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First report of the genus *Phymetoceridea* Rohwer, with a new species from India and a key to Oriental species (Hymenoptera, Symphyta, Tenthredinidae: Blennocampinae)

M. S. Saini and V. Vasu

(With 11 figures)

Abstract

A new record of the genus *Phymetoceridea* Rohwer and the description of *P. indiana* sp. n. from India (Megahalaya: Elephant Falls) is provided. A key to Oriental species of the genus is presented.

Introduction

Genus *Phymetoceridea* was erected by Rohwer (1916) based on type species *P. formosana* collected from Formosa (now Taiwan). Prior to this work only six species were known from the Oriental Region. Of these, four species (*P. pictipes, P. nigripalpis, P. birmana* and *P. javana*) were described by Malaise (1964) and two other, i.e. *P. formosana* and *P. mjobergi* by Rohwer (1916) and Forsius (1927), respectively. *P. indiana* sp. n. from India is being added to this genus now. The species of *Phymetoceridea* are very closely related and difficult to separate, thus we provide a key for Oriental taxa.

The figures pertaining to the ovipositor sheat of different Oriental species of the genus as well as a number of type specimens and collection localities for particular species were taken from the literature and are presented below. Abbreviations used in the text are: AWMT = apical width of metatibia, EL = eye length, IATS = inner apical tibial spur, ICD = intercenchri distance, IDMO = inter-ocular distance at the level of medial ocellus, ITD = inter-tegular distance, LID = lower inter-ocular distance, OATS = outer apical tibial spur, OCL = ocello-occipital line, POL = postocellar line, UCL = oculo-occipital line, UOL = oculo-ocellar line.

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Family Phymetoceridae Rohwer, 1916

Genus *Phymetoceridea* Rohwer, 1916

Type species: *Phymetoceridea formosana* Rohwer (original designation).

Diagnosis: Antenna long, slender; sements 3 and 4 subequal; pedicel cylindrical, much longer than wide; pentagonal area obsolete; basal vein and first recurrent subequal in length and nearly parallel; third obscissa of cubitus much shorter than first and second combined; claw cleft; clypeus deeply emarginate; inner margins of eyes slightly converging below; posterior orbits very narrow, without a carina; posterior basitarsus little shorter than following joints combined; face at antennae not as broad as dorsal-ventral diameter of eye.

Distribution. Taiwan, Sumatra, Java, Burma, India.

Phymetoceridea indiana sp. n.
(Figs. 1 - 6)

FEMALE. Colour: body black, yellowish are: maxillary palpi, tegula, parapterum, metepimeron, all legs except apex of metatibia. Wings hyaline; venation including costa, subcosta and stigma light to dark brown.

Structure: Average length 4 mm. Antenna long, filiform, somewhat compressed, subincressate towards apex, 1.7x head width (Fig. 2); scape and pedical 2x their apical widths; segments 3 and 4 almost equal; clypeus roundly incised up to 1/3 of its medial length (Fig. 4); labrum broader than long as 2:1, with deflexed rounded anterior margin; supraclypeal area rectangularly roundly raised; eyes quite prominent, converging below; LID:IDMO:EL = 2:3:3; malar space linear; supraantennal pit deep and circular; head without postgenal carina; hondorbits not carinated; frontal area slightly above the level of eyes; supraantennal tubercles and frontal ridges insignificant; median fovea only shallowly depressed in its anterior 1/2 and posteriorly only shallowly reaching median ocellus; post- and interocelar furrows indistinct; circumocellar furrow distinct; lateral furrows deep, distinct, diverging posteriorly and abruptly ending just befor hypothetical hind margin of head; postocellar area convex, broader than long as 2:1, head narrowing behind eyes; POL:OCL:UOL:UCL = 4:2:4:1; postorbital area extended; metascutellum convex; appendage not carinated; ICD:ITD = 1:5; tarsal claw (Fig. 5) with a small inner tooth and a distinct basal lobe; metabasitarsus longer than following 3 joints combined as 4:3; IATS: AWMT:OATS = 4:3:4. Lancet (Fig. 1) with 17 serrulae. Ovipositor sheat-see Fig. 3 and 6.

Sculpture and pubescence: Head with distinct, dense, regular punctures, surface between punctures microsculptured, surface subshining; mesonotum finely and deeply punctured, surface shining; mesepisternum, meso-

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sternum, mesoscutellum and appendage impunctate, shining with general oily lustre; abdomen impunctate, shining. Body covered with a mixed blackish and silvery pubescence.

MALE: Not found.

Type material: Holotype (female), India, Meghalaya, Elephant Falls (Shillong), 1450 m, 14.5.1992, coll. M.S. Saini & V. Vasu. Deposited at the Zoologisches Museum Hamburg (ZMH), Reg. No. 3a/1995. Paratypes (four females) with same data as for holotype. One paratype in ZMH (Reg. No. 3b/1995), three housed at the Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa National Collection, Division of Entomology, New Delhi, India.

Population variations: Not observed.

Etymology: Species name pertains to noun in genetive case ot the country, India, in which locality of type falls.

Diagnostic combinations: Though *P. indiana* is closely allied to *P. mjobergi* Forsius, yet a combination of some significant characters such as colour pattern of body, characteristically carved median fovea, absence of post- and inter-ocellar furrows, shape of lateral furrows, etc. take this new species far apart from the latter and all other Oriental species of the genus.

Key to Oriental species of *Phytoceridea* Rohwer

1. First cubital crossvein obsolete (wanting), clypeus roundly emarginate, ovipositor sheath as in Fig. 7 [Face only finely punctured; supraantennal pit smaller than median ocellus; postocellar area subconvex; lateral furrows fine, depressed into minute pits at both ends; palpi, all femora and coxae, broad apex of metatibia, apical 2 tarsal joints of metaleg, trochanters of front four legs black; anterior 1/2 of tegula pale; ♀= 5 mm; Burma, Taunggyi, 1500 m, 2♀] . . . . . *P. pictipes* Malaise, 1964

- Forewing with 4 cubital cells, clypeus almost quatercirculary incised, ovipositor sheat different 2

2. Head with distinct punctures, as large as distance between them; palpi whitish 3

- Head with fine, flared out punctures, smaller than distance between them; palpi pale or black 5

3. Scape, pedicel and epicnemium whitish, ovipositor sheath as in Fig. 8 [Parapterum and all coxae whitish; lateral furrows distinct, sharply sunken, ex-curved and longer than diameter of median ocellus; ♀= 4.5 mm,♂= 3 mm, Taiwan (♀+♂)] . . . . . *P. formosana* Rohwer, 1916

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- Scape, pedicel and epicnemium infuscated (black), ovipositor sheat different 4

4. Tegula, parapterum and all coxae infuscated (black); lateral furrows deeply sunken, pit-like almost of diameter of median ocellus; ♂= 4 mm, Sumatra (Type ♂). . . . . P. *injobergi* Forsius, 1927

- Tegula, parapterum and all coxae yellowish; lateral furrows deep, distinct, diverging backwards, and longer than (about 3x) diameter of median ocellus; ♀= 4 mm, India (5 ♀) . . . . . *P. indiana* sp. n.

5. Palpi black, supraantennal pit rouned and 1x diameter of median ocellus, ovipositor sheath as in Fig. 9 [All coxae black; 3 scape, pedicel, trochanters and base of femora of front four legs, metatarsi and adjoining part of tibia infuscated; lateral furrows distinct, 2x diameter of median ocellus and complete; ♀= 5 mm, Burma, Taunggyi, 1500 m (Type ♀)] . . . . . *P. nigripalpis* Malaise, 1964

- Palpi pale, supraantennal pit forrow-like and crescent shaped in outline and smaller than median ocellus, ovipositor sheat different 6

6. Abdominal segments 2-6 pale fulvous entirely in both sexes; ovipositor sheath as in Fig. 10, ♀= 4.5 mm, Java, Bondowosa (♀+♂) . . . . . *P. javana* Malaise, 1964

- Abdomen infuscated, pale beneath only in male, ovipositor sheath as in Fig. 11, ♀= 4.5 mm, ♂= 4 mm, Burma, Taunggyi, 1500 m, (2 ♀,♂) . . . . . *P. birmana* Malaise, 1964

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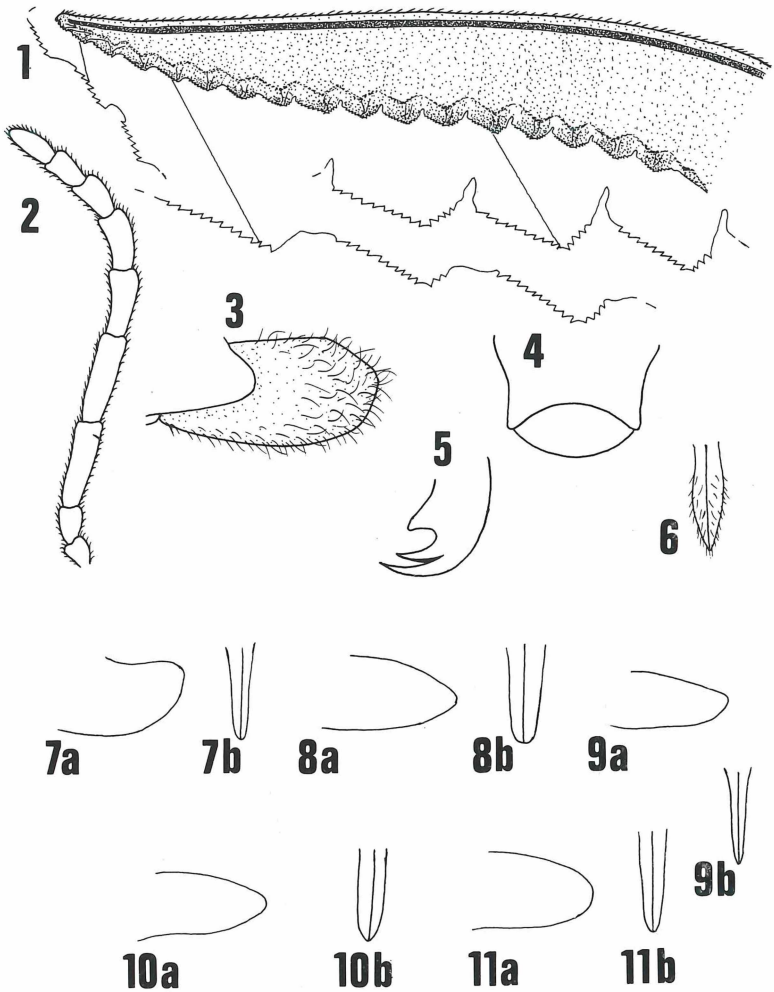

Figs 1-11. *Phymetoceridea indiana* sp. n.: 1 - lancet, 2 - antenna, 3 - ovipositor sheat (lateral view), 4 - clypeus and labrum, 5 - tarsal claw, 6- ovipositor sheat (dorsal view), 7-11 - ovipositor sheat (a = dorsal, b = ventral view) of: 7 - *Phymetoceridea pictipes* Malaise, 8 - *P. formosana* Rohwer, 9 - *P. nigripalpis* Malaise, 10 - *P. javana* Malaise, 11 - *P. birmana* Malaise (Figs 7-11 are taken from literature).

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Authors´ address:

Drs. M. S. Saini and V. Vasu, Department of Zoology, Punjabi University, Patiala-147002, India.

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