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# A faunistic study on the Ichneumonidae (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonoidea) from the west of Iran

# H. GHAHARI & R. JUSSILA

A b s t r a c t : The fauna of the family Ichneumonidae (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonoidea) from some regions of western Iran is studied in this paper. Totally 17 species from 15 genera and 4 subfamilies (Cryptinae, Ichneumoninae, Metopiinae, Pimplinae) were determined.

K e y w o r d s : Hymenoptera, Ichneumonoidea, Ichneumonidae, Fauna, Iran.

# Introduction

The Ichneumonidae (Hymenoptera, Ichneumonoidea) is the biggest family in the order Hymenoptera with 51 generally recognized subfamilies, 1579 genera and 24.281 described species (YU et al. 2012). TOWNES (1969) estimated that there could be about 60.000 Ichneumonidae species in the world, but because of the poor knowledge of the tropical faunas the present investigators estimate that the size of the family could be higher than 100.000 (GAULD 1997; CORUH et al. 2014). Ichneumonids are common as the parasitoids of various agricultural and forest pests and therefore with important role in biological control (GUPTA 1987; GODFRAY 1994). They parasitize mainly the larvae and pupae of holometabolous insects, excluding the Megaloptera and Siphonaptera. Whereas ichneumonids are almost completely restricted to the immature stages of the Holometabola (a few groups use egg nests of Pseudoscorpionida, egg cocoons of Araneae or adult Araneae) (GAULD 1988; WAHL & SHARKEY 1993; CORUH & KOLAROV 2010). The fauna of Iranian Ichneumonidae was studied rather well which the first checklist of Iranian Ichneumonidae was prepared by KOLAROV & GHAHARI (2005), and then most of publications were listed by BARAHOEI et al. (2012). Due to the great diversity and difficulties in identification of many species in this group, our knowledge of the Iranian fauna remains insufficient. During the last 10 years, several species of Ichneumonidae were reported as new to the fauna of Iran and the faunistic works are continued. The aim of this paper is faunistic work on some materials of ichneumonid wasps collected from some regions of western Iran.

# **Materials and Methods**

This faunistic study is based upon the materials of Ichneumonidae collected from some

regions of five provinces, Hamadan, Ilam, Kermanshah, Kordestan and West Azarbaijan located in western parts of Iran. The materials were collected mainly by Malaise traps and sweeping net by different researchers and identified by the authors. Classification and nomenclature suggested by YU et al. (2012) have been followed.

# Results

In total 17 ichneumonid species from 15 genera and four subfamilies were collected from western parts of Iran. The list of species is given below alphabetically.

# Subfamily C r y p t i n a e

# Genus Acroricnus RATZEBURG, 1852

#### Acroricnus seductor elegans (MOCSARY, 1883)

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : West Azarbaijan province, Ourmieh (1381 m), 1 o, summer 2009.

# Genus Cryptus FABRICIUS, 1804

#### Cryptus dianae GRAVENHORST, 1829

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Hamadan province, Nahavand (1684 m), 19, 233, August 2007.

# Genus Gelis THUNBERG, 1827

#### Gelis anthracinus (FOERSTER, 1850)

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Kermanshah province, Kermanshah (1269 m),  $1_{\mathcal{Q}}$ , summer 2012.

#### Gelis stevenii (GRAVENHORST, 1829)

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : West Azarbaijan province, Salmas (1353 m),  $2 \circ \circ$ , fall 2008.

# Genus Glyphicnemis FÖRSTER, 1869

#### Glyphicnemis atrata (STROBL, 1901)

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Kermanshah province, Kermanshah (1269 m),  $2 \circ \circ$ , summer 2012.

#### Genus Mesostenus GRAVENHORST, 1829

#### Mesostenus grammicus GRAVENHORST, 1829

Material examined: West Azarbaijan province, Salmas (1353 m), 1 q, 2 d d, fall 2008.

# Genus Synechocryptus SCHMIEDEKNECHT, 1904

# Synechocryptus mactator (TSCHEK, 1871)

Material examined: West Azarbaijan province, Ourmieh (1381 m), 2♀♀, 2♂♂, summer 2009.

#### Genus Zoophthorus FÖRSTER, 1869

# Zoophthorus trochanteralis (DALLA TORRE, 1902)

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Ilam province, Ilam (987 m), 1 Q, October 2011.

# Subfamily I c h n e u m o n i n a e

Genus Barichneumon THOMSON, 1893

# **Barichneumon bilunulatus (GRAVENHORST, 1829)**

Material examined: Ilam province, Ilam (987 m), 1, 3 & d, October 2011.

#### Genus Eutanyacra CAMERON, 1903

#### Eutanyacra picta (SCHRANK, 1776)

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Kordestan province, Kamyaran (1469 m),  $2 \circ \circ$ , September 2010.

# Genus Ichneumon LINNEAUS, 1758

#### Ichneumon extensorius LINNAEUS, 1758

Material examined: Ilam province, Ilam (987 m), 433, October 2011.

# Genus Platylabus HEINRICH, 1950

#### Platylabus oehlkei HEINRICH, 1972

M a t e r i a l  $\,$  e x a m i n e d : Kermanshah province, Kermanshah (1269 m),  $2\, \phi\, \phi,$  summer 2012.

# Subfamily Metopiinae

#### Genus Colpotrochia HOLMGREN, 1855

# Colpotrochia triclistor (AUBERT, 1979)

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Hamadan province, Nahavand (1684 m), 2 o o, June 2012.

# Genus Metopius PANZER, 1806

# Metopius pinatorius BRULLÉ, 1846

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : West Azarbaijan province, Ourmieh (1381 m), 2 ざ ♂, summer 2009. New record for Iran.

# Subfamily P i m p l i n a e

# Genus Dolichomitus SMITH, 1877

# Dolichomitus sericeus (HARTIG, 1847)

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Hamadan province, Nahavand (1684 m), 23 3, August 2007.

#### Genus Pimpla FABRICIUS, 1804

#### Pimpla contemplator (Müller, 1776)

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Kordestan province, Kamyaran (1469 m), 2 ♀ ♀, 1 ♂, September 2010.

# Pimpla spuria GRAVENHORST, 1829

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : West Azarbaijan province, Ourmieh (1381 m), 1 ♀, 1 ♂, summer 2009.

# Discussion

This short paper contains 17 ichneumonid species collected from western parts of Iran. Iran is a large country with various agroecosystems and forests especially in northern and western regions; so diverse fauna of insects is expected to be in the mentioned areas. Although in total more than 502 species of Ichneumonidae have been listed for Iran so far (see BARAHOEI et al. 2012), published checklists from adjacent territories and also many papers which have been published after the mentioned checklist, suggest that the Iranian list is still very incomplete. Faunistic works are the base of entomological studies but these works are progressed rather slowly in Iran. We suggest to the researchers to continue the faunistic surveys on different taxa especially Ichneumonoidea as the powerful parasitoids of agricultural pests. Additionally most of the faunistic works on Iranian parasitoids were conducted upon the samplings of adult insects by sweeping net and Malaise traps while in this case the hosts of the parasitoids are unknown. So the collecting of larval stages of ichneumonid's hosts and rearing them in optimum conditions will result to determining of host-parasitoid relationships of these beneficial insects. Ichneumonids have been used successfully as biocontrol agents and given the largely undocumented fauna there is a huge potential for their utilization in managed biocontrol programs (GUPTA 1987; GODFRAY 1994).

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# Zusammenfassung

Vorliegende Arbeit behandelt Aufsammlungen von Ichneumonidae (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonoidea) aus verschiedenen Gebieten Westirans. Es gelang der Nachweis von 17 Arten in 15 Gattungen und 4 Unterfamilien (Cryptinae, Ichneumoninae, Metopiinae, Pimplinae).

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Authors' addresses:

Hassan GHAHARI Department of Plant Protection Shahre Rey Branch, Islamic Azad University Tehran, Iran E-mail: hghahari@yahoo.com

Reijo JUSSILA Zoological Museum, Section of Biodiversity and Environmental Sciences, Department of Biology FI-20014 University of Turku Finland Corresponding author. E-mail: reijo.jussila@utu.fi

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Autor(en)/Author(s): Ghahari Hassan, Jussila Reijo

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