

Revision of Iranian *Schoenlandella* Cameron, 1905 (Hymenoptera, Braconidae, Cardiochilinae) with descriptions of two new species from Hormozgan province

Ilgoo Kang¹, Ali Ameri², Michael J. Sharkey³

¹ Department of Entomology, Louisiana State University Agricultural Center, 404 Life Sciences Building, Baton Rouge, LA, 70803 USA

² Insect Taxonomy Research Department, Iranian Research Institute of Plant Protection, Agricultural Research Education and Extension Organization (AREEO), Tehran, Iran

³ The Hymenoptera Institute, 116 Franklin Ave., Redlands, CA, 92373, USA

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Corresponding author: Ilgoo Kang (ikang1@lsu.edu)

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Abstract

The Iranian species of the genus *Schoenlandella* Cameron, 1905 are revised based on morphological characters. The current work provides a key to species of Iranian *Schoenlandella* and species descriptions of two new species: *S. angustigena* Kang **sp. nov.** and *S. latigena* Kang **sp. nov.** This work results in increasing the number of Iranian *Schoenlandella* species from one to three species.

Key Words

Old World, parasitoid wasp, taxonomy, Western Palearctic region

Introduction

The Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran) is located in the Western Palearctic region, and 26 Holdridge life zones exist in the country (Sanjerehei 2014). Approximately 40% of the country is in the subtropical latitudinal region and ~80% of the country consists of periarid, semiarid, arid, and superarid life zones (Sanjerehei 2014). One of braconid subfamilies having the highest distribution in arid regions is Cardiochilinae Ashmead, 1900 (Dangerfield et al. 1999). Nine species of Cardiochilinae have been recorded from Iran, including just one species of *Schoenlandella* Cameron, 1905, *S. deserta* (Telenga, 1955) (Gadallah and Gahhari 2019). Among cardiochiline genera, *Schoenlandella* has the most species in arid areas, especially in the Afrotropical and Australian regions. For example, in Egypt, seven species of *Schoenlandella* have been recorded, which account for ~13% of *Schoenlandella* species in the World (Edmardash et al. 2018). Despite the abundance

of the members of the genus in other arid countries in the Afrotropical and Western Palearctic regions, no additional new species of *Schoenlandella* from Iran have been recorded.

In several collecting trips by the second author (AA) from 2013 to 2019, a total of forty cardiochiline specimens were collected. These specimens were sent to the first author (IK) and identified to the species-level using Dangerfield et al. (1999), Edmardash et al. (2018), Oltra and Falco (1997), and Telenga (1955). Fifteen specimens collected in Hormozgan province located in the south of Iran were confirmed as two new species of *Schoenlandella* based on morphological data. The characters of these two new species were compared with the characters of paratypes of two close Afrotropical species, *S. testacea* (Kriechbaumer, 1894) and *S. variegata* (Szépligeti, 1913). In the current paper, species descriptions of two new species are included along with images of diagnostic characters. Distribution maps of each species are created and provided.



Figure 1. Malaise trap operating at one of the collecting sites in Hormozgan province.

Methods

Specimen information

Specimens used in the current work were collected by AA by Malaise traps from 2013 to 2019 in Hormozgan province (Fig. 1), Iran, and paratypes of *S. testacea* (Kriechbaumer, 1894) and *S. variegata* (Szépligeti, 1913) were borrowed from the Texas A&M University Insect Collection (TAMU: College Station, Texas, USA). Holotypes and most paratypes of Iranian *Schoenlandella* species will be deposited in the Hayk Mirzayans Insect Museum of Iranian Research Institute of Insect Taxonomy Research Department, Iranian Research Institute of Plant Protection, Agricultural Research Education and Extension Organization (IRIPP: Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran), and some paratypes will be housed in the Canadian National Collection of Insects (CNC: Ottawa, Ontario, Canada).

Morphological analysis

Morphological characters of all specimens were examined using a Leica MZ75 stereomicroscope. The morphological terms and terms for wing veins are based

on Dangerfield et al. (1999), and Sharkey and Wharton (1997). Most terminology is available on the Hymenoptera Anatomy Consortium website (<http://portal.hymao.org/projects/32/public/ontology/>). The reference for terms of surface sculpturing used in the work is Harris (1979). Habitus photographs were taken using a Visionary Digital BK Plus imaging system (Dun, Inc.), equipped with a Canon EOS 5DS DSLR camera. The generated images were stacked using Zerene Stacker v.1.04 (Zerene Systems LLC.). Plates were prepared and edited using Adobe Photoshop CS 6 (Adobe Systems, Inc). Distribution maps of *Schoenlandella* species were created using QGIS 3.10.0 (QGIS Development Team 2019). Google maps were downloaded using the QuickMapServices plugin. Body parts of each species were measured via Adobe Photoshop CS 6 (Adobe Systems, Inc), and all measurements are given in millimeters. In the species descriptions, each number in parentheses indicates $0.01 \times$ the actual length, width, or height of each body part. For instance, 12 and 345 in parentheses (12:345) indicate 0.12 mm and 3.45 mm, respectively. The following acronyms are used: POL: distance between posterior ocelli, T1 (first metasomal tergum), T2 (second metasomal tergum), and T3 (third metasomal tergum).

Results

Taxonomy

Schoenlandella Cameron, 1905

Schoenlandella Cameron, 1905 (Cameron 1905a). Type Species:
Schoenlandella nigromaculata Cameron, 1905 (Cameron 1905a) by

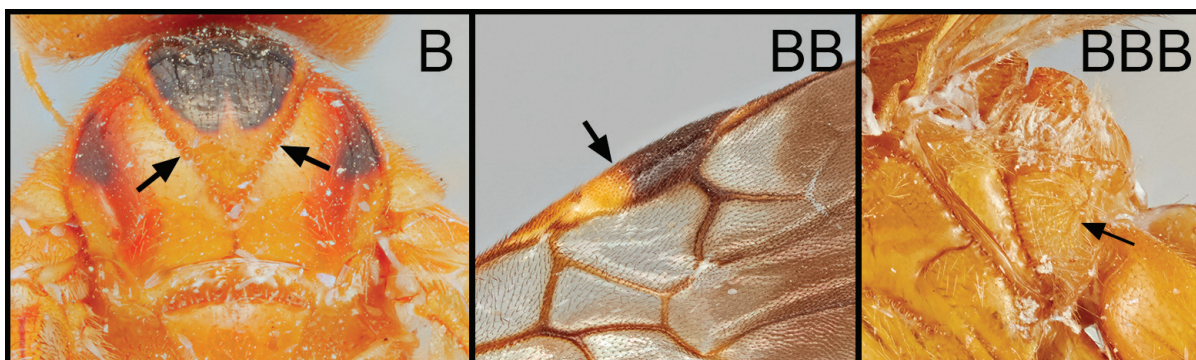
subsequent designation by Viereck 1914 (synonymized with *Cardiochiles* Nees, 1819 by Szépligeti 1911). Removed from synonymy by Whitfield and Dangerfield (1997).

Ernestiella Cameron, 1905 (Cameron 1905b) synonymized with *Schoenlandella* Viereck, 1914. Type species: *Ernestiella nigromaculata* Cameron 1905 (Cameron 1905b).

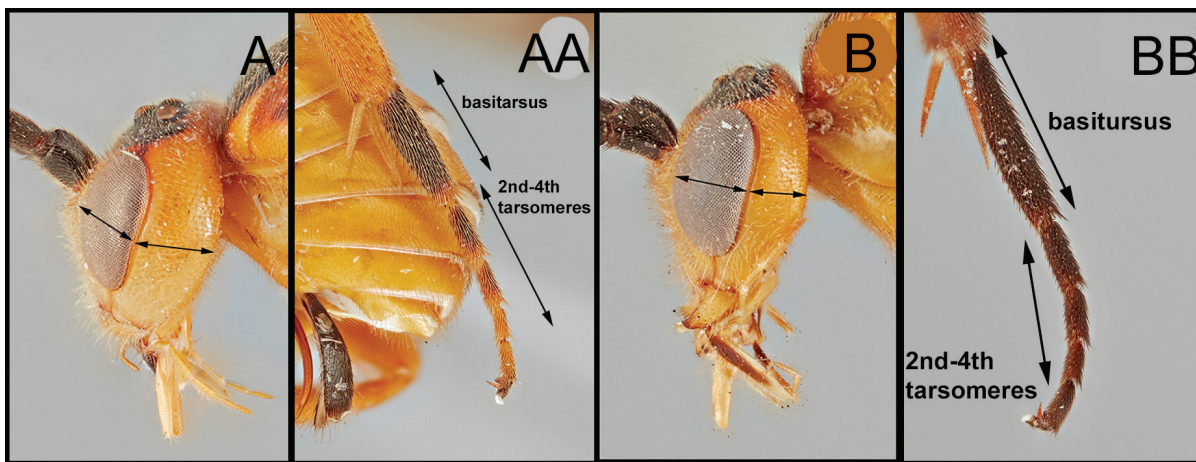
Diagnosis. See Kang et al. (in prep.).

Key to species of Iranian *Schoenlandella*

- 1 A. Notauli smooth; forewing stigma entirely pale; metapleuron mostly smooth (Telenga 1955) *S. deserta* (Telenga)
- B. Notauli crenulate (Figs 2B, 4B); BB. forewing stigma mostly melanitic, basally pale (Figs 2A, 4A, 4F); BBB. metapleuron posteriorly strongly sculptured (Fig. 2C) 2



- 2 A. Length of gena longer than eye length in lateral view; AA. hind basitarsus shorter than combined length 2nd–4th tarsomeres *S. latigena* sp. nov.
- B. Length of gena shorter than eye length in lateral view; BB. hind basitarsus longer than combined length 2nd–4th tarsomeres *S. angustigena* sp. nov.



Schoenlandella angustigena Kang, sp. nov.

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Fig. 2A–G

Material examined. Holotype: IRAN • ♀, Fayrab, Roodan (Rudan), Hormozgan; 27°8'29.39"N, 54°12'20.89"E; 377 m; 23. II. 2017; Col. Ameri. **Paratypes:** IRAN • 2♀, 1♂, same as holotype. 2♀, Bazayrai, Minab, Hormozgan; 27°10'36.83"N, 57°2'12.44"E.; 34 m; 06. V. 2016; Col. Ameri. 1♀, Boo moosa (Abu Musa), Hormozgan; 25°52'52.37"N, 55°1'13.84"E; 9 m; 15. IV. 2016; Col.

Ameri. 1♀, Chelo, Minab, Hormozgan; 27°8'3.62"N, 56°58'49.71"E; 16 m; 05. IV. 2016; Col. Ameri. 1♀, female, Zakin, Bandar Abbas, Hormozgan; 27°50'25.33"N, 56°18'12.33"E; 1176 m; 09. IV. 2016; Col. Ameri.

Diagnosis. *Schoenlandella angustigena* sp. nov. can be distinguished from other Iranian *Schoenlandella* species by having the following combination of characters: gena apparently shorter than eye length in lateral view (Fig. 2C); hind basitarsus longer than combined length of 2nd–4th tarsomeres (Fig. 2E). Hind wing mostly infuscate, hyaline at basal fourth, apically gradually darkened. *S. angustigena*

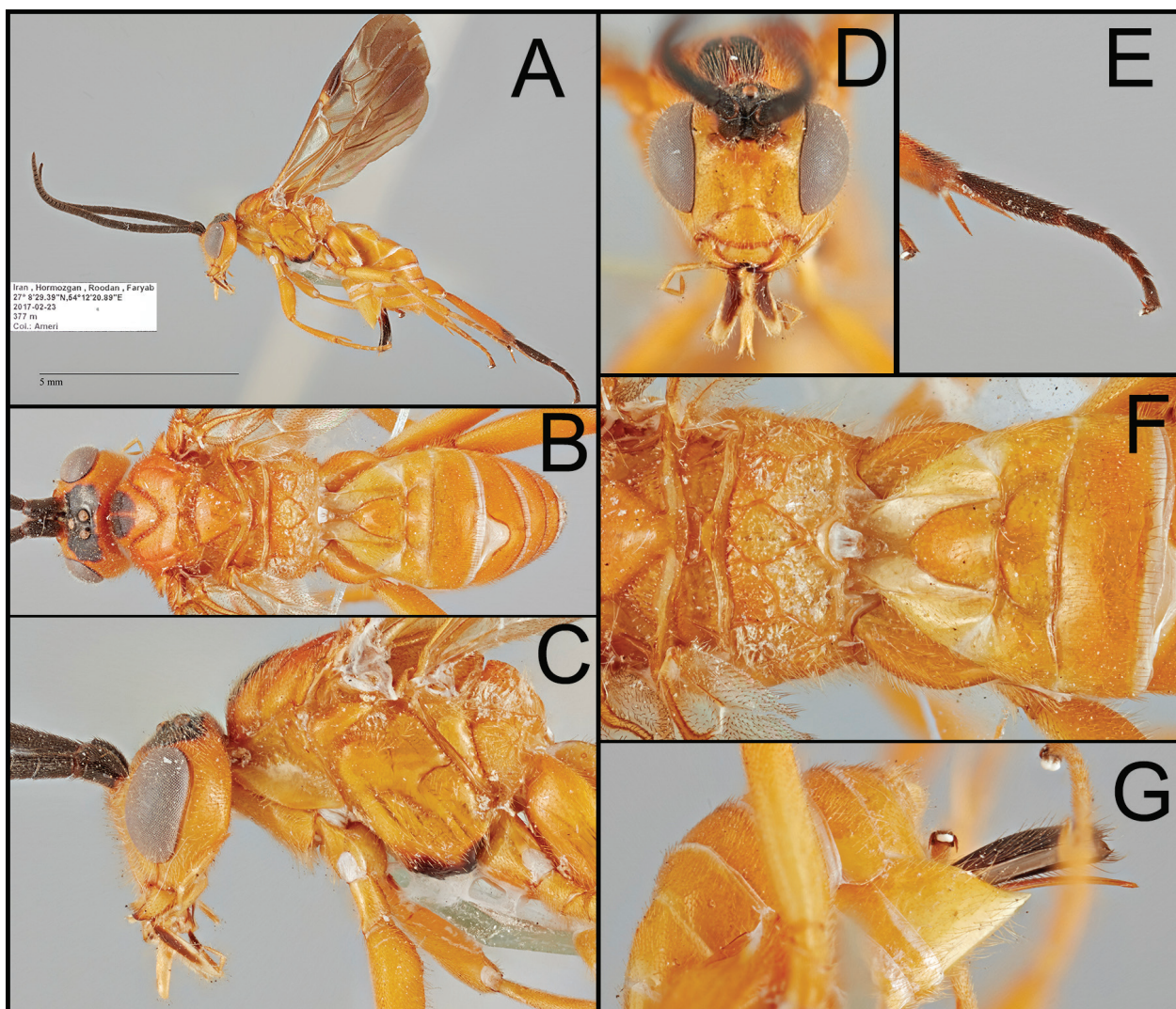


Figure 2. *S. angustigena* sp. nov. **A.** Lateral habitus; **B.** Dorsal habitus; **C.** Lateral head and mesosoma; **D.** Anterior head; **E.** Hind tarsus; **F.** Dorsal scutellum to T3; **G.** Ventro-lateral metanotum.

sp. nov. is similar to the Egyptian species, *S. acrenulata* (Fischer, 1958), but *S. angustigena* sp. nov. differs from *S. acrenulata* by possessing a greater number of antennomeres, pale upper face and glossa, pale scutellum and propodeum, relatively short hind tibial spur and long ovipositor sheath,

Description. Body 4.90–6.25 mm. **Head.** Eye densely setaceous with short interommatidial setae. Flagellum 33–36-segmented. Length of gena $\sim 0.79\times$ longer than eye length in lateral view (37:47) (Fig. 2C). POL $\sim 0.69\times$ longer than diameter of anterior ocellus (9:13). Face mostly smooth, $\sim 1.01\times$ longer than its width (84:83). Clypeus with two weakly developed tubercles; width of clypeus $\sim 2.06\times$ longer than its length (70:34). Galea elongate $\sim 1.97\times$ longer than clypeus height (67:34) (Fig. 2C, D). Mandible bidentate. 5th maxillary palpomere $0.89\times$ longer than apical palpomere (17:19). **Mesosoma.** Notauli entirely crenulate and acutely meeting at base (Fig. 2B). Scutellar sulcus broad, with 5 or 6 crenulae. Length of scutellum $0.97\times$ longer than basal width of scutellum (68:70). Postscutellar depression crenulate, as long as anterior width of dorsellum. Dorsellum without median carina. Pronotum medially

sculptured, carinate-rugose. Mesopleuron mostly smooth. Precoxal sulcus medially crenulate not reaching anterior and posterior margins of mesopleuron. Episternal scrobe shallow and wavy. Posterior mesopleural furrow entirely crenulate. Metapleuron anteriorly smooth, posteriorly rugose, groove between metepimeron and metepisternum crenulate. Propodeum mostly rugulose; propodeal spiracle ovoid; median areola of propodeum well defined with carinate margin, carinate margin narrowly meeting at both anterior margin of propodeum and nucha, its median width as long as its median length; transverse carina of propodeum medially strongly developed and reaching lateral margin of propodeum. **Legs.** Fore basitarsus $\sim 1.13\times$ longer than combined length 2nd–4th tarsomeres (63:56). Mid-basitarsus as long as combined length of 2nd–4th tarsomeres (70:70). Maximum width of hind femur $\sim 1.72\times$ longer than apical width of hind tibia (50:29); cup-like projection of hind tibia absent; basal spur on hind tibia $\sim 0.66\times$ longer than basitarsus (71:107). Hind basitarsus laterally slightly expanded, but not expanded as in *Hartemita* Cameron, 1910, $\sim 1.13\times$ longer than combined length 2nd–4th tarsomeres (107:94)

(Fig. 2E). Claws pectinate with obtuse apical tooth. **Wings.** Forewing wing length: ~5.71 mm. Hind wing length: ~4.66 mm. Forewing apically infusate; 1r absent; 3r basally spectrally present (7♀, 1♂) or absent (1♀); 3RSb broken basally, angled at basal third; second submarginal cell elongate; 1a absent. Hind wing infusate mostly, hyaline at basal fourth; apically gradually darkened; r entirely nebulous and pigmented; RS tubular at base, apically nebulous and pigmented; M+CU apparently shorter than 1M; M tubular at base, apically nebulous and entirely pigmented, gradually fading apically; 2–1A present as basal stump. **Metasoma.** T1 ~1.14× longer than its apical width (83:73). T2 with a pair of curved submedian grooves, anteriorly deeply impressed, posteriorly gradually weakened (Fig. 2F), median length of T2 0.53× longer than median length of T3 (31:59). Fourth and fifth metasomal sterna membranous posteriorly, medially unfolded. Hypopygium slightly impressed medially but unfolded, acute apically, its surface entirely sclerotized (Fig. 2G), its length 1.26× longer than its height in lateral view (88:70). Ovipositor sheath slightly downcurved and gradually expanding from base to apex, anteriorly bare posteriorly densely setose with long setae, length of protruded ovipositor sheath ~0.53× longer than hind tibia (109:207). Ovipositor downcurved.

Male. Same as female except for body length and coloration. The body length of male is slightly shorter than females. The medial mesonotal lobe and ventral mesopleuron are pale in the male specimen.

Color. All specimens are mostly pale, and the following areas are melanic: antenna, vertex, frons, apical mandible, galea, median mesonotal lobe (mostly), ventral mesopleuron, inner hind tibia apically, apical hind tarsus, and ovipositor sheath. Wings apically infusate, stigma mostly melanic except for base. Five specimens have a melanic mesonotal lobe and a pale ventral mesopleuron, however they share all other morphological characters with other members of *S. angustigena*.

Host. Unknown.

Distribution. Members of *S. angustigena* sp. nov. are known from Bandar Abbas, Minab and Rudan, as well as Abu Musa Island, Hormozgan, Iran (Fig. 3).

Etymology. From the Latin, *angusti-*, meaning “narrow” and *gena*, meaning “cheek”.

Schoenlandella deserta (Telenga, 1955)

Cardiochiles desertus Telenga, 1955 (Telenga 1955).

Schoenlandella deserta (Telenga, 1955) (Dangerfield et al. 1999).

Description. See Telenga (1955), Oltra and Falco (1997), and Edmardash et al. (2018).

Host. Unknown.

Distribution. Members of *Schoenlandella deserta* (Telenga, 1955) are known from Azerbaijan, Egypt, Iran, Morocco, Spain, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan

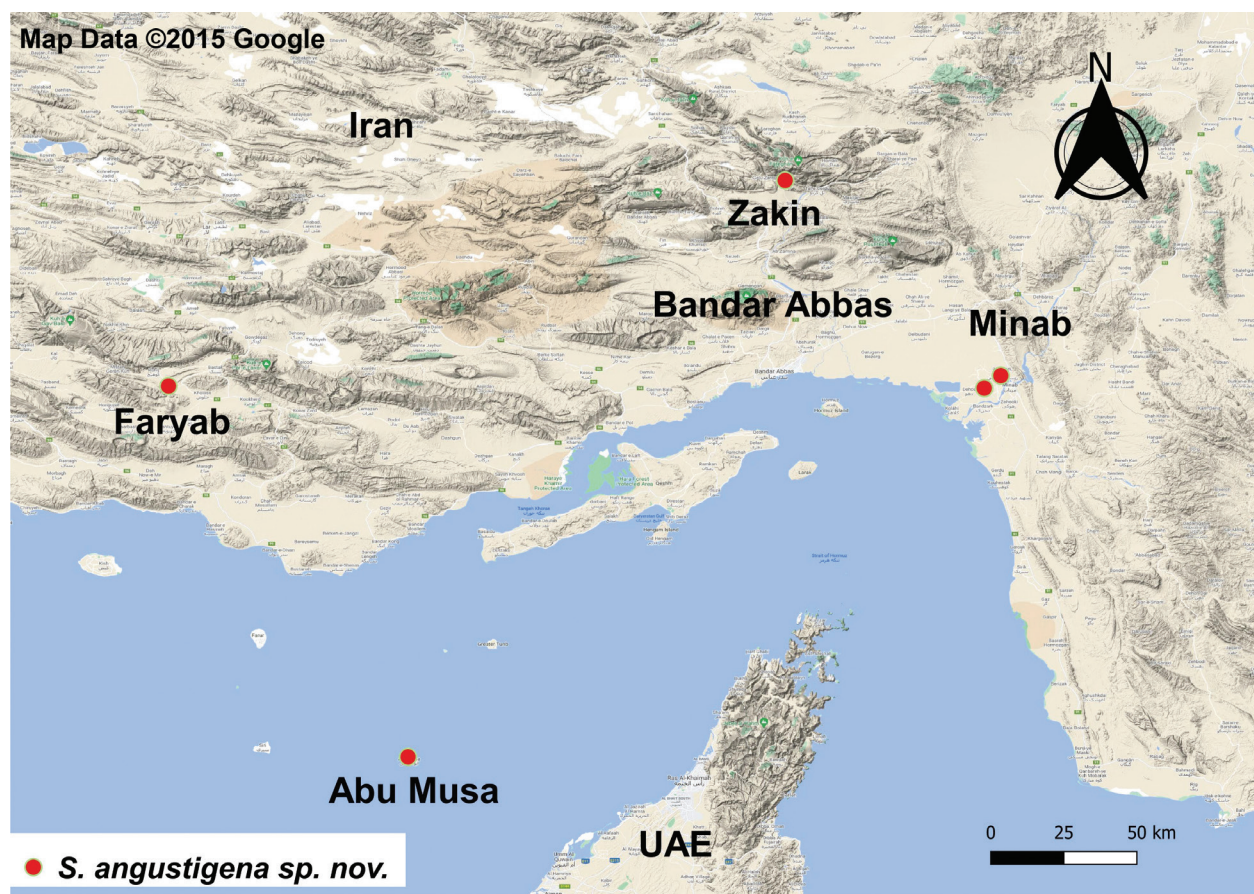


Figure 3. Distribution map of the members of *S. angustigena* sp. nov. in Iran.

(Telenga 1955, Oltra and Falco 1997, Yu et al. 2016, Edmardash et al. 2018).

***Schoenlandella latigena* Kang, sp. nov.**

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Fig. 4A–G

Material examined. *Holotype*: IRAN • ♀, Bazyarai, Minab, Hormozgan; 27°10'36.83"N, 57°2'12.44"E.; 34 m; 06. V. 2016; Col. Ameri. *Paratypes*: 1♀, same as holotype except for the collecting date; 21. IV. 2016. 1♂, Boo moosa (Abu Musa), Hormozgan; 25°52'52.37"N, 55°1'13.84"E; 9 m; 15. IV. 2016; Col. Ameri. 2♀, Zakin, Bandar Abbas, Hormozgan; 27°50'25.33"N, 56°18'12.33"E; 1176 m; 09. IV. 2016; Col. Ameri. 1♀, Mosaferabad, Roodan (Rudan), Hormozgan; 27°44'50.62"N, 57°13'36.08"E; 459 m; 06. V. 2016; Col. Ameri.

Diagnosis. Members of *Schoenlandella latigena* sp. nov. are most similar to members of *S. deserta* (Telenga, 1955). Compared to members of *S. deserta*, members of *S. latigena* sp. nov. possess a more elongate gena (Fig. 4A) and a melanic stigma (Fig. 4F). In addition, they share crenulate notauli (Fig. 4B) and a sculptured metapleuron (Fig. 4A). Members of *S. latigena* sp. nov. are also similar to members of an Afrotropical species, *S. variegata* (Szepligeti, 1913). Members of these two species share densely setose eyes, broad face and clypeus, ventrally melanic mesopleuron, apically infusate wings, and short and slightly expanded hind basitarsus. However, members of *S. latigena* sp. nov. can be distinguished from *S. variegata* by having relatively shorter interommatidial setae (Fig. 4C), narrower face, longer gena, longer hind basitarsus, and longer

and unfolded hypopygium (Notes: Female members of *S. variegata* have a medially folded hypopygium.) (Fig. 4D).

Description. Body 6.25–6.45 mm. **Head.** Eye densely setaceous with short interommatidial setae. Antennomeres 32–33-segmented. Length of gena $\sim 1.12\times$ longer than eye length in lateral view (47:42) (Fig. 4A). POL $\sim 1.27\times$ broader than diameter of anterior ocellus (11:14). Face weakly sculptured, mostly finely punctate, $\sim 0.85\times$ longer than its width (73:86). Clypeus with two strongly developed tubercles; width of clypeus $\sim 2.59\times$ longer than its length (70:27). Galea elongated, $\sim 2.15\times$ longer than clypeus height (58:27) (Fig. 4C). Mandible bidentate. Fifth maxillary palpomere as long as apical palpomere (15:15).

Mesosoma. Notauli entirely crenulate and meeting acutely at base (Fig. 4B). Scutellar sulcus broad, with 6 or 7 crenulae. Length of scutellum $0.83\times$ longer than basal width of scutellum (54:65). Postscutellar depression crenulate, as long as anterior width of dorsellum. Dorsellum with or without median carina. Pronotum medially sculptured, carinate-rugose. Mesopleuron mostly smooth. Precoxal sulcus medially moderately crenulate not reaching anterior and posterior margins of mesopleuron. Episternal scrobe shallow and wavy. Posterior mesopleural furrow entirely crenulate. Metapleuron anteriorly smooth, posteriorly rugose; groove between metepimeron and metepisternum crenulate. Propodeum mostly rugulose; propodeal spiracle ovoid; median areola of propodeum well defined with carinate margin, carinate margin narrowly meeting anteriorly, posteriorly reaching submedian of nucha, its median width as long as its median length, transverse carina of propodeum reaching lateral margin of propodeum.

Legs. Fore basitarsus $\sim 0.90\times$ longer than combined length 2nd–4th tarsomeres (47:52). Mid-basitarsus $\sim 0.89\times$ longer

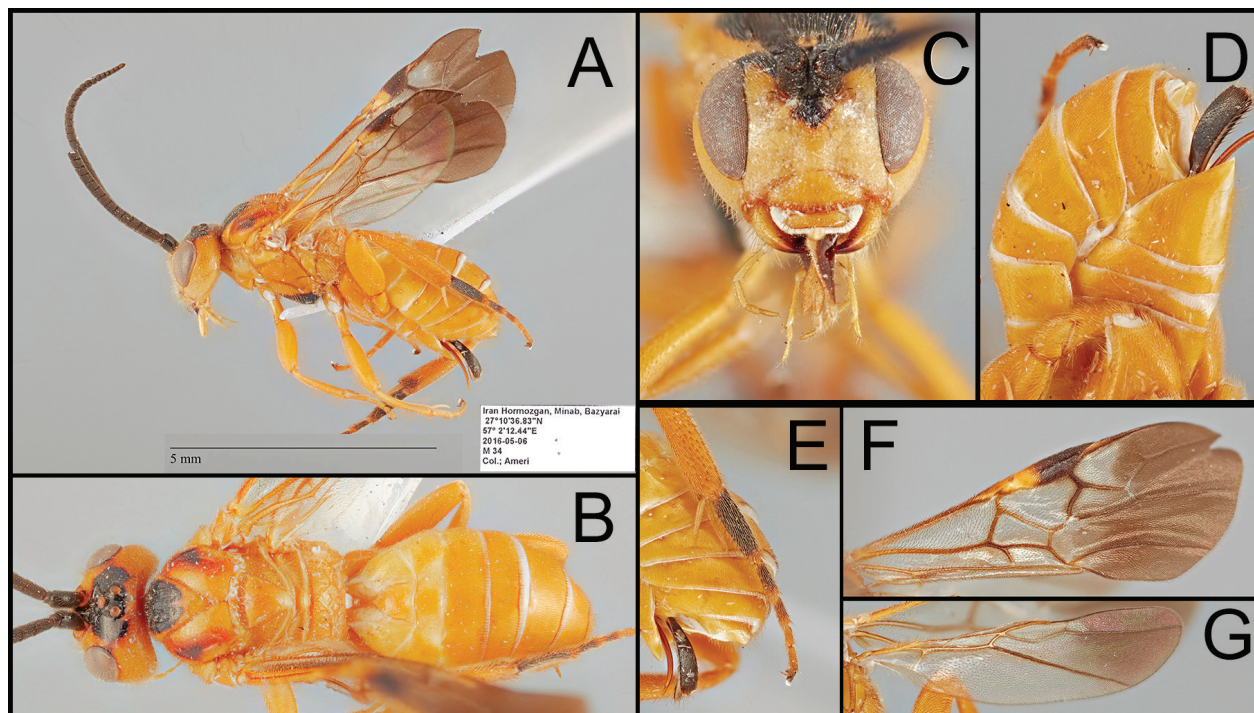


Figure 4. *S. latigena* sp. nov. **A.** Lateral habitus; **B.** Dorsal habitus; **C.** Anterior head and dorsal mesonotum; **D.** Ventro-lateral metanotum; **E.** Hind tarsus; **F.** forewing; **G.** hindwing.

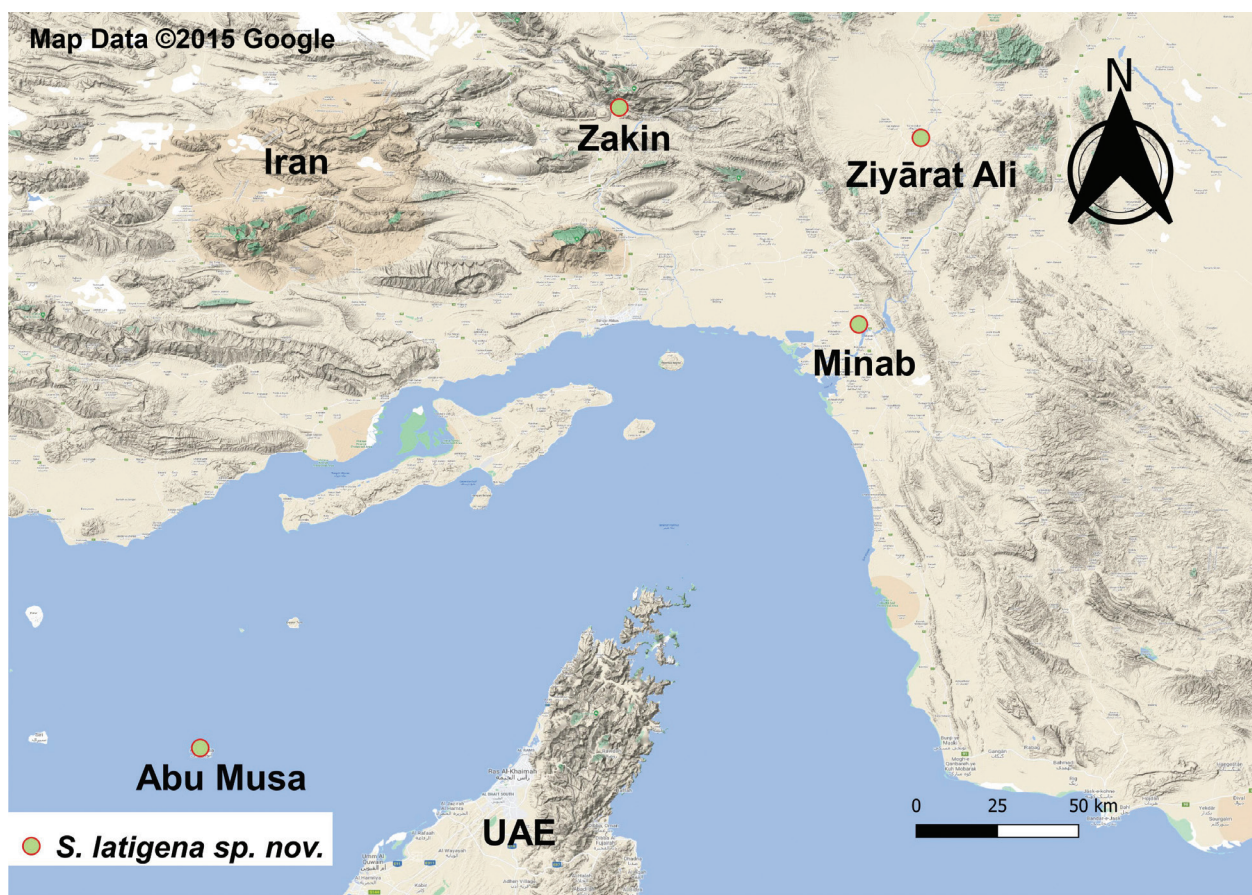


Figure 5. Distribution map of the members of *S. latigena* sp. nov. in Iran.

than combined length of 2nd–4th tarsomeres (54:61). Maximum width of hind femur $\sim 1.65\times$ longer than apical width of hind tibia (51:31); cup-like projection of hind tibia absent; basal spur on hind tibia $\sim 0.74\times$ longer than basitarsus (58:78). Hind basitarsus laterally slightly expanded, but not as expanded as *Hartemita* Cameron, 1910, $\sim 0.90\times$ longer than combined length 2nd–4th tarsomeres (79:88) (Fig. 4E). Claws pectinate with obtuse apical tooth. **Wings.** Forewing wing length: ~ 5.21 mm. Hind wing length: ~ 4.36 mm. Forewing apically infusate; 1r absent; 3r basally spectrally present (3♀) (Fig. 4F) or absent (2♀, 1♂); 3RSb broken basally, angled at basal fourth; second submarginal cell elongated; 1a absent. Hind wing infusate at apical third; r entirely nebulous and pigmented; RS tubular at base, apically nebulous and pigmented; M+CU apparently shorter than 1M; M tubular at base, apically nebulous and pigmented, gradually fading apically; 2–1A present as basal stump. **Metasoma.** T1 $\sim 1.15\times$ longer than its apical width (69:60). T2 entirely smooth, median length $\sim 0.70\times$ longer than median length of T3 (38:54). Fourth and fifth metasomal sterna membranous posteriorly, medially unfolded. Hypopygium medially slightly impressed, acute apically, its surface anteriorly fully sclerotized medio-posteriorly less sclerotized (Fig. 4D), its length as long as its height in lateral view (90:90). Ovipositor sheath slightly downcurved and gradually expanding from base to apex, anteriorly bare, posteriorly densely setose with long setae; length of protruded ovipositor sheath $\sim 0.47\times$ longer than hind tibia (92:196). Ovipositor downcurved.

Male. Same as female except for the following characters: antenna 33-segmented, scutellar sulcus with 8 crenulae, scutellum antero-medially with melanic spot, propleuron ventrally melanic, mesopleuron mostly melanic, hind coxa brown medially.

Color. Body mostly pale; the following areas are melanic: antenna, vertex, frons, apical mandible, galea, median mesonotal lobe mostly, lateral mesonotal lobe anteriorly, ventral mesopleuron, inner hind tibia apically, apical hind tarsus, ovipositor sheath. Wings apically infusate, stigma apically melanic.

Host. Unknown.

Distribution. Members of *Schoenlandella latigena* sp. nov. are known from Bandar Abbas, Minab, and Rudan counties as well as Boo Moosa island, Hormozgan, Iran (Fig. 5).

Etymology. From the Latin, *lati-*, meaning “broad” and *gena*, meaning “cheek”.

Discussion

The taxonomic status of *Schoenlandella* was discussed by Whitfield and Dangerfield (1997), Dangerfield et al. (1999), Mercado and Wharton (2003), Papp (2014), and Kang et al. (in prep.). Kang et al. (in prep.) treated *Schoenlandella* as a valid genus based on morphological data and using the phylogenetic data of Murphy et al. (2008).

In Iran, members of *S. deserta* (Telenga, 1955) have been recorded only from Gulian province located in the north of Iran near the Azerbaijan-Iran border. From the samples collected in Hormozgan by AA, specimens of *S. deserta* were not found even though the species is distributed not only in Iran, but also in other countries. This may be a result of the mountainous nature of the region. The Zagros Mountain range stretches ~1,600 km from the northwest to the south of the country, and the Alborz Mountain range stretches from the northwest to the northeastern of Iran. These two mountain ranges may play an important role in restricting the distribution of *S. deserta* in Iran. Of course, further collecting is needed to confirm their absence.

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Autor(en)/Author(s): Ameri Ali, Sharkey Michael J., Kang Ilgoo

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