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Bembecia pagesi sp. nov. a new species of clearwing moth from North India (Ladakh) (Lepidoptera, Sesiidae)

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Abstract

Key words: *Bembecia pagesi* sp. nov., Sesiidae, Lepidoptera, Ladakh, India.

A new species, *Bembecia pagesi* sp. nov., is described. It is similar to the West Caucasian species *Bembecia syzjovi* GORBUNOV, 1989. All specimens were collected in pheromone trap. Bionomics and host plant are unknown.

Zusammenfassung

Aus Ladakh, Nordindien, wird eine neue Sesiidae (Lepidoptera), *Bembecia pagesi* sp. nov., beschrieben. Sie wird mit *Bembecia syzjovi* GORBUNOV, 1989 aus dem westlichen Kaukasus verglichen.

Bembecia pagesi sp. nov.

Holotyp male: 11.07.1992, Keylong, 3300 m, road from Manali to Leh, Ladakh, North India, lgt. J. PAGÈS, in coll. TOŠEVSKI. Paratypes: 3 males in coll. TOŠEVSKI and 5 males in coll. PAGÈS (Rennes, France) with same locality as the holotype, date 11.-12.07.1992.

Holotypus, (Fig. 1 a). Alar expanse 31 mm. Antenna black. Labial palpus yellow white, with bushy bristle, long scales exteriorly. Frons black with group of yellow scales besides eye. Vertex shiny black. Patagia black. Thorax black with whitish long hair like

scales posteriorly, and yellow axilar spot. Fore coxa black with yellowish scales exteriorly, femur black; tibia black proximally, yellow distally; tarsi yellow with some black scales. Hind coxa black; femur black with whitish scales exteriorly; tibia yellow, black proximally and with distinct black ring distally; tarsi yellow with some black scales. Abdomen black, distal margins of tergites 2, 4, 6 and 7 yellow; distal margins of tergites 3 and 5 narrowly yellow; anal tuft black, with golden yellow scales medially and laterally. Distal margins of sternites 4, 5, 6 and 7 widely yellow, sternites 2 and 3 only with narrow row of yellow scales distally, anal tuft black, with golden yellow scales laterally and medially. Ground colour of fore wing brown; anterior transparent area (ATA) and posterior transparent area (PTA) well developed and transparent along their length; costal margin brown, anal margin brown covered with yellow and orange yellow scales; discal spot black brown, with semilunar, golden yellow design along outer margin; external transparent area (ETA) large, divided into 7 cells; vein M1 and M2 covered with yellow scales, other veins crossing ETA black brown; apical area practically missing, reduced to narrow irregular line of pale yellow and whitish scales; outer margin black brown, fringes brown. Hind wing transparent, discal spot yellowish brown, triangularly shaped, reaching common stem M3-Cu1; outer margin narrow, brown black.

Male genitalia (Fig. 2 a). Scopula androconialis long, well developed; gnathos distinct with both crista well developed; Valva trapeziform, with long and very raised crista sacculi, obliquely situated, nearly reaching distal 1/4 of valva length. Aedeagus bulbous basally, as long as valva length, somewhat curved medially, vesica with about twenty cornuti.

Variability. Probably very distinct. In one of the specimens belonging to type series, only distal margins of tergites 4, 6 and 7 are yellow, while all other parts of body, besides yellow axilar spot, are black (Fig. 1 b).

Differential diagnosis. Habitually, the new species is very similar to West Caucasian *Bembecia syzjovi* GORBUNOV, 1989, described from Georgia, which is characterized by large ETA area of fore wing. From *B. syzjovi*, it clearly differs in genital morphology. In *B. syzjovi* gnathos has drastically reduced crista medialis, while in *B. pagesi* sp. nov. crista medialis is well developed. *B. pagesi* sp. nov. is also similar to *Bembecia senilis*-group, which includes *B. senilis* (GRUM-GRZHIMAILO, 1890), *B. lasicera* (HAMPSON, 1906), *B. lactea* (FILIPJEV, 1931) and *B. salangica* ŠPATENKA & RESHOFT, 1989. *B. pagesi* sp. nov. differs from all mentioned species by well developed and clearly transparent ATA and PTA areas, very large ETA area, which is divided into 7 cells, and drastically reduced apical area of fore wing, which is practically missing. In *B. senilis*, *B. lactea* and *B. salangica* PTA is reduced and opaque, covered with brown and yellow scales, apical area is present and coloured yellow orange in *B. senilis* and *B. salangica*. In *B. lasicera* apical area of fore wing widely yellow, and ETA is divided into 4 cells.

Bionomics. Host plant of *B. pagesi* sp. nov. is unknown. Type-series was collected in mountain meadows at 3300 m with pheromone trap.

Etymology. The new species is named after my friend and colleague Jérôme PAGÈS (Rennes, France).

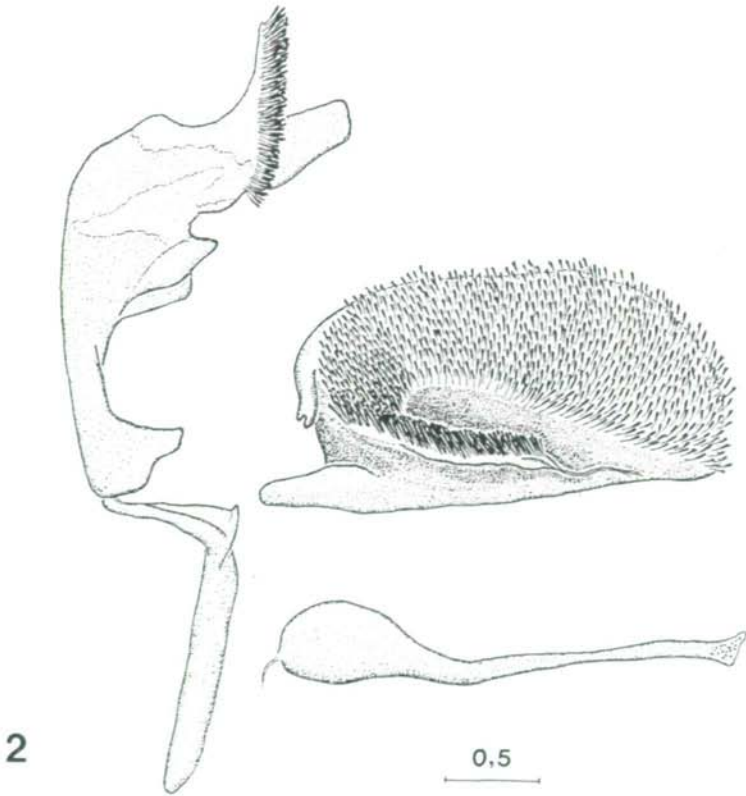
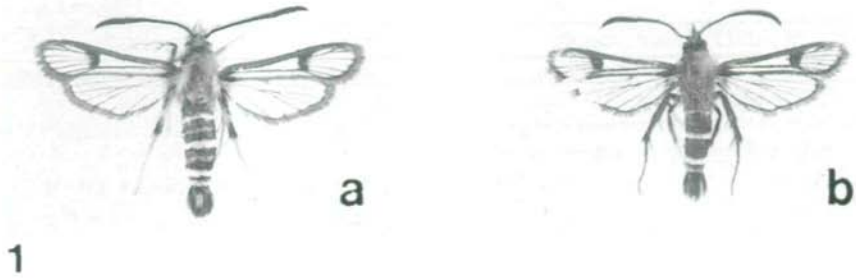


Fig. 1: *Bembecia pagesi* sp. nov. - a) Holotype male, Keylong, 3300m, 11.07.1992, road Manali - Leh, Ladakh, India, lgt. J. PAGÈS, in coll. TOŠEVSKI; - b) Paratype male, black form, locality as holotype, 12.07.1992, in coll. TOŠEVSKI.

Fig. 2: *Bembecia pagesi* sp. nov. - male genitalia.

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