in frontal view the lower edges of toruli lie much nearer to lower edges of eyes than the anterior margin of the clypeus, but differs in having antenna with funicular segments 3-5 not strongly transverse and flagellum not about 2x as broad as long.

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