

A new genus and a new species of Blennocampinae from India (Hymenoptera, Symphyta: Tenthredinidae)

MALKIAT S. SAINI and VISHVA VASU

(With 5 figures)

Abstract

By adding a new genus to the previously recorded nine genera, a generic key to the subfamily Blennocampinae from India is provided. Described as the new genus is *Diranga*, which is represented by a single species *D. arcuata* sp. n.

Introduction

Literature based fact is that only eight genera of the subfamily Blennocampinae are known from the Indian subcontinent. Two of these are described by Hartig (1837), Konow (1886) and one by Cameron (1876), Enslin (1914), Rohwer (1921) and Malaise (1937). With the first record of the genus *Phymatoceridea* Rohwer by Saini and Vasu (1995) and addition of the new genus described below, the total number of Indian genera stands at ten. However, as pointed out by Dr. D. R. Smith of USNM (personal comm.) and also verified by the present authors, the following three genera viz. *Monophadnus* Hartig, *Blennocampa* Hartig and *Tomostethus* Konow do not seem to be represented within the Indian subcontinent. These were wrongly identified by previous workers. If they finally come out to occur there, the species so far described under these genera are liable to be transferred to some other genera to which they actually belong. However, at the moment it is difficult to say which species belongs to which genus. So, till the final decision is taken in this respect it has been decided to include and key out these genera alongwith other Indian Blennocampinae.

Abbreviations used in the text are: AWMT = apical width of metatibia, EL = eye length, IATS = inner apical tibial spur, ICD = inter cenchri distance, IDMO = interocular distance at the level of median ocellus, ITD = inter tegular distance, LID = lower interocular distance, OATS = outer apical tibial spur, OCL = ocello-occipital line, POL = postocellar line, UCL = oculo-occipital line, UOL = oculo-ocellar line.

Diranga gen. n.

D i a g n o s i s . - A combination of some significant characters such as clypeus deeply incised; antennal segment 3 longer than 4; foretibial spur furcated at apex; claw with a

subapical tooth and a distinct basal lobe; forewing veins *M* and *Rs+M* meeting *Sc+R* at the same point, vein *M* and *1m-cu* parallel, and hindwing with one closed middle cell, keeps this genus apart from the rest of Oriental genera of this subfamily.

A D U L T . - Antenna 9 segmented, long and filiform; scape and pedicel both longer than their apical widths; antennal segment 3 distinctly longer than 4, but subequal to 4 and 5 combined; clypeus deeply and broadly incised with pointed lateral teeth; eyes extremely small with their inner margins subparallel; malar space of distinct length, head without postgenal carina; hind orbits not carinate; head conspicuously widened behind eyes; prepectus absent; foretibial spur furcated at apex; tarsal claw with a subapical tooth smaller than apical one and a distinct basal lobe; forewing with 3rd cubital cell subequal to 1st and 2nd combined, veins *M* and *Rs+M* meeting *Sc+R* at the same point, veins *M* and *1m-cu* parallel, vein *2A+3A* atrophied with straight basal stub; hindwing with one closed middle cell; wings uniformly infumated.

Type species: *Diranga arcuata* sp. n.

E t y m o l o g y: The genus name pertains to the type locality, Dirang (Arunachal Pradesh), and the feminine form is used.

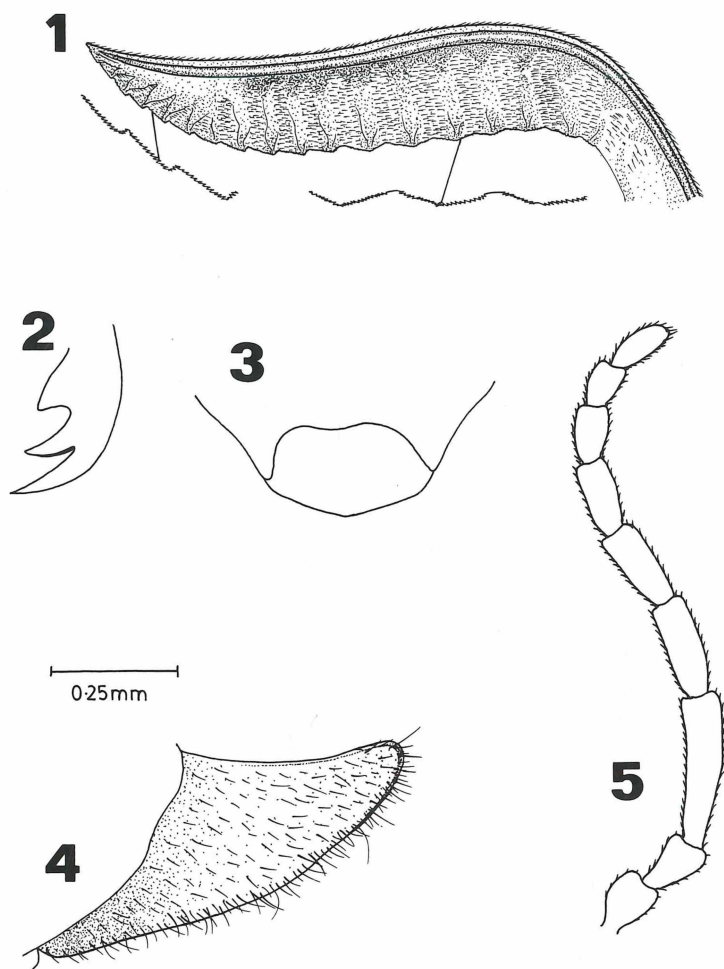
D i s t r i b u t i o n . - India.

Diranga arcuata sp. n.
(Figs 1-5)

D i a g n o s i s . - This species can be easily recognized by a combination of some significant characters such as forewing with vein *M* and *1m-cu* almost parallel; hindwing with one closed middle cell; prepectus absent; clypeus deeply and broadly incised; eyes small; malar space distinct; foretibial spur furcated at apex, and claw cleft with distinct basal lobe.

F E M A L E . - Colour: Body black, auratus are: pronotum; mesonotum; tegula; wing base; anterior half of mesoscutellum; parapterum; upper 1/3 of mesopleuron. Wings uniformly infuscated; venation including costa, subcosta and stigma black.

S t r u c t u r e: Average length 9 mm. Antenna (Fig. 5) long, hairy, stout, 1.8 x head width; scape and pedicel almost equal in length; segment 3 distinctly longer than 4 as 5:3; all flagellar segments almost of equal width except slightly thinner apical one; clypeus (Fig. 3) roundly to subrectangularly incised up to half of its medial length; labrum broader than long as 2:1, with slightly deflexed and rounded anterior margin; supraclypeal area triangularly but feebly raised; eyes with their lower ends below the level of antennal sockets; LID:IDMO:EL = 8:9:6; malar space quite prominent, 0,75 x diameter of median ocellus; frontal area almost at the level of eyes; supraantennal tubercles significant, sloping backwards and confluent with similar frontal ridges; median fovea quite broad and prominent in its anterior 2/3rd, posteriorly it is cut off from median ocellus by a transverse horizontal ridge of magnitude of frontal ridges; postocellar area quite prominent, convex, as long as broad with a longitudinal median carina in its anterior half only; post-, inter- and circumocellar furrows quite distinct; lateral furrows quite distinct, deep, excurved (bulging) and abruptly ending just before hypothetical posterior margin of head; head dilated behind eyes almost to the extent of diameter of median ocellus; POL:OCL:UOL:UCL = 1:1:1:1; mesoscutellum subconvex;



Figs 1-5. *Diranga arcuata* gen. n. et sp. n.: 1 - lancet, 2 - tarsal claw; 3 - clypeus and labrum; 4 - ovipositor sheath; 5 - antenna.

appendage neither grooved nor carinated; ICD:ITD = 2:5; tarsal claw (Fig. 2) with a subapical tooth smaller than the apical one and a distinct basal lobe; metabasitarsus longer than following 3 joints combined as 3:2; metatibial spurs subequal in length; IATS:AWMT:OATS = 5:4:4. Lancet (Fig. 1) with 18 serrulae. Lateral view of ovipositor sheath, Fig. 4.

Sculpture and pubescence: Head with very fine, distinct, uniform punctures, surface shining; mesonotum punctated like head, surface polished; mesopleura impunctated with general oily lustre; mesoscutellum punctated like head except its extreme posterior end where punctures are comparatively dense and deep, surface polished; appendage and metascutellum impunctated with polished surface; abdomen uniformly and faintly cross striated; subshining. Body covered with brownish black pubescence except the auratus parts where it appears to be golden.

MALE. - Unknown.

Type material: Holotype (♀): India, Arunachal Pradesh, Dirang, 1500 m, 19.9.1992, coll. M. S. Saini and V. Vasu. Deposited at the Zoologisches Museum Hamburg (ZMH), Reg. No. ZMH 5-1996. Paratype (♀) with same data as holotype, housed at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa National Collection, Division of Entomology, New Delhi, India.

Etymology: Species name refers to the peculiar shape of the clypeus.

Distribution: - India: Arunachal Pradesh.

Key to the genera of Blennocampinae from India

1. Tarsal claw simple, or bifid 2
 - Tarsal claw comb-like, with 4 or more teeth *Anisoarthra* Cameron, 1876
2. Tarsal claw simple (foretibial spur furcated at the apex)
 - *Tomostethus* Konow, 1886
 - Tarsal claw bifid, with or without basal lobe 3
3. Tarsal claw without basal lobe 4
 - Tarsal claw with basal lobe 7
4. Prepectus absent 5
 - Prepectus present 6
5. Antennal segment 3 slightly shorter than 4; forewing vein 2A+3A curved up or furcated at apex *Corpilus* Malaise, 1937
 - Antennal segment 3 longer than 4, forewing vein 2A+3A straight
 - *Monophadnus* Hartig, 1837
6. Foretibial spur simple; forewing vein 2A+3A curved up and furcated at apex
 - *Eutomostethus* Enslein, 1914
 - Foretibial spur furcated at the apex; forewing vein 2A+3A curved up; apparently not furcated *Amonophadnus* Rohwer, 1921

7. Prepectus distinct 8
 - Prepectus absent or at the most barely visible 9
8. Forewing vein 2A+3A furcated and curved up at apex; claw with a minute rounded basal lobe having a bristle and closely appressed to the base
 *Eutomostethus* Enslin, 1914
 - Forewing vein 2A+3A straight; claw with a distinct basal lobe
 *Phymatoceridea* Rohwer, 1916
9. Forewing vein 2A+3A curved up *Periclista* Konow, 1886
 - Forewing vein 2A+3A straight 10
10. Clypeus truncate; forewing veins *M* and *1m-cu* convergent
 *Blennocampa* Hartig, 1837
 - Clypeus deeply incised; forewing veins *M* and *1m-cu* parallel
 *Diranga* gen. n.

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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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Autor(en)/Author(s): Saini Malkiat S., Vasu Vishva

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