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## On *Megaspilus verus*, a new species of Megaspilidae from Norway

(Hymenoptera, Ceraphronoidea)

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### Abstract

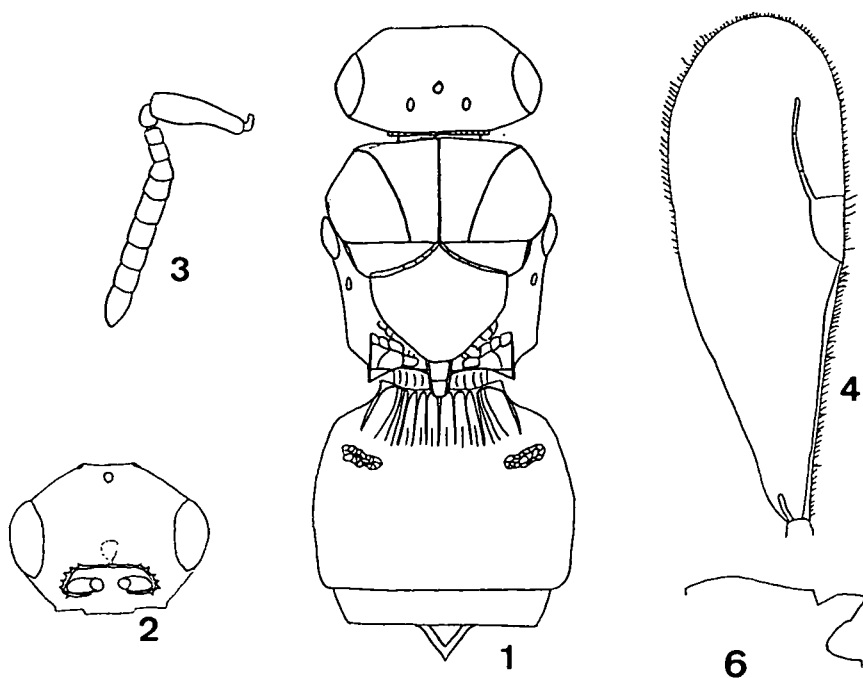
In this article a new aberrant species of *Megaspilus* is reported from southern Norway. It makes some changes in the present diagnosis of the genus necessary. The work is illustrated by 7 text-figures.

### Zusammenfassung

In dieser Arbeit wird eine neue abweichende Art von *Megaspilus* aus dem südlichen Norwegen beschrieben. Als Konsequenz werden einige Veränderungen in der Gattungsdiagnose notwendig. Die Arbeit ist mit 7 Abbildungen versehen.

### Introduction

While working on a survey of the Norwegian fauna, I have looked at thousands of specimens of parasitic wasps belonging to the superfamilies Proctotrupeoidea and Ceraphronoidea from Norway, sent to me by Mr. Lars Ove HANSEN (Zoological Museum, University of Oslo). In this material two striking specimens representing a new species of the genus *Megaspilus* WESTWOOD, 1829 appeared, which makes changes in the present generic diagnosis of this genus - proposed by DESSART (1972), - necessary. According to DESSART (1972), who by synonymies reduced the number of valid species in the genus to two Palearctic and four Nearctic, the only necessary and sufficient character defining *Megaspilus* is the plate behind scutellum. This plate, which is composed of the carinae of metanotum and propodeum, protrudes backward and upward in relation to length of body. Apex of the plate appears bidentate as its lateral margins are raised and it is hollowed out medially, forming a semi-cylindric gutter. The



**Figs. 1-4, 6: *Megaspilus verus* sp. nov., holotype ♀.**  
1) body in dorsal view; 2) head from in front; 3) antenna; 4) fore wing;  
6) scutellum, notch and propodeum in lateral view.

notch behind scutellum in the new species described below answers exactly to this description. DESSART (1972) mentions, however, two other less important diagnostic characters of *Megaspilus* which the new species does not share: (1) Median part of scutellum surrounded by a foveolate furrow, and (2) female antennae long, A3 at least 4 times longer than wide. The specially built notch behind scutellum remains the only diagnostic character for the genus *Megaspilus*.

***Megaspilus verus* sp. nov. (figs. 1-6)**

In general shape of body and antennae this species is much as *Conostigmus rugosiceps* (KIEFFER, 1907) (which was present at the holotype locality of *verus* in numerous specimens). *C. rugosiceps* was originally described as a *Megaspilus*, but as DESSART (1972) notes, it has a small notch behind scutellum very dissimilar from that of a true *Megaspilus* (and habitus, antennae and other characters are also very dissimilar from the known species of *Megaspilus*), cf. figs 6-7. Apart from the structure of the notch, *C. rugosiceps* differs from *M. verus* in many other characters, more particular in sculpture and in having much longer basal antennal segments. No other species comes close to *M. verus* in general morphology. In the description below some terminology introduced by DESSART (1995) is used.

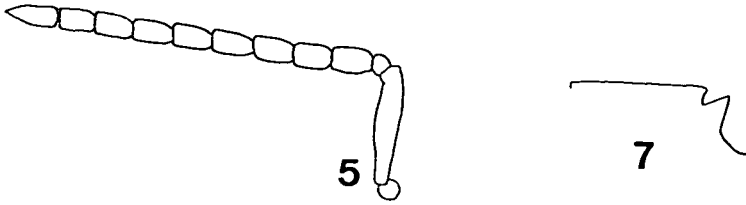


Fig. 5: *Megaspilus verus* sp. nov., paratype ♂. - Antenna.

Fig. 7: *Conostigmus rugosiceps* (KIEFFER, 1907), ♀  
Scutellum, notch and propodeum in lateral view (Norwegian specimen).

Description of ♀: Body length 2.0 mm. Colour black with reddish-brown antennae, mouthparts, tegulae and legs.

Head from above (fig. 1) almost twice as wide as long, narrower than thorax (10:11); POL/LOL/OOL = 15(12)/10(6)/11; occiput with a narrow carina. Head from in front (fig. 2) 1.4 times as wide as high; malar space hardly half the height of an eye; frons with a small depression above antennal insertions, these almost surrounded by a carina. Whole head rather shiny, reticulate and with fine punctures and hairs. Antennae (fig. 3) short and thick; scape somewhat hollowed out ventrally, almost hiding pedicel which is hardly longer than wide and slightly longer than A3. A3-A6 each not longer than wide, slightly transverse from some angles, A5-A6 thicker than A3-A4, A3 smallest. A7-A10 about equal, each hardly longer than wide, A11 = 1.5 x A10. Whole antenna covered with short hairs.

Mesosoma (fig. 1): Thorax very broad, mesosoma hardly longer than wide (about 58:55) and wider than high (7:6). Sides of pronotum reticulate-coriaceous, with a punctate furrow running from below shoulder to behind fore coxa. Mesoscutum sculptured as head, uniformly covered with rather long and sparse hairs; notauli slightly converging at base, as strong as median line, reaching transverse groove distinctly separately from this. Mesopleurae almost smooth medially, with longitudinal furrows in upper two-fifths, reticulate-coriaceous in lower half. Axillae sculptured as mesoscutum, scutellum stronger reticulate-coriaceous, with longitudinal rugosity, convex, above level of mesoscutum, almost uniformly covered with long and rather sparse hairs; only anterior margin of median part of scutellum with foveolate furrow. Notch behind scutellum (fig. 6) reticulate, with short hairs along margins. Metapleurae with irregular rugosity and with long and dense whitish pilosity. Dorsal area of propodeum bare, irregularly foveolate, laterally tooth-like prolonged.

Wings: Fore wing (fig. 4) almost clear, 2.8 times as long as wide, hairy on disc and with short marginal cilia; pterostigma semielliptical, twice as long as wide, two-thirds as long as radialis. Hind wing 3.6 times as long as wide, with 3 frenal hooks; marginal cilia hardly one-sixth the width of wing.

Legs: Without peculiarities. Hind tarsus with segment 1 longer than segments 2-5 combined.

Metasoma (fig. 1): Wider than thorax (32:29) and wider than high (8:5); 1st abdominal tergite constricts in front into distinct "neck", tergite bare, wider than long (32:25),

in basal 0.3 with carinae, rest with only faint traces of reticulation except for two oval pits behind carinae which are stronger scaly-reticulate. 2nd tergite weakly reticulate and with a transverse row of fine hairs; rest of tergites strongly telescoped, only apical tergite (and sternite) visible.

♂: Much as female, but antenna (fig. 5) with pedicel as wide as long, half as long as A3 which is 1.5 times as long as wide; flagellum becoming slightly thinner towards apex, A10 1.6 times as long as wide; flagellar pubescence hardly 0.25 the width of segments. Antennae and legs darker than in female, dark brown. Body length 1.7 mm.

Material examined. Holotype ♀: "Norway, EIS 19 VE, Sande: Kommersoya, 9 July - 2 Aug. 1991, Leg. Lars Ove HANSEN", "Malaise-trap in west-faced shore with limestone". Paratype ♂: Norway, EIS 26 BO, Nedre Eiker, Mjondalen, Hagatjern, Ryggsetra, Aug. 1994, Malaise-trap. Leg. Y. BERG & L.O. HANSEN. Both types are preserved in the Zoological Museum in Oslo.

The name "verus" means "real", "genuine", i.e.: despite the great differences from the known species of the genus, this is a true *Megaspilus*!

#### Acknowledgements

I am most thankful to Mr. Lars Ove HANSEN for sending me his rich collection of Norwegian Proctotrupeoidea and Ceraphronoidea.

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