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Contribution to the knowledge of the Palaearctic Meriini (Hymenoptera, Tiphidae, Myzininae)

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Abstract: New taxa belonging to the old genera *Meria* and *Poecilotiphia* from Palaearctic Region are described: *Meria iucunda*, *Meria concinna*, *Meria diplochora*, *Meria elamita*, *Meria oriarcha*, *Meria origena*, *Poecilotiphia aramaica*, *Poecilotiphia hoplomera*, *Poecilotiphia kerena* and *Poecilotiphia turanica*. The synonymy of *Meria thoracica* GUÉRIN 1839 with *Myzine arabica* GUÉRIN 1837 and *Myzine laeta* E. SAUNDERS 1901 with *Meria iucunda* has been established. Lectotypes of *Meria thoracica* GUÉRIN 1839 and *Myzine rugosopunctata* TOURNIER 1895 are designated.

Key words: Tiphidae, Myzininae, *Meria*, *Poecilotiphia*.

Introduction

From the examination of a lot of material from Palaearctic Region preserved at several european museums many new species are described and at the same time some new arrangements and combinations have been performed. The persevering paucity of data and the uncertainty about the sex association due to the sharp sexual dimorphism within the tribe produce a somehow "fluid" taxonomical situation about some taxa, further modified by new additional records and probably still not definitely settled. The Palaearctic Region is here settled as in BONI BARTALUCCI (2004).

Material and methods

Abbreviations

A = height (Altitude)

Ca = head (Caput)

CB = basal cell (Cella Basalis)

CC = costal cell (Cella Costalis)

CD = discoidal cell (Cella Discoidalis)

cHy = hypostomal keel (carina Hypostomae)

CM = marginal cell (Cella Marginalis)

cOc = carina Occipitis (-alis)

CPM = paramarginal cell (Cella Para Marginalis)

CSM = sub marginal cell (Cella Sub Marginalis)

M = Male (Mas)

N₁ = proNotum

N₃ = metaNotum

p. = puncture (-s), punctured

P = Propodeum

Pal = labial palpus (Palpus labialis)

Pam = maxillary palpus (Palpus maxillaris)

PoG = genal bridge (Pons Genarum)

Sc₁ = Scutum

Sc₂ = Scutellum

D = diameter (Diametros)	sP = propdeal spiracle (spiraculum Propodei)
Em = Epimeron	Secu = Sensilla curvata
Es = Episternum	Ssa = subantennal sclerite (Scleritis subantennalis)
F = female (Foemina).	St₃ = metaSternum
FoO = oral cavity (Fossa Oris)	su₃ = metapleural line (sulcus metapleurae)
G = Gena	sul = lateral furrow (sulcus lateralis)
Hy = Hypostoma	T = tergum of metasoma
I = distance (Intervallum)	To = Torulus
L = length (Longitudo)	Tsa = supra antennal loess (Tuberculum supra antennam)
LA = width (LAtitudo)	X = coXa
LaSt₂ = mesosternal lobes (Lamellae mesoSterni)	

Abbreviations about terminology are in bold characters; those referred to wing structures are in italics and those about the wing veins are excluded.

! = Types examined; () = digits between round brackets in the chorological items mean number of specimens; / / = delimit the single label. In the descriptions of labels, italic characters mean handwriting.

The frontal aspect of the head is performed perpendicularly to the virtual plane A indicated by the relative line on the fig. 1; dorsal and lateral aspects, perpendicular to each other, are performed along the virtual plane B on the occipital carina.

The drawings of the volsella and gonostylus show respectively their inner and outer aspect, unless otherwise indicated. Gonostylus here means one of the outermost pair of appendages of male genitalia (with its portions basi- and disti-stylus). Genitalia are settled in a solidified drop of 5,5-dimethyl hidantoin formaldehyd (5,5-DMHF) on a transparent support. Hair, punctuation and light markings have been overlooked in most of the drawings.

Here the specimens used for drawings are listed (apart those directly cited under described taxa).

Meria aurantiaca (GUÉRIN 1837). ♀: /Grecia. Rodi. Paradissi beach. 4.VIII.1990 Boni Bartalucci leg./, MZUF (Fig. 1).

Meria sanguinicollis F. MORAWITZ 1893. ♀: /Djulek Syr darya geb. L. Wollmann/ /sanguinicollis F. MOR. ♀ Wollmann det./, MSNG (Figs 14-18).

Myzine rugosopunctata (TOURNIER 1889). Lectotypus ♂ (here designated in order to ensure the name's proper and consistent use): /Sarept Beck/ /Coll. Tournier/ /TYPE/ /Myzine rugosopunctata ♂ TOURNIER 1895/ (autographic), MHNG! (Fig. 116). Actually *Poecilotiphia rugosopunctata* (TOURNIER 1895).

Poecilotiphia collarinata BONI BARTALUCCI 1997. 1 ♂: paratype /Coll. A. Mochi 15 km NNW Tor 15 may 1993 Egypt Sinai/, MZUF (Fig. 82).

***Meria* ILLIGER 1807**

This is the Old World genus with greatest distribution range. The taxa belonging to Palearctic Region, including these here described for the first time, are the following:

Europe:

M. tripunctata (♀ & ♂), *M. cylindrica* (FABRICIUS 1793) (♀ & ♂), *M. volvulus* (FABRICIUS 1798) (♀ & ♂), *M. dorsalis* (FABRICIUS 1804) (♀ & ♂), *M. nitidula* KLUG 1810 (♀ & ♂), *M. geniculata* (♀ & ♂), *M. aurantiaca* (♀ & ♂), *M. lineata* (♀ & ♂), *M. latifasciata* (PALMA 1869) (♂), *M. anatolica* BONI BARTALUCCI 2004 (♂)..... 10 species

N-Africa:

M. tripunctata (♀ & ♂), *M. cylindrica* (♀ & ♂), *M. volvulus* (♀ & ♂), *M. lineata* (♂), *M. latifasciata* (♂), *M. cephalotes* BONI BARTALUCCI 1997 (♀ & ♂), *M. iucunda* **nov.sp.** (♀ & ♂), *M. concinna* **nov.sp.** (♀ & ♂), *M. diplochora* **nov.sp.** (♀ & ♂)..... 9 species

SW-Asia:

M. aurantiaca (♀ & ♂), *M. arabica* (♀ & ♂), *M. sabae* BONI BARTALUCCI 2001 (♀ & ♂), *M. diplochora* **nov.sp.** (♀ & ♂), *M. elamita* **nov.sp.** (♀ & ♂)..... 5 species

Central Asia:

M. dorsalis (♀ & ♂), *M. nitidula* (♀ & ♂), *M. geniculata* (♀ & ♂), *M. aurantiaca* (♀ & ♂), *M. ashabadensis* (♀ & ♂), *M. caspica* RADOSZKOWSKI 1887 (♀ & ♂), *M. sanguinicollis* MORAWITZ 1890 (♀ & ♂), *M. quadrimaculata* CAMERON 1902 (♀), *M. discussa* GUIGLIA 1966 (♀ & ♂), *M. flava* GORBATOVSKY 1981 (♂), *M. aprica* GORBATOVSKY 1981 (♀ & ♂), *M. morawitzi* GORBATOVSKY 1981 (♀ & ♂), *M. gussakovskiyi* GORBATOVSKY 1981 (♀ & ♂), *M. oriarcha* (♀ & ♂), **nov.sp.**, *M. origena* (♂) **nov.sp.** 15 species

Total number of palaearctic species: 28 species.

Only *M. diplochora* appears to have a border line distribution range with Afrotropical Region, dwelling northern Sahel (besides southern Arabian peninsula). The Palaearctic females show a remarkable uniformity in the punctuation (**p**) and hair compared to *M. tripunctata*.

***Meria arabica* (GUÉRIN 1837)**

Myzine arabica GUÉRIN 1837: 577, n.10, ♂. Lectotypus: /Arabie Olivier/, MHNP!, established by GORBATOVSKY 1981.

Meria thoracica GUÉRIN 1839 Lectotypus ♀ (here designated in order to ensure the name's proper and consistent use): /Museum Paris Arabie Olivier/ /*Tachus. arabic.*/ /*Meria thoracica* Guer. Voy. Coq. et mag. zool. IX/ (autographic?) /Lectotypus *Meria thoracica* Guérin design. Gorbatoovsky 1988/ /*Meria arabica* (Guér.) ♀ Gorbatoovsky det. 1988/, MHNP. Figs 35-37. **Syn. nov.**

Meria arabica - BONI BARTALUCCI (2001: 10-12, figs 35-45, ♂).

Meria arabica - BONI BARTALUCCI (2004: 384-385, fig. 63, ♂ only).

Meria thoracica - BONI BARTALUCCI (2001: 12-15, figs 46-50, ♀ only).

Examined specimens :

♀: Jordan = (1) /Jordanien al Mazraq Dead Sea 16.4.2002 lgt M. Snizer/, OLML. Syria = (1) /Syria cen. Homs palmyra env. 6.6.2000 K. Deneš jun lgt/, MZUF

♂: Jordan = (1) /Jordanien al Mazraq Dead Sea 16.4.2002 lgt M. Snizer/, OLML; (1) /Jordan s Vadi Rum 4.5.1996 leg Marek Halada/, OLML. Iran = (4) /SW Persia Escalera 1900-61/, BMNH; (2) /IRAN Khuzestan Haft tapeh 300 km N di Abadan Rivr fiume Dez 29.VI-1.VII.1965 Giordani Soika-Mavromoustakis", MZUF. Syria = (25) / Syria N ar-Raqqa ar-Rasafa env. 5.6.2000 K. Deneš jun lgt/, (23) OLML, (2) MZUF; (55) /Syria cen. Homs Palmyra env. 6.6.2000 K. Deneš jun lgt/, (48) OLML, (6) MZUF; (1) /Syria cen. Homs al muharram env. 7.6.2000 K. Deneš jun lgt/, OLML

The female specimen at MHNP appears to be unique. Nevertheless GUÉRIN did not specify about number of specimens examined, so me too I deem more advisable to designate it as Lectotype.

Variability: the ♀ specimen from Syria is darker than lectotype, lacking light stains on N₁ disk. The propodeal disk show transversal wrinkles along its sides. The median furrow is well expressed [it is well expressed in the lectotype too, the drawing by BONI BARTALUCCI (2001: fig 46) being a little inexact].

D i s c u s s i o n : Most of the male specimens from Syria show a little darker (black to brown black) basic colour than Lectotype and Persian specimens, nevertheless some of them too have metameri light brown coloured. The yellow colour is somehow variable especially on N_1 disk. The basic body colour of the male specimens from Khuzestan is brown and slightly differ from the lectotype of *M. arabica* in the lateral profile of the N_1 disk in dorsal aspect; four of them also have more haired volsella compared with Syrian specimens.

A lot of specimens, males and females belonging undoubtedly to the same taxon (a couple taken in copula from Egypt), come from Israel to Egypt and Sudan where no typical specimens have been so far found; they have the same main character states as the lectotype of *M. arabica*; nevertheless they show few but stable differences from the lectotypes above quoted. The specimens from Jordan seem to be intermediate among them. Probably we are facing distinct populations, even sub species, from segregated areas by some unknown barriers, but it is still untimely to come to a decision about.

GORBATOVSKY never published the designation of *M. thoracica* lectotype neither the synonymy *M. arabica* = *M. thoracica*. Misinterpretation about the identity of the females of *M. diplochora* (see the relative item) induced me to split *M. arabica* from *M. thoracica* and couple them with females and males which actually instead have to be referred to other taxa. Among the specimens collected in Syria exists the female identical to *M. thoracica* lectotype, seized together with the quoted males identical to *M. arabica* lectotype, a datum which underlines the aforesaid misinterpretation and strengthens the Gorbatsky's intuition "in litteris" about the synonymy *M. arabica* = *M. thoracica*. The females previously ascribed to *M. arabica* (BONI BARTALUCCI 2004: 384-385) on the unique ground of identical labels with the males here quoted from SW Persia have to be removed because of the discovery of hitherto undescribed males (see *M. elamita*) at BMNH having the same labels with all of them. It appears more natural to perform new arrangements, deeming the combinations here proposed more reliable than previous ones. Nevertheless it would be very unwary to consider them conclusive and unalterable.

***Meria iucunda* nov.sp.**

Holotypus ♂ - Algeria = /30.IV.95 ♂/ (rounded label) /Type/(rounded, red outer ring) /Syntype/(rounded, blue outer ring) /*laeta ES*/ (original, autographic) /E. Saunders Coll. 1910-266/ /B.M. TYPE HYM 15.1508/, BMNH!

Paratypi ♀ - Algeria = (1) /Biskra 19.VI.97 ♀/(rounded label) /E. Saunders Coll. 1910-266/ /*Myzine laeta Sand* ♀ det MC Day 1978/ /Lectotypus *Myzine laeta E. Saund* 1901 Gorbatsky 1978/ /*Meria laeta (E. Saund)* Gorbatsky det 1978/, BMNH !; (1) /BISKRA 28 km S 30.V.80/, MZUF !; Tunisia = (1) /Zarzis (Tunisie) le 24.8.69/ MZUF.

Paratypi ♂ - (1) / Biskra 324.V.97/(rounded label) /E. Saunders Coll. 1910-266/, BMNH; (2) /Algerie Biskra 26.V.1948 J. de Beaumont/ / /*M. latifasciata f. laeta Saund*. det. Dott. D. Guiglia/, MZL; (4) /Africa sept.: Algeria BISKRA 24-25.V.1971/ /LI fgc 92-93 ex Coll. Z. Padr/ OLML; (2) /Africa sept.: Algeria BISKRA 29-30.V.1971/ /LI fgc 92-93 ex Coll. Z. Padr/ OLML; (7) /Africa sept.: Algeria BISKRA 7-8.VI.1971/ /LI fgc 92-93 ex Coll. Z. Padr/ (6) OLML, (1) MZUF. Egypt = (2) /Egypt maragi 14.VIII.1935 J. Omer Cooper/ /Armstrong college expedition BM 1935-354/ (one specimen labelled: *Meria martini* Vachal Gorbatsky det.), BMNH. Morocco = (1) /Maroc Boumalne (Ksar es SK a Ouarzazate) 7.VI.1947 J. de Beaumont/ /*M. latifasciata f. laeta Saund*. det. Dott. D. Guiglia/, MZL. Tunisia = (1) /Tunisia Tozeur (steppe) 30.V.1973 M.C. & G. Kruseman/ /*Meria latifasciata* Palma det. R. Hensen 1986/, ZMA; (1) /S. Tunisia nr Saidane Kebili area 1.VIII.1978/ /KM Guichard, GR & AC Else BM 1978-574/ /*Meria martini* Gorbatsky det 1987/, BMNH; (1) /S. Tunisia Tozeur 2.VIII.1978/KM Guichard, GR & AC Else BM 1978-574/ /*Meria martini* Gorbatsky det 1987/, BMNH; (1) /TUNISIA Tatauine 11.4.2001 leg. M. Halada/, OLML.

Morocco = (2) /MOROCCO 10 km E. Guelmin 5.5.1995 M. Halada leg/, OLML.

Meria martini VACHAL 1899: 538-539, ♂ only.

Myzine laeta E. SAUNDERS 1901: 532-533 **syn.nov.**

Meria latifasciata laeta - GUIGLIA 1960: 70.

Meria latifasciata laeta - GUIGLIA 1961: 28.

Meria martini - GUIGLIA 1963a: 7.

Meria latifasciata m. martini - GUIGLIA 1965: 113.

Meria laeta - GORBATOVSKY 1981: 386.

Female. Figs 2-3. (Specimen from Tunisia compared to the Lectotype).

Male. Figs 4-8. Holotype.

D i s c u s s i o n : E. SAUNDERS in the original paper described the male in the first place. GORBATOVSKY (1981) instead designated the unique female as lectotype, overmissing the other specimens, and put it under the name *Meria martini* VACHAL, actually junior synonym of *Parameria femorata* GUÉRIN 1837 (BONI BARTALUCCI 1994) and therefore unavailable name. Moreover he published his designation as "*Meria laeta* E. SAUNDERS 1901" while the original name was "*Myzine laeta*". The last name was preoccupied by *Myzine laeta* BINGHAM 1897, which actually belongs to the genus *Mesa* SAUSSURE 1892, whose it is junior homonym and therefore undisposable. Saunders recorded 8 males and 8 females, all of them from Biskra and referred about the ferruginous colour of the basal metameri of all the males but one. At BMNH actually the above recorded specimens exist only. GUIGLIA (1960, 1961) named specimens from Northern Africa with ferruginous colour *Meria latifasciata laeta*, then (1963) she discovered the identity of the SAUNDER's taxon with the typical male of *Meria martini* and from then onward (1965, 1968) she named the specimens here we are dealing with like *Meria latifasciata* morpha *M. martini* Vachal". In a previous paper (BONI BARTALUCCI 2001) these specimens were included under the name *M. latifasciata* PALMA 1869.

Two regular and stable differences (deemed of primary weight in Meriini since the relative character states show no variability within the same species also in specimens coming from relatively remote areas) have been found between these red coloured specimens of *M. laeta* and the typical specimens of *M. latifasciata* present in Algeria and Morocco too: relative thickness (1/2 the elements in *M. latifasciata*, about 4/5 in *M. laeta*) of the longitudinal stripe of **Secu** on the flagellomeres and the shape of the pronotum both in dorsal and lateral aspect. Other two different character states, a bit less reliable inasmuch as more hardly settled than the formers, are the more globular 1st tergum and the more dense and silvery hair on the head and mesosoma. Moreover no females of *M. laeta* have never been found so far in Sicily and Southern Italy (where in truth the female too of *M. latifasciata* is unknown). They are sympatric and synchronic in Northern Africa and no specimens with intermediate character states between them have been hitherto found. Waiting for data and discoveries which contradict the present action, we prefer to split specimens here recorded from the synonymy with *M. latifasciata*.

The males belong to the group with completely smooth, pitless and hairless fore surface of mid femurs; they are also well featured from the other palaearctic taxa by the completely smooth **Em**₃ and anteroventral lateral **P**, with very fine and simple suture **su**₃. The females look like females of *M. arabica* and *M. diplochora*, but greatly differ in the more transversal head in frontal aspect (Ratio LA/A_m, in frontal aspect is 1.27 in front of

1.13 to 1.17 for other species), more shortened and regularly rounded **P** in dorsal aspect and the pterostigma with very small fenestra (larger about the latters).

D i s t r i b u t i o n : The whole of Northern Africa from Morocco to Egypt.

E c o l o g y : The unique data are by Saunders about the visited flowers: *Ziziphus lotus* and *Ammi visnaga*.

D e r i v a t i o n o m i n i s : From the latin iucundus = pleasant.

***Meria concinna* nov.sp.**

Holotypus ♀ - Algeria = /Biskra 28 km S 30.V.80/, MZUF!

Paratypus ♂ - Algeria = /Biskra 28 km S 30.V.80/, MZUF!

Paratypus ♀ - Morocco = (2) /Morocco 10 km E. Guelmin 5.5.1995 M. Halada leg./, OLML.

Female (Holotype). Figs 9-13. Measurements - body length: 11 mm.

Black, brown, ferruginous, creamy white.

Brown: mandibles; most of clypeus; scape and flagellum; tegulae; **LaSt₂**; veins of the wings; legs with **X₁** darker and tarsi lighter; shadows on vertex and propleurae; all the mesosoma with 2nd to 6th sterna lighter than remainder.

Ferruginous: The whole of **N₁** but apical posteroventral corner; **Sc₁** and **Sc₂** but narrow apical stripe which is brown.

Creamy white: two large lateral spots on 2nd and 3rd terga.

Brownish hair on the head and pronotum, whitish on the remainder of the body. Punctuation follows the standard within the genus. Remarkable wrinkles on the sides of the propodeal disk.

V a r i a b i l i t y : No noteworthy differences with holotype.

Male (Paratype). Figs 19-27. Measurements- body length: 12.5 mm.

Black, brown, yellow.

Brown: tip of mandibles, veins (pterostigma is light brown); lateroterga are semitransparent light brown.

Yellow: most of clypeus and mandibles; tip of **Tsa**; two lateral stripes along foreborder and one preapical of **N₁** disk; large spot on **Es₂**; and **Lst₂**; most of tegulae; tip and ventral femurs; most of tibiae and tarsi; apical stripe (2/5 their height, with an entire fore edge and widening at the sides) on 1st to 6th terga; lateral spots on 7th terga; apical stripe with indented edge on 2nd to 6th sterna.

Punctuation on the head and mesosoma mostly as the same as in *M. tripunctata*; propodeal disk regularly sculptured but in the middle with a small smooth shining area just beyond **sP**; **Em₃** and anteroventral lateral **P** regularly and densely wrinkled. Punctuation of metasoma very weak and sparse like in *M. latifasciata*. Hair covering underlying integument only on the **Tsa** and lateral propodeal disk.

Deep notch between **Tsa**. Thickness of the **Secu** stripe only about 1/3 the flagellomeri. Lamella along fore border of **N₁** disk well evident medially but scarcely produced laterally. Fore (outer) surface of the mid femurs completely devoid of **p** and hair.

D i s c u s s i o n : The females looks very like *M. sanguinicollis* in general habitus and coloration. It can be known from the latter by the red **Sc₂**, more transversal head in frontal aspect (Ratio **LA/A** = 1.17 vs 1.14), larger **N₁** disk (Ratio **LA/A_m** = 2 vs 1.5), wrinkle

les along lateral borders of propodeal disk, larger fenestra of pterostigma, different venation of the forewing with larger 1st **CSM** and shorter 2nd **CD**, different line of the gradulus on 2nd tergum, no microreticulation on 6th tergum.

The male looks very like to *M. tripunctata*, its genitalia too, from which differs because of the deeper notch between **Tsa**, more transversal 1st, 2nd, 3rd metameri, cuspis of the volsella not produced upward in lateral aspect and above all in having smooth, hairless fore surface of the median femur; *M. tripunctata* belongs to the group of palaearctic species having that regularly pitted and haired. From *M. latifasaciata* / *M. laeta* it differs greatly in the shape of the head, thickness of the **Secu** stripe, pronotum, wrinkled **Em**₃ and genitalia; from *M. volvulus* because of more slender flagellum and metasoma, shape of the head and pronotum, genitalia; from *M. cylindrica* in the shape of the head, width of the **Secu** stripe, pronotum, epipygium, genitalia and foresurface of the midfemur; from the supposed male of *M. cephalotes* in the shape of the head, pronotum, basal metameri and genitalia.

Distribution: NW Africa.

Ecology: Unknown.

Derivatio nominis: From the latin "concinus" = graceful.

***Meria diplochora* nov.sp.**

Holotypus ♀ - Mali = /N. MALI 350 m *Tilemsi* 20.X-2.XI.81 G. Popov/ /*Meria arabica* (GUÉR) Gorbatsky det/, BMNH!

Paratype ♀: Mali = (4) /N. MALI 350 m *Tilemsi* 20.X-2.XI.81 G. Popov/, BMNH. Arabia = (2) /S. Arabia Abu Arish 24.3.80 KMG/, BMNH. Oman = (1) /Oman J. Nuwarrah 24.3.2000 leg. Gillet/, MZUF.

Paratype ♂: Mali = (4) /N. MALI 350 m *Tilemsi* 20.X-2.XI.81 G. Popov/, BMNH. Arabia = (2) /S. Arabia Abu Arish 24.3.80 KMG/, BMNH. Oman = (5) /Oman J. Nuwarrah 24.3.2000 leg. Gillet/, (4) OLML, (1) MZUF.

Female (Holotype) Figs 28-34. Measurements (mm): body length = 8.5.

Black, brown, ferruginous, pale yellow.

Brown and transparent brown: clypeus; mandibles; flagellum; postscutellar area of **N**₃; **Lst**₂; **St**₃; areas on lateral **P**; most of **X**₁ and **X**₂; shadows on 6th tergum and 4th to 6th sterna. Light brown: most of the legs; **Tsa**; scape; veins of the wings. Semitransparent yellowish: tegulae; large apical stripe of **N**₁ disk. Bright ferruginous: **N**₁ disk but apical stripe; the whole of metasoma. Pale yellow: two lateral spots on the anterior corner and two smaller ones at posterior upper corner of **N**₁ disk; two large spots, becoming smaller from 2nd to 5th terga. Forewing light yellow, hind wing colorless. Yellowish hair. Punctuation like in *M. tripunctata*; only on **Lst**₂ and near it the **p**. is more dense than it happens in *M. thoracica* type too, where there are large smooth areas. Evident wrinkles on lateral propodeal disk.

Discussion: In a previous paper (BONI BARTALUCCI 2001) the female and male specimens here quoted were ascribed to *Meria thoracica* GUÉRIN 1839 since the females were considered identic to the lectotype of the GUÉRIN's taxon. Their more careful examination revealed that it was a wrong conclusion. First of all the description of the 1st tergum was incorrectly referred to the lectotype of *M. thoracica*, which has not any darker area on 1st tergum, instead of to females here quoted. The shape of the head of the females here described is definitively different from *M. thoracica*'s lectotype; the ratio

LA/A in frontal aspect is about 1,12 (while in *M. thoracica* is about 1.16, fig. 35). The basal **Pam** is isometric to all the others (about 1.2/1.5 times in *M. thoracica*, fig. 35). **N₁** disk is different too, having less rounded sides and less straight apical border. Notauli and parapsidal lines on **Sc₁** are diverging outwards (parallel to the main axis of the body in *M. thoracica*). The "fenestra" of pterostigma is very small and strongly angled with fore edge of the wing (in *M. thoracica* the fenestra is greater and subparallel to it, fig. 37). At last *M. diplochora* females lack the couple of white spots on 1st tergum, present in *M. thoracica*.

Variability: One specimen from Mali and specimen from Oman lack yellow stains on **N₁** disk, another one has additional light brown dorsal mesosoma (propodeal disk included). Specimens from Arabia lack yellow stains on **N₁** disk and 5th tergum.

Male. There are very few doubts about the conspecificity of the specimens here quoted; their relative description under *M. thoracica* (BONI BARTALUCCI 2001: 14-16, figs 51-62) should be referred here.

Variability: The male specimens from Mali have more extended yellow parts than those from Arabian peninsula. One specimen show yellow spots on basal flagellomeres too, besides yellow anterior genae between **FoO** and eyes, a stripe on vertex along **cOc**, most of **Es₂**, posterior and lateral **P**, two spots on **Sc₁**, most of **Sc₂** and postscutellar area.

All the males show ferruginous colour on the four basal metameri. Specimens from Oman show small brown stains on the sides just before the yellow stripe of basal terga.

Distribution: Sahel to Southern Arabian peninsula.

Ecology: Unknown.

Derivatio nominis: From the Greek διπλός = double and χώρας = region, because inhabiting two continents.

***Meria elamita* nov.sp.**

Holotypus ♂ - Persia (Iran) = /SW Persia Escalera 1900-61/ /*K. Sepid*/, BMNH!

Paratypi ♂ - Persia (Iran) = (3) /SW Persia Escalera 1900-61/ /*K. Sepid*/, BMNH.

Paratypi ♀ - Persia (Iran) = (3) /SW Persia Escalera 1900-61/ /*K. Sepid*/, BMNH; (1) /SW Persia Escalera 1900-61/ /*K. Sepid*/ /*Meria caspica* RAD. Gorbatovsky det. 1978/, BMNH.

Male: Holotype. Figs 38-43. Measurements (mm): body length = 13 mm; fore wing length = 7.5.

Black, brown and yellow.

Brown: Ventral edge of the clypeus, apex of mandibles, most of the scape, flagellum, veins, legs but yellow stains, lateroterga.

Yellow: most of clypeal disk, tips of **Tsa**, base of mandibles, frontal side of the scape, two large lateral spots along foreborder and one large subapical on **N₁** disk, a spot on **Es₂**, most of **Last₂**, ventral **X**, apical and ventral femurs, all the tibiae and tarsi, apical stripe on 1st to 6th terga and 2nd to 6th sterna, two lateral spots on 7th tergum.

Shallow notch between **Tsa**. **PoG** very well produced, much more than standard of the genus. **Secu** stripe as wide as flagellum.

Well impressed **p**. with interspaces less than their diameter on most of the head and mesosoma, settled in rough rows on **Sc₁** and **Es₂**; densely packed small **p**. on postscutellar

area; rough strong wrinkles on **Em**₃; very dense rough **p.** on propodeum; sparse weak pits on terga; large sparse **p.** on 1st sternum, weaker on basal half remaining sterna; smooth apical half sterna.

Hair whitish and short, longer on **P**, never hiding underlying integument.

Distribution: The typical locality.

Ecology: Unknown.

Derivation nominis: From the ancient kingdom of Elam, the present-day Khuzestan.

Discussion: It belongs to the group of palaearctic males with completely hairless and smooth fore (outer) surface of mid femur. It is well known species by the following combination of character states: transversal head (ratio **LA/A** = 1.15) with an almost straight vertex in frontal aspect; **PoG** only slightly swollen and well expressed (The ratio **L_{FoO}/L_{PoG}** is only about 1/3; length of **FoO** measured from hypostomal basis to clypeus); **N**₁ disk strongly transversal (Ratio **LA/A_m** ~ 2,8) with a short laminated keel along its border; genitalia with stout apex of gonostylus and rather big digitus of the volsella.

The female has been described under *M. arabica* (BONI BARTALUCCI 2004: 384-385, figs 57-62). It is featured by transversal head (ratio **LA/A** = 1.23), the largely sculptured propodeal disk with strongly impressed median furrow, the ferruginous-brown (vinous) colour of the head and mesosoma.

***Meria oriarcha* nov.sp.**

Holotypus ♂ - Kirghizistan = /Kirg. – Ferghan, Mt R., Abash-Too Mts, Alash forest Coll. Gurmo 08-00/. OLML!

Paratypi ♂ - Kazakistan = (1) /Степъ М.С. Ди Т./ /C.^{nc} de Saussure/, MHNG. Kirghizistan = (1) /Шагимарданъ/ /C.^{nc} de Saussure/, MHNG. (1) /Kyr Kirghiz Mts Ala Archa riv. VI.1997 Coll V. Gurko/, OLML; (2) /Kir-fergansky Mt.R VI-2000 E-Urumbash riv. Cll. V. Gurko/, OLML (1), MZUF (1); (1) /Kyrgyzstan, Alai mt.R foothills near Kurshae 11.07.2000 Coll. I.V. Makogonova/, OLML; (3) Kirghizsky Mt. R. Ala Archa riv. Valley 17.08.2000 1650 m Coll.V. Gurko/, OLML; (1) /Kirgh-Ferghan Mt. R. Alash too Mts Alash forest Coll. Gurko 08/00/, OLML; (31) /Kirghizia Tshatkal Mt. R Shikaftar Coll. Gurko 07-01/, OLML (26), MZUF (5).

Paratypi ♀ - Kazakistan = (1) /Kazakhstan mer Kaptzgai 100 km N Alma Ata 18.6.1995 M. Mucka/, OLML. Kirghizistan = (2) /Kirgyz. Kirg. Mt. Ala Archa river Kashashi VI.1999 Coll. V. Gurko/, OLML (1); MZUF (1); (1) /Kir-fergansky Mt.R VI-2000 E-Urumbash riv. Cll. V. Gurko/, OLML (1); (1) /Kirgh-Ferghan Mt. R. Alash too Mts Alash forest Coll. Gurko 08/00/, MZUF; /Kirghizia Tshatkal Mt. R Shikaftar Coll. Gurko 07-01/, MZUF.

Male. Holotype. Figs 44-52. Measurements (mm): body length = 15.

Black, brown, pale yellow.

Brown: legs but forecoxae, areas on **LaSt**₂, tip of mandible, ventral edge of clypeus, base of hypostoma, veins, lateroterga, epipygial lobes, anal hook (8th sternum); scape and flagellum are darker brown.

Pale yellow: Most of mandible, four small spots on the clypeal disk, a subapical stripe on **N**₁ disk, one small spot on **es**₂, most of tegulae and humeral plates, small spots on mid and hind coxae, apical and ventral mid and hind femurs, apical half hindfemur, most of tibiae, tarsi, apical stripes (a little less than half the height of the elements) with sub-straight foreprofile on 1st to 6th terga, narrower with irregular foreprofile apical stripes on 2nd to 6th sterna and 7th tergum.

Base of hypostoma and **PoG** swollen and getting **cOc**, which is unbroken. Stripe of **Secu** a little less than 1/3 thickness of the flagellum. Propleurae with a low but distinct broadly based subconical process. Foreborder of the **N₁** disk keeled but without prominent lamella. **Em₃** horizontally wrinkled. Anteroventral lateral **P** smooth and shining. **P** rounded, with hardly detectable distinction between horizontal and declivitous areas. Forewing slightly darkened, hindwing hyaline. Fore surface of mid femur completely smooth and hairless. **sul** present only on 1st to 5th tergum. Gradulus present on 2nd to 7th tergum. Lobes of epipygium (7th tergum) longitudinally grooved.

Hair and **p.** like in *M. tripunctata*.

V a r i a b i l i t y : Most of paratypes range in length from 10 to 14 mm; two of them reach 16mm, one is only 8 mm. In some specimens **P** is dark brown.

Female. Paratype. Figs 53-55. Measurements (mm): body length = 8.5.

Black, brown, ferruginous and white.

Brown: **Tsa**, antennae, clypeus, shadows on **N₁** disk, **Last₂**, legs and most of metasoma; semitransparent are hypostoma, mandible, tegulae, apical edge of **N₁**, veins and pterostigma, tarsi, apical 6th tergum.

White: two lateral spots on 2nd and 3rd terga and two very small on 4th one.

Wings darkened. The **p.** on **T** are sparse and roughly impressed.

Very poor variability has been detected about size.

D e r i v a t i o n o m i n i s : From the Greek ορειάρχης =king (queen) of the mountains.

D i s t r i b u t i o n : North Eastern areas of the Turanic Region.

D i s c u s s i o n : The males has the general habitus of *M. flava* from which it is well distinct for the darker coloration, different clypeal ventral border, narrower **Secu** stripe, strongly different **N₁** in dorsal and lateral aspect (lacking too the strong lamellar keel of the latter), slightly different epipygium where the lobes are diverging apically instead of parallel, different volsella and aedeagus.

The females differs from the other females of the genus in the peculiar ventral border of the clypeal disk and more roughly impressed **p.** on **T**. From *M. sanguinicollis* and *M. askhabadensis* they are also severed by the smaller size, different head shape, black **Sc₁**, very shallow and short median furrow on propodeal disk; from the latter also in the black colour of the head and mesosoma and smaller white spots on **T**.

***Meria origena* nov.sp.**

Holotypus ♂ - Kirghizistan = /Kirgizie Tash-Arik 11 km E Talas 4.7.1992 leg. M. Halada/, OLML.

Paratypi ♂ - Kazakistan = (1) /Карацк. стель/ /C.^{ne} de Saussure/, MHNG; (1) /Куеилкумъ/ /C.^{ne} de Saussure/, MHNG; Kirghizistan = (9) /Kirgizie Tash-Arik 11 km E Talas 4.7.1992 leg. M. Halada/, (7) OLML, (2) MZUF; (1) /Kirgizie Talai-burg 90 km E Talas 5.7.1992 leg. M. Halada/, OLML.

Male. Holotype. Figs 56-64. Measurements (mm): body length = 11.5.

Black, brown, pale yellow.

Brown: legs but **X₁** and lighter portions; mandibles are light brown; hypostomal basis, veins, **sul** and ventral esdge of 7th **T** are semitransparent brown.

Pale yellow: large subapical stripe and two very small spots along the keel on **N**₁ disk, most of tegulae, apical femurs, upper tibiae, all the tarsi; large (more than 1/3 the height of the element) apical stripe with straight foreprofile and enlarging at the sides on 2nd to 6th **T**, narrower with irregular foreprofile apical stripe on 1st, 6th **T** and 2nd to 6th sterna.

Secu stripe very narrow, about 1/8 the thickness of the elements; shallow notch between **Tsa** in dorsal aspect; clypeus with a very wide mid ventral projection which lacks mid ventral semitransparent border; **N**₁ disk strongly narrowing forwards, forming a sort of large collar, all its fore border with laminated keel and no prominent ventral tooth; post-scutellar area well prominent about the propodeal surface; **Em**₂ distinct and completely wrinkled; **Em**₃ smooth and shining like the anteroventral lateral **P**; propodeal disk rounded without distinct horizontal and declivitous areas. No gradulus at the base of 7th tergum.

p. denser on the lower frons; very sparse **p.** on vertex, genae, **N**₁ disk and basal half of **T** which have smooth apical half; more impressed sparse **p.** on 2nd to 6th sterna, denser throughout on 1st sternum; detectable microreticulation on basal half sterna; the remainder is like in *M. tripunctata*.

V a r i a b i l i t y : The specimen at MHNG has a brown basic colour of the body; some specimens are lacking for the small spots on anterior **N**₁ disk.

Female. Unknown.

D i s t r i b u t i o n : North Eastern areas of the Turanic Region.

D e r i v a t i o n o m i n i s : From the Greek ορειγενής = born on mountains.

D i s c u s s i o n : It shows the following good autapomorphies distinguishing it from the other taxa of the genus: the wide mid ventral projection of clypeal disk, the **N**₁ disk narrowing in a sort of large collar, the large digitus of volsella and the absence of gradulus on 7th tergum; the last one is hitherto not found elsewhere within the genus, while it is the standard in *Poecilotiphia*. The very narrow **Secu** stripe exists elsewhere only about *M. lineata* and *M. cylindrica*. Its general habitus looks like *M. dorsalis* but it differs from it also in the shape of the metasomal yellow stripes.

***Poecilotiphia* CAMERON 1902**

Restricted to South Western Palaearctic area the genus intrudes in the Afrotropical Region at Cabo Verde Islands, Senegal, Northern Sahel, Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia where it almost gets Equator (*kristenseni* specimens from Brava, south of Mogadiscio). Here the hitherto recorded species (new taxa are included):

S. Europe: *P. rousseli* (GUÉRIN 1838) (♀ & ♂), *P. oraniensis* LUCAS 1849 (♂), *P. parvula* (F. SMITH 1855) (♀ & ♂), *P. lacteipennis* (E. SAUNDERS 1901) (♀ & ♂).....4 species

N. Africa: *P. aegyptiaca* (GUÉRIN 1837) (♀ & ♂), *P. nigripes* (GUÉRIN 1837) (♀ & ♂), *P. gracilis* (BRULLÉ 1833) (♀ & ♂), *P. rousseli* (♀ & ♂), *P. ruficornis* (LUCAS 1846) (♀), *P. oraniensis* (LUCAS 1849) (♂), *P. lacteipennis* (♀ & ♂), *P. fasciculata* (E. SAUNDERS 1901) (♂), *P. dakarensis* (BUYSSON 1910) (♀ & ♂), *P. diffinis* (TURNER 1908) (♂), *P. mogadorensis* (TURNER 1911) (♀ & ♂), *P. kristenseni* (TURNER 1913) (♂), *P. endecamera* (MENOZZI 1940) (♀), *P. contrastata* (GUIGLIA 1963) (♂), *P. guichardi* (GUIGLIA 1967) (♂), *P. scortecii* (GUIGLIA 1968) (♂), *P. collarinata* BONI BARTALUCCI 1997 (♂), *P. oasicola* BONI BARTALUCCI 2001 (♂), *P. sahelica* BONI BARTALUCCI 2001 (♂), *P. ruvida* BONI BARTALUCCI 2004 (♂), *P. trichogastra* BONI BARTALUCCI 2004 (♂), *P. hoplomera* **nov.sp.** (♂), *P. kerena* **nov.sp.** (♂) 23 species

SW Asia: *P. aegyptiaca* (GUÉRIN 1837) (♀ & ♂), *P. nigripes* (GUÉRIN 1837) (♀ & ♂), *P. lacteipennis* (♀ & ♂), *P. contrastata* (GUIGLIA 1963) (♂), *P. pseudofasciculata* (GUIGLIA 1963) (♂), *P. scortecii* (♂), *P. triapitzini* GORBATOVSKY 1979 (♂), *P. collarinata* (♂), *P. oasicola* (♂), *P. excavata* BONI BARTALUCCI 2001 (♂), *P. dhofarensis* BONI BARTALUCCI 2004 (♂), *P. aramaica* **nov.sp.** (♀ & ♂) 12 species

Central Asia: *P. nigra* (RADOSZKOWSKI 1887) (♂), *P. rugosopunctata* (TOURNIER 1889) (♂), *P. brevicauda* (MORAWITZ 1890) (♂), *P. ciliata* (MORAWITZ 1894) (♀ & ♂), *albomaculata* (CAMERON 1902) (♂), *P. subpetiolata* (CAMERON 1907) (♂), *P. himalaiana* (Masi 1933) (♀), *P. contrastata* (♂), *P. mollis* GORBATOVSKY 1979 (♀), *P. lugubris* GORBATOVSKY 1979 (♀), *P. massageta* GORBATOVSKY 1979 (♂), *P. sogdiana* GORBATOVSKY 1979 (♂), *P. turanica* **nov.sp.** (♂) 13 species

Total number of palaearctic taxa: 41 species.

***Poecilotiphia parvula* (F. SMITH 1855)**

Meria parvula F. SMITH Lectotypus ♂: Albania = /Albania/ (rounded) /parvula Sm Type/ /Type/ (rounded wit red outer ring) //B.M. type Hym 151505/ /Lectotypus Myzine parvula F. Smith 1855 Gorbatoovsky des 1979/ /Dermasoths parvulus F. Smith Gorbatoovsky det 1979/, BMNH!

Examined specimens:

♀: Greece = (1) /Faliraki beach, Rhodes 22.VIII.1979/ /*Meria parvula* det. M.C. Day 1976/, BMNH; (1) /Rhodes, Ixia s.l. 26.VI.1981 K. Guichard/, BMNH.

♂ Azerbaijan = (2) /Азербайджан Апперонский п-в окр. Мардакяни 17.8.86 Горбатовский В./ /dono Gorbatoovsky 1988/, MSNG; (1) /Азербайджан лерчк палакеран X. Алчб. 6.VII.1985/ /dono Gorbatoovsky 1988/, MSNG. Greece = (4) /Graecia 1896 Steind. Don/, MHNW; (1) /Kruiper 1869 Graec/, MHNW; (1) /Lithochoron 7.VIII.1965/ /Hellas Makedonia Blommers e a./, ZMA; (3) /Hellas Mykonos North bay 10.8.73 Wim Klein/, ZMA; (1) /Hellas Kriti Iraklion 18.8.73 Wim Klein/, ZMA; (2) /Hella sKriti Palaeokastron 22.8.73 Wim Klein/, ZMA; (1) /Hellas Kos Mastimari 24.VI/11.VII-1978 M.C. & G. Krusemann/, ZMA; (1) /Hellas Kos Kardamena 1/7-VII-1978 M.C. & G. Krusemann/, ZMA; (206) /Peloponissos hellas 5 km S. Monemvasia (various date from June 1982 to August 1987)/, (199) ZMUC, (7) MZUF; (1) /Grecia: Creta Istron, K. Mirabellou on *Rubus* sp., 1.VIII.1988 Boni Bartalucci leg./, MZUF; (11) /Grecia Peloponneso Loutra Kylini spiaggia VII.1989, Boni Bartalucci leg./, MZUF; (1) /Rodi, Paradisi spiaggia su *Foeniculum* 2.VIII.1990 Boni Bartalucci leg./, MZUF; (1) /Greece Attiki Dafni 10 km W Athens 2.IX.1991, Th Patanidou & G. Priebe – malaise trap in phrigana/, ZMA; (4) /Greece Pelopon. 20 km N. Pilo Marathopoli 8.7.97 leg Marek Halada/, OLML; (23) /Grecia Peloponneso Argolide Salandi 15-26/VIII/1997 Boni Bartalucci leg./, MZUF. Chypre = (1) /Cherkes/ /Limassol VIII.933 Is. Cipro mavromoustakis/ /*Meria cypria* Typus! Det Dott. D. Guiglia/ /TYPUS/, MSNG; (1) /Cypr. Paphos Yeroskypos 20.7.39 Hk. Lindb/, MHNW; (2) /Cyprus Larnaca salt lake 30.VI.1971 M.J. & J.D. Duffels/ /*Meria cypria* Guiglia det. R. Hensen 1986/, ZMA; (1) /Cyprus Larnaca 4 km N Famagusta 2.VII.1971 M.J. & J.D. Duffels/ /*Meria cypria* Guiglia det. R. Hensen 1986/, ZMA; (54) /Cyprern Aya Napa 10 km W Capo Greco 13-23.VI.1983/, (52) ZMUC, (2) MZUF. Makedonia = (1) /Macedonia Sr Dorjan 04.06.1974 Leg Halada/, ZMUC. Turkey = (1) /Transkauk Helenendorf 1896/, MHNW; (4) /AS. MIN. ANKARA 70 km. S veget. Stepp. ed ombrellifere 4.VII.62 A.G. Soika/ /*ankarensis*/ /Paratypus/ (red) /*Poecilotiphia parvula* (Sm.) Gorbatoovsky det 1988/, MSNG; (1) /Turkiye Nevsehir H. vOorschot, H. v.d. Brink & H. Wiering/ /Road Goreme-Urgup 1000-1100 Stl32 4.VIII.1983/, ZMA; (1) /Turkiye Gaziantep H.V. Oorschot & H. Wiering/ /43 km WNW Kilis 600m Gozkaya 29.IX.91 st.767/, ZMA; (1) /Turkiet (Asiatisk) Pamukkale 10.7.1974 B.M. Kristensen leg./, ZMUC.

Male. Figs 65-68. Specimen from Loutra Kylini (Peloponissos) compared to Lectotype.

Discussion: The male can be well known by the **Tsa** fused to form a frontal ledge, the moderately transversal head in frontal aspect, the subparallel sides without anterior strangling of **N₁** disk in dorsal aspect, the short and stout lobes of the epipygium (7th tergum). The specimens from Chypre show a somehow more elongated flagellomeri

and a protruding lamellar metapleural flange which looks like a sort of ledge upon the **Em**₃. The specimens from Azeirbagian show too a somehow slender flagellum (which is entirely bright reddish) and metasoma. I have not seen specimens certainly ascribed to it from Turanic region nor from Middle East so its distribution area appear to be the southern Balcanic peninsula, southern Russia, Anatolian peninsula with Caucasus and Chypre. There are no definitive proof about the conspecificity of the females here quoted, but the Day's inference is very probably correct.

***Poecilotiphia pseudofasciculata* (GUIGLIA 1963)**

Meria pseudofasciculata GUIGLIA 1963: 235-237 – Holotypus ♂: Israel =/Jerusalem (Palestina) 27.VII.1939 leg Bytinski-Salz/, ?. Paratypus ♂: Israel =/Palestine Jerusalem 6.8.1939 Bytinsky-Salz/ *Meria pseudofasciculata* det. Dott. D. Guiglia/ *Paratypus*/ *Paratypus Meria pseudofasciculata* Guig. Gorbatsovsky 1988/ *Poecilotiphia parvula* Gorbatsovsky det. 1988/; MSNG!

Examined specimens:

♂: Israel = (1) /Palestine *Akka costal zone VI.1921* PA Buxton/ MSNG. Jordan = (3) /O. Jordan Adilun (Burg) 900m28.VII.1958/, MSNG; (1) /Giordania *Petra 600m 21.VIII.1964* J. Klapperich/, CB. Syria = (1) /Syria 40 km Homs 18.6.2000 leg. M. Halada/, OLML; (5) /Syria S Kafr Suwayda 21.6.2000 leg. M. Halada/, (4) OLML, (1) MZUF.

Male. Paratype. Figs 69-73.

Discussion: Similar in general habitus and shape of **Tsa** (forming a sort of ledge above clypeus) to *P. parvula*, these specimens, besides other smaller and more instable differences, greatly and firmly differ in three discriminating characters within Myzininae: shape of the head in frontal aspect, shape of the **N**₁ disk in dorsal aspect and shape of the epipygial lobes. Genitalia are very similar, only volsella have a more flattened cuspis and longer swordlike process. The anteroventral corner of **N**₁ is well rounded in all the specimens examined, whereas in *P. parvula* it is ventrally prominent. On the basis of the data actually disposable it has been considered far better to consider them as segregated taxa. The specimens here recorded look very like to the figure N.24, Planche 15, of the Savigny's "Description de l'Egypte", upon which GUÉRIN (1837) named *Myzine audouini*, but as long as no specimen from Egypt can be examined any relative inference is inadvisable.

***Poecilotiphia aramaica* nov.sp.**

Holotypus ♂ - Syria = /Syria sept. 50 km S of Homs 24.V.1996 leg M. Halada ing./.

Paratypi ♂ - Jordan = (1) /Jordan, Northern valley/, OLML. Syria = (4) /Siria Mezzè Damasco VI-XI 1955 leg A. Mochi/, MZUF; (1) /Siria – Mezzè Damasco 16.V.1955/, MZUF; (3) /Syria 22.5.1996 40 km ne damascus leg. Marek Halada/ (2) OLML, (1) MZUF; (186) /Syria sept. 50 km S of Homs 24.V.1996 leg M. Halada ing./, (173) OLML, (13) MZUF; (4) /Syria N ar-Raqqa Mishirfen 4.6.2000 K. Deneš jun leg/, OLML; (10) /Syria cen. Homs Palmyra env. 6.6.2000 K. Deneš jun leg/, (9) OLML, (1) MZUF; (5) /Syria cen Homs al-Muharram env. 7.6.2000 K. Deneš jun leg/, (4) OLML, (1) MZUF.

Paratypus ♀ - Syria = (1) /Jordan West Jordan valley S. Shum 25-26.4.96 leg. Marek Halada/, OLML.

Male. Holotype. Figs 74-81. Measurements (mm): body length = 8.5; forewing length = 5.75.

Black, brown, ferruginous, pale yellow.

Brown: dorsal flagellum, scape, tip of mandibles, most of femurs, oblong spot on ventral tibiae, most of the veins (but pterostigma and neighbouring veins which are lighter, basal veins which are pale yellow). Semitransparent apical border of **N**₁ disk.

Ferruginous: ventral flagellum.

Pale yellow: Basal mandible, large transversal preapical stripe and two large spots fusing with it on the sides of **N**₁; most of tegula and humeral plate; small dirty spot on the post-scutellar area; very small spot on the apex of all the **X**; apex of femurs, most of tibiae; the whole of tarsi; narrow apical stripe on 1st Tergum, larger than half the height of the elements on 2nd to 5th terga, all of them enlarging forwards on the sides (two lateral brown spots along the back profile of the stripe on 2nd **T**); three spots on 6th **T** and two small lateral spots on 7th **T**, with an additive small one on the left lobe of the epipygium; two small lateral preapical spots on 2nd and 3rd Sterna, three on 4th and 5th sterna.

Punctuation variable like in the vast majority of the species of the group and not noteworthy, apart a rough **p**, settled in semicircular rows on posterior declivitous **P**. The ventral edge of the clypeal disk is completely opaque and darkened, without any well differentiated median lamella.

Tsa show a distinct median notch and are scarcely prominent and detached upon **Ssa**. The laminated keel along the fore border of **N**₁ is black in all the specimens. Posterior declivitous **P** is distinctly concave. Whitish hair throughout. Flattened modified bristles along apical edge of 2nd to 6th sterna and 6th tergum, on the posterolateral corners of 2nd to 5th terga. Wings with slight milky reflections, well detectable under incident light.

V a r i a b i l i t y : Size from 6 to 10.5 mm. The yellow patterns are quite variable: two smaller specimens hve completely black 1st **T** and the lighter specimens show spots on clypeal disk, **Tsa**, **Sc**₁ and **Sc**₂ too.

Female. Figs 83-86. Measurements (mm): body length 4.25.

Brown, light brown, ochraceus.

Brown: Frons, vertex, shadows on **Sc**₁ and **Sc**₂.

Light brown: the remainder of the head but clypeus, **Tsa**, antennae, most of mesosoma.

Ochraceous: mandibles, clypeus, legs and metasoma. Veins and pterostigma transparent yellowish on the forewing, colourless on the hindwing. Forewing slightly darkened. Punctuation without noteworthy features. **Pam** three and **Pal** two segmented. **PoG** almost as long as **FoO**, its area convex.

D i s c u s s i o n : This taxon show some similarity in general habitus to *P. collarinata*, *P. pseudofasciculata* and *P. parvula* too. From the latters it is well known by the less prominent **Tsa**, which do not form any ledge above clypeus and have a clear notch between them, different ventral edge of the clypeus, different shape of **N**₁ in dorsal aspect and different aedeagus; from *P. parvula* alone by the shape of the head and 7th tergum. *P. collarinata* differs from it by completely orange flagellum, semitransparent ventral edge of clypeus, frontal aspect of **Tsa** (fig. 82) which have also a distinct notch between them but they forms a well prominent and detached ledge upon **Ssa**, shape of the head in frontal and dorsal aspect, more developed laminated keel on **N**₁ foreborder, very protruding process on **Es**₁, absence of horizontal area on **P**, different volsella. From all of them *P. aramaica* is known by the different 7th **T** and milky reflections of the wings.

The female here ascribed even without conclusive proof is well featured by the shape of

the clypeal disk in frontal aspect, the depression along the fore border of the horizontal **P** and the wing veins, especially of the hindwing which lacks any closed cell apart **CC**.

***Poecilotiphia hoplomera* nov.sp.**

Holotypus ♂ - Tunisia = /Tunisia Tataouine 11.4.2000 leg. M. Halada/, OLML.

Paratypus ♂ - Tunisia = /Tunisia Tataouine 11.4.2000 leg. M. Halada/, OLML.

Male. Holotype. Figs 87-96. Measurements (mm): body length = 12,5.

Black, Brown, pale yellow.

Brown or semitransparent brown: most of mouthparts, apex of mandibles, palpi, ventral edge of clypeus, veins and pterostigma, dark portion of the legs, but coxae which are black, lateroventral 7th tergum. Flagellum is dark brown.

Pale yellow: most of mandibles and clypeus; two large lateral and one median spots on **N**₁ disk, confluent to the subapical stripe; two spots on **Sc**₁ and two on **Sc**₂; one small on postscutellar area; one larger spot on **Es**₂; tegulae; basal veins of the forewing; most of the legs; apical stripe with waving fore edge on 2nd to 6th terga; two lateral spots on 7th tergum; apical stripes, laterally widely indented to become almost tripartite on 2nd sternum; stripes with two inner lateral brown stains on 3rd to 6th sterna.

Normally impressed **p**. with interspaces as large as about their diameter on the head, mesosoma and 1st sternum. Smooth areas around ocelli, on **Sc**₂ and anteroventral lateral **P**. Denser **p**. on lower frons and **P**. Surface of terga shining with sparse **p**.

Placoids at the base of the last four flagellomeri. Flagellomeri (but 1st) more than 2.5 times longer than thick. **N**₁ disk without keel along fore border. Propleurae just a bit convex. **Em**₃ with horizontal wrinkles interrupted medially. **Es**₃ small but detectable and completely wrinkled. Ventral inner edge of the **X**₁ and **X**₃ with a longitudinal strong keel (the inner surface of **X**₃ is concave). 3rd to 6th sterna with a median transversal groove, delimited anteriorly by a sort of gradulus.

V a r i a b i l i t y : The paratype differs in the smaller size (10.5 mm) and a bit smaller spots on **N**₁ disk.

Female. Unknown.

E c o l o g y : Unknown.

D i s t r i b u t i o n : The typical locality.

D e r i v a t i o n o m i n i s : From the Greek *οπλον* = arm and *μηρος* = coxa (thigh) because of the keel on 1st and 3rd coxa.

D i s c u s s i o n : These specimens differs from all others taxa of the genus in the strong longitudinal laminated keel along the inner ventral edge of the **X**₁ and **X**₃. Its other unique autapomorphy is the volsellar process partially covering digitus in lateral aspect. It belongs to the group of *P. aegyptiaca* (BONI BARTALUCCI 2004), but its slender flagellum looks like that of the group of *P. nigripes*. It has a remarkable very transversal **N**₁.

***Poecilotiphia kerena* nov.sp.**

Holotypus ♂ - Erythraea = /Eritrea Cheren D.F. Derchi 1894/ /Poecilotiphia sp. Gorbatsvsky det. 1990/, MSNG.

Paratypi ♂ - Erythraea = (2) /Orti Keren 23.II.83/ /Africa/, MSNG; (2)/Eritrea Cheren D.F. Derchi 1894/ /Poecilotiphia sp. Gorbatsvsky det. 1990/, MSNG; (1) /Presso Sogale 6-3-89/ /Africa/

/Coll. Magretti/, MSNG; (2) /Africa/ /Orti Keren 23-4-89/, MSNG; (1) /Orti Keren 23-4-89/ /*Meria africana* Sauss ♂ var. 1^o seg. *Abd. nigro non rubro ferrugineol*/, MSNG; (1) /Africa/ /6-fasciata Rossi var *C Guér.*/ /Col. ne P. Magretti/ /306.a/ /47/, MSNG; (1) /Coll. Magretti C^a Eritrea Agardar 25-28 II 1900/, MSNG; (4) /Orti Dari 22.11.1900/, MSNG.

Male. Holotype. Figs 97-104. Measurements (mm): body length = 8.

Black, Brown, yellow.

Brown: mandibles, **LaSt₂**, veins of the wings, dark areas of the legs and all the tarsi.

Yellow: large spot on clypeal disk; subtle apical stripe on **Tsa**; frontal mandible; two lateral spots along the **cOc**; subapical stripe on **N₁** disk; tegulae; small spot on the **Sc₁**; outer surface of tibiae; two very small lateral spots on 1st Tergum; thin apical stripe with enlarging sides on 2nd to 6th terga.

Punctuation scattered on most of the body, with interspaces larger than diameter of the **p.**; dense **p.** without smooth areas on **P. Em₃** with strong horizontal wrinkles throughout.

Deep hollow at the base of **Tsa** which show a clear median notch in dorsal spect. **Pog** area flattened without detectable suture. Placoids detectable at the base of the last four flagellomeres. **N₁** with moderately laminated keel along its fore border. Propleurae only moderately swollen. 7th tergum swollen in lateral aspect.

D i s c u s s i o n : Size and general habitus like *P. parvula*, it differs from it and its fellows *P. subpetiolata*, *P. pseudofasciculata*, *P. collarinata*, *P. aramaica* mainly because of the deep hollow at the base of **Tsa** and the swollen 7th tergum. The last character state differs it from other males which show similar hollow: *P. aegyptiaca* (GUÉRIN 1837), *P. oasicola* BONI BARTALUCCI 2001, *P. ruvida* BONI BARTALUCCI 2004 and *turanica* nov.sp.; the latter clearly distinct from it also because of absence of median notch between **Tsa**.

V a r i a b i l i t y : Some paratypes show larger yellow patterns; only little variability about size: from 7 to 8,5mm.

Female. Unknown.

E c o l o g y : Unknown.

D i s t r i b u t i o n : Erythraea.

D e r i v a t i o n o m i n i s : From the city of Keren, NW Erythraea.

***Poecilotiphia turanica* nov.sp.**

Holotypus ♂ - Turkmenistan = /Turkmenia Ashabat 25-31.5.1993 leg. M. Halada/, OLML.

Paratypi ♂ - Kazakistan = (3) / (Kazakhstan cent., Lepsi 6 km SE, 18.6.1992, leg M. Halada/, OLML; (2) /Kazakhstan 3 km E Borandysu nr. Tchilik 19.06.98 Kazenas/, (1) OLML, (1) MZUF. Kirghizistan = (2) /C-Kirghizia, Toktogul distr. 200m, 7.1998, leg. V. Gurko/, OLML; (1) /Kyrgyzstan, 1,5 km E Dzhalal-Abad, 850m 40°55'5"/73°02'E, 20.7.2000, Makogonova leg./, OLML. Turkmenistan = (9)/Turkmenia Ashabat 25-31.5.1993 leg. M. Halada/, (8) OLML, (1) MZUF.

Male. Holotype. Figs 105-115. Measurements (mm): body length = 9; forewing length = 5.

Black, brown, yellow.

Brown: clypeus, dorsal flagellum, scape, **LaSt₂**, legs but yellow parts, apical lobes of 7th tergum and lateroterga. Underside of flagellum and veins of the wing are light brown.

Yellow: large irregular spot on clypeal disk, apex of **Tsa**, two lateral spots along fore-

border and a large subapical stripe on **N₁** disk, tegula and humeral palate with basal veins, apex of femurs, most of tibiae, the whole of tarsi, large (more than half the height of the element) apical stripe with waving fore profile on 1st to 6th terga, two lateral apical spots on 2nd to 6th sterna.

Well impressed **p.** on the head and mesosoma, more often well spaced with interspace among them larger than their diameter; weaker **p.** on vertex, genae and **Es₂** where some smooth areas exist. **Em3** with few strong wrinkles extending to anterolateral **P**; dorsal and declivitous **P** deeply and densely corrugated; very sparse **p.** on the metasoma, a little denser on the basal areas of the metameri and on 7th tergum. Whitish hair throughout.

Tsa largely fused to form a ledge above **Ssa**, with a broad shallow median hollow at their base. Base of hypostomal carina quite prominent upon genal bridge area. Large laminated keel along the fore border on **N₁**, ending in an acute prominent anteroventral tooth; in the specimens from Turkmenia the broad groove along it comes broken in the upper portion by two ridges delimiting a sort of a slightly protruding platform. Propleurae strongly protruded in acute subconical processes. **P** with a distinct, well produced horizontal area medially severed by a deep rough groove; its posterior area is concave and almost vertical. Lateral apical lobes of the **St₃** flattened with enlarged tips. Thin lobes of the epipygium (7th tergum).

Variability: In the Specimens from Kirghizistan and Kazakhstan the broad groove bordering the laminated keel on **N₁** is regularly developed, with very weak transversal ridges. The shape of metasternal lobes is somehow variable, but always with enlarged tips. The size varies from 7,5 to 9.5 mm. A little variability occurs in the yellow patterns too.

Female. Unknown.

Ecology: Unknown.

Distribution: Turanic region.

Derivation nominis: From the provenance area.

Discussion: These specimens are well distinct from *P. ciliata* and *P. rugosopunctata* by the shape of head in frontal and dorsal aspect, the shape of **N₁** in dorsal and lateral aspect, different **St₃**, different epipygium, different volsella and aedeagus. Moreover in the latter there is an evident median notch between **Tsa** and the basal depression is lacking, the metasternal lobes are acutely tipped (Fig. 116), the epipygial lobes are stouter. *Poecilotiphia massageta* and *P. sogdiana* have different shape of the head, deep notch between **Tsa**, pronotum without any keel, short not protruding metasternal lobes, very different epipygium and genitalia. From *P. nigra* and *P. brevicauda* this taxon strongly differs in coloration, head, pronotum, 7th tergum and hind trochanters (acutely longitudinally keeled in the formers, simply rounded here).

Acronyms

BMNH = Natural History Museum, London; MHNG = Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, Genève; MHNP = Museum d'Histoire naturelle, Paris; MSNG = Museo Civico di Storia naturale "G. Doria", Genova; MZL = Museum de Zoologie, Lausanne; MZUF = Museo Zoologico de "La Specola", Firenze; OLML = Oberösterreichisches Landesmuseum/Biologiezentrum, Linz; ZMA = Zoologische Museum, Amsterdam; ZMUC = Zoological Museum University, Copenhagen.

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Zusammenfassung

Folgende neue Arten der Tiphiden-Gattungen *Meria* und *Poecilotiphia* wurden aus der paläarktischen Region beschrieben: *Meria iucunda*, *Meria concinna*, *Meria diplochora*, *Meria elamita*, *Meria oriarcha*, *Meria origena*, *Poecilotiphia aramaica*, *Poecilotiphia hoplomera*, *Poecilotiphia kerena* und *Poecilotiphia turanica*. *Meria laeta* (E. SAUNDERS 1901) wurde aus der Synonymie mit *Meria latifasciata* (PALMA 1869) gelöst und wird als eigen Art eingestuft. Die Synonymie von *Meria arabica* (GUÉRIN 1837) mit *Meria thoracica* GUÉRIN 1839 wird festgehalten. Die Lectotypen von *Meria thoracica* GUÉRIN 1839 und *Myzine rugosopunctata* TOURNIER 1895 wurden festgelegt.

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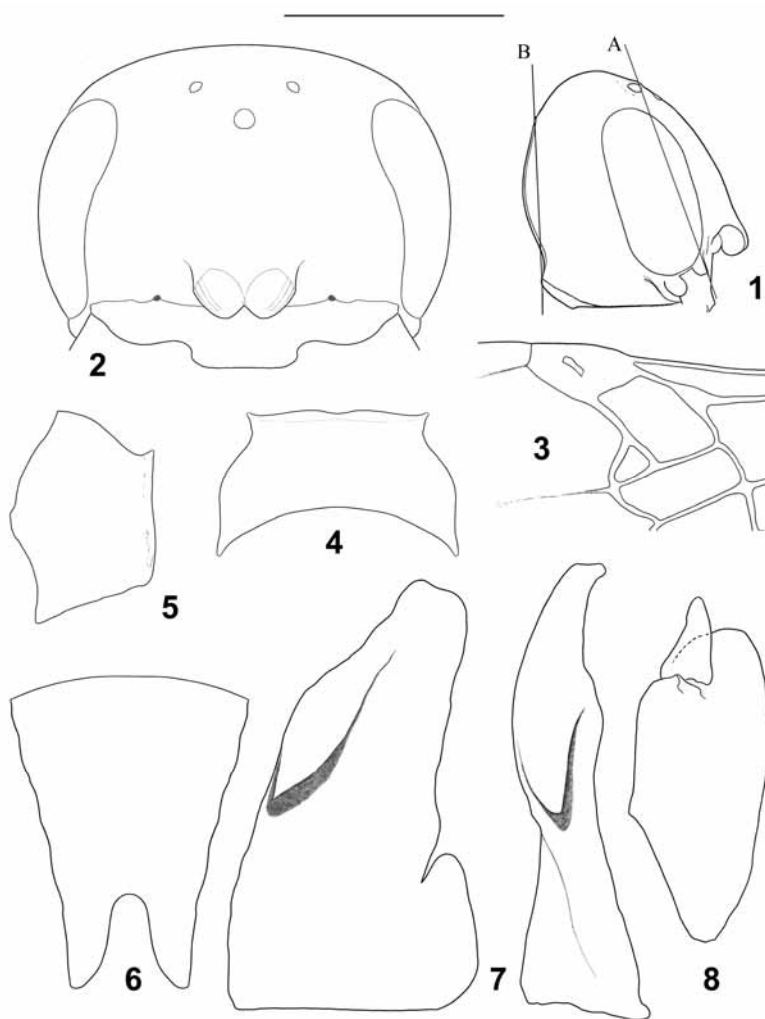
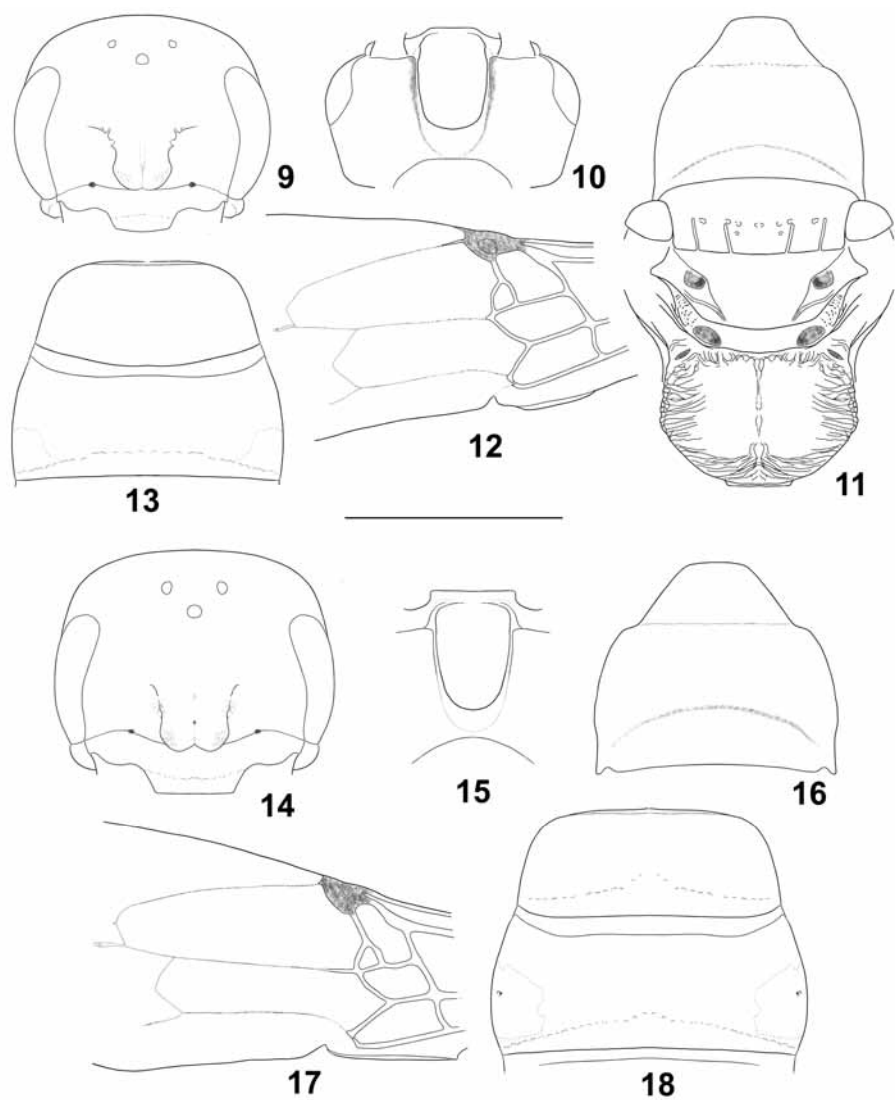
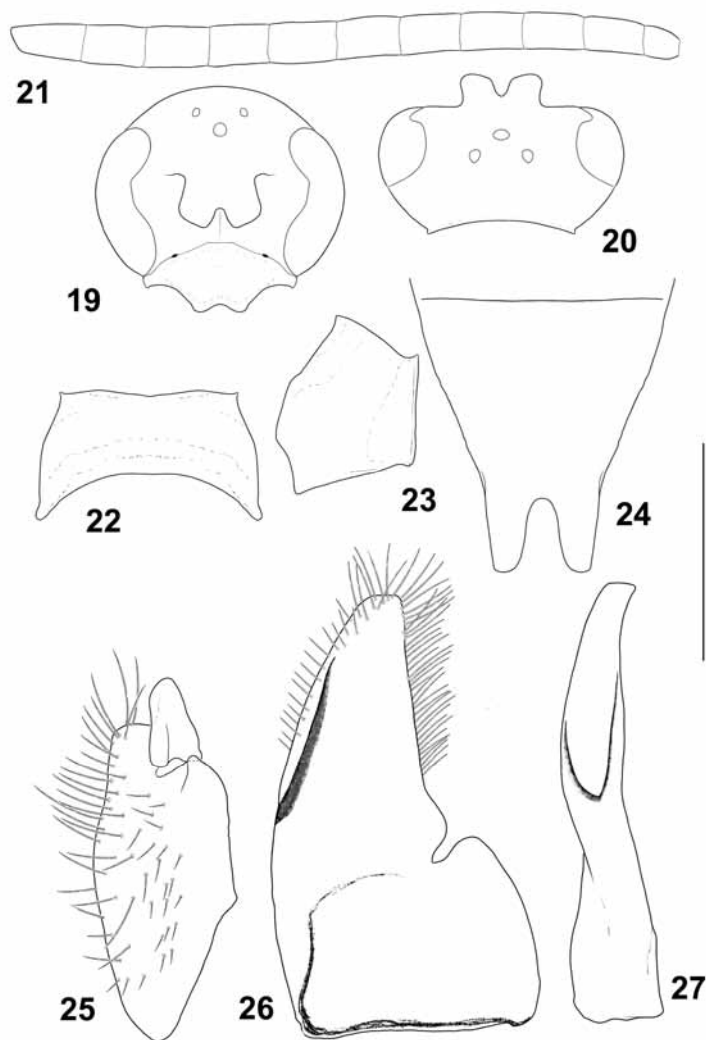


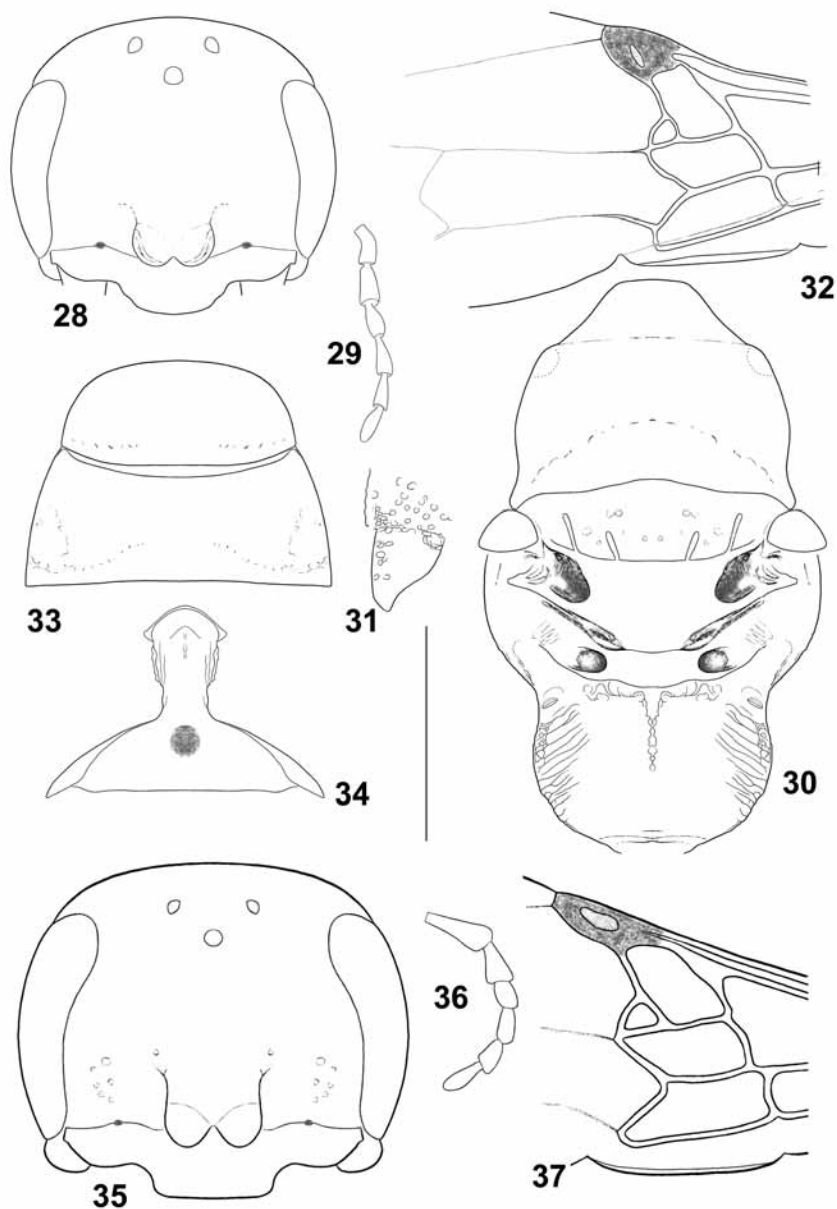
Fig. 1: *Meria* ♀. (1) head, lateral aspect. **Figs 2-3:** *Meria iucunda* Paratype ♀. (2) head, frontal aspect; (3) forewing, particular. **Figs 4-8:** *Meria iucunda* Holotype ♂. (4) pronotum, dorsal aspect; (5) pronotum, lateral aspect; (6) 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; (7) gonostylus, lateral and ventral aspect; (8) volsella. (1,4,5: scale bar = 2 mm); (2, 3, 6: scale bar = 1mm); (7,8: scale bar = 0.5 mm).



Figs 9-13: *Meria concinna* nov.sp. Holotype ♀. (9) head, frontal aspect; (10) head, ventral aspect; (11) messoma, dorsal spect; (12) forewing, particular; (13) basal metameri, dorsal aspect. **Figs 14-18:** *Meria sanguinicollis* ♀. (14) head, frontal aspect; (15) head, ventral aspect; (16) pronotum, dorsal aspect; (17) forewing, particular; (18) basal metameri, dorsal aspect.
(Scale bar = 2 mm).

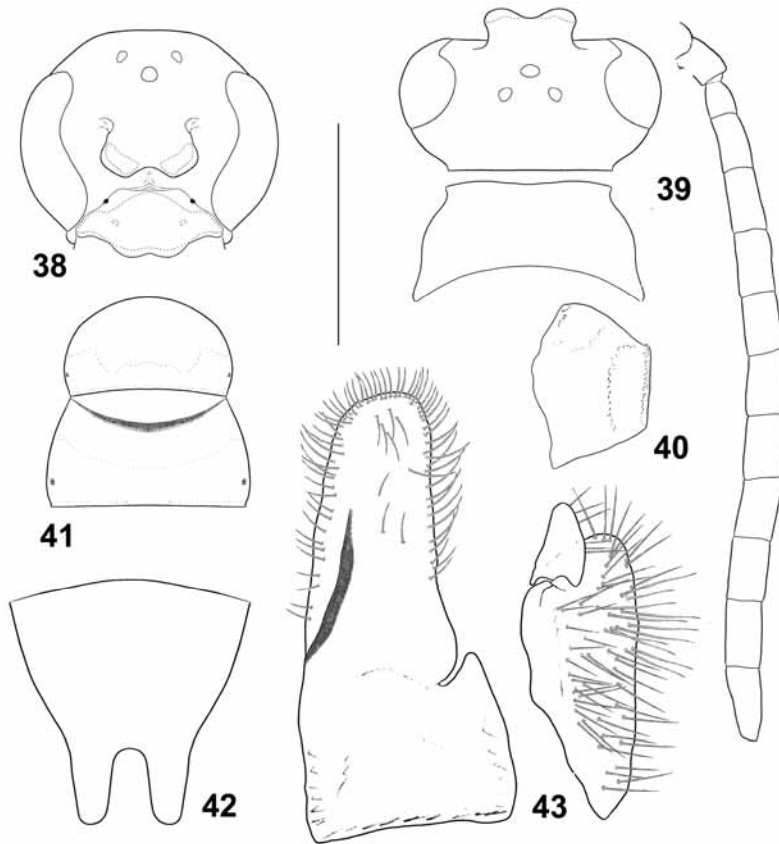


Figs 19-27: *Meria concinna* nov.sp. Paratype ♂. (19) head, frontal aspect; (20) head, dorsal aspect; (21) flagellum; (22) pronotum, dorsal aspect; (23) pronotum, lateral aspect; (24) 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; (25) volsella; (26) gonostylus lateral aspect; (27) gonostylus, ventral aspect. (19, 20, 21, 22, 23: scale bar = 2 mm) (24: scale bar = 1 mm) (25, 26, 27: scale bar = 0.5 mm).



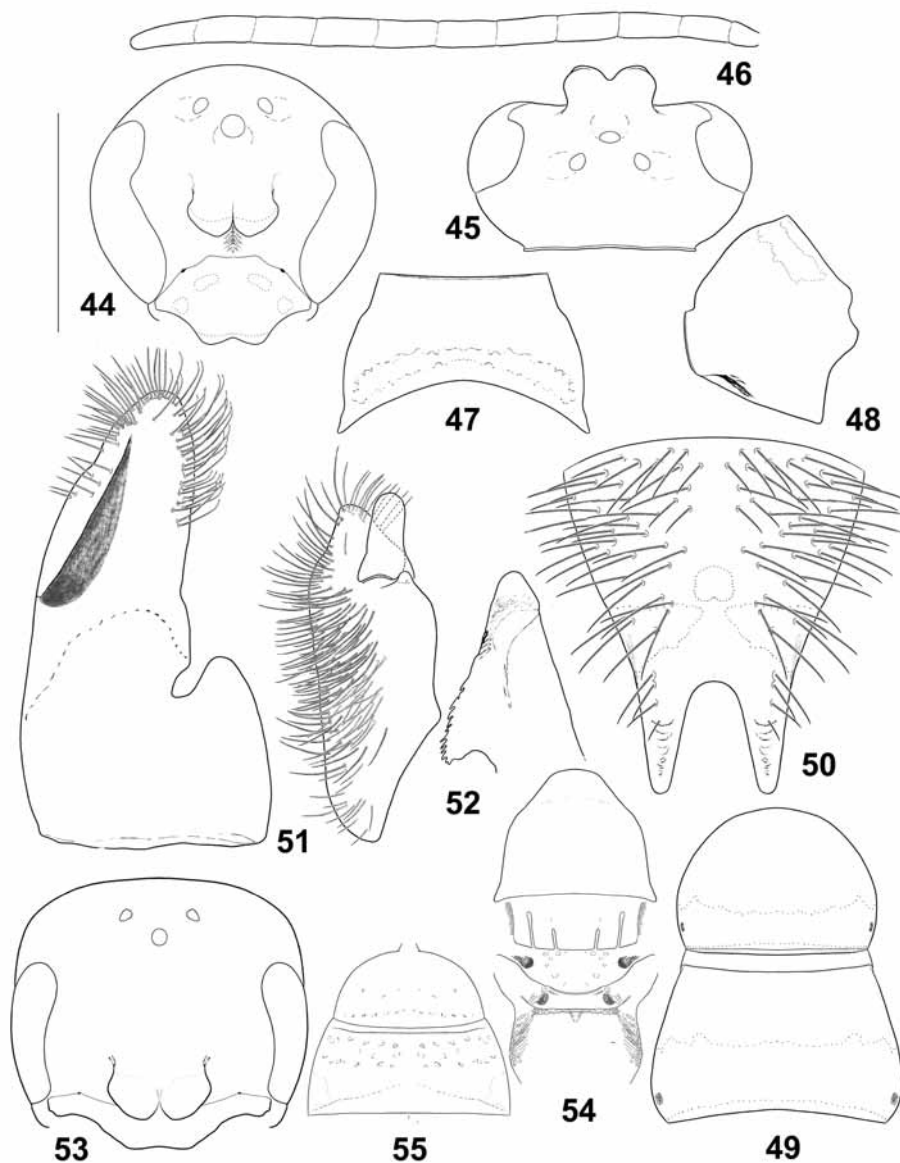
Figs 28-34: *Meria diplochora* nov.sp. Holotype ♀. (28) head, frontal aspect; (29) Pam; (30) mesosoma, dorsal spect; (31) Last₂ and neighbouring area; (32) forewing, particular; (33) basal metameri; (34) 1st metamerus, ventral aspect. **Figs 35-37:** *Meria thoracica* lectotype ♀. (35) head, frontal aspect; (36) Pam; (37) forewing, particular.

(28, 30, 31, 32 33, 34, 35, 37: scale bar = 1mm) (29, 36: scale bar = 0.5mm).



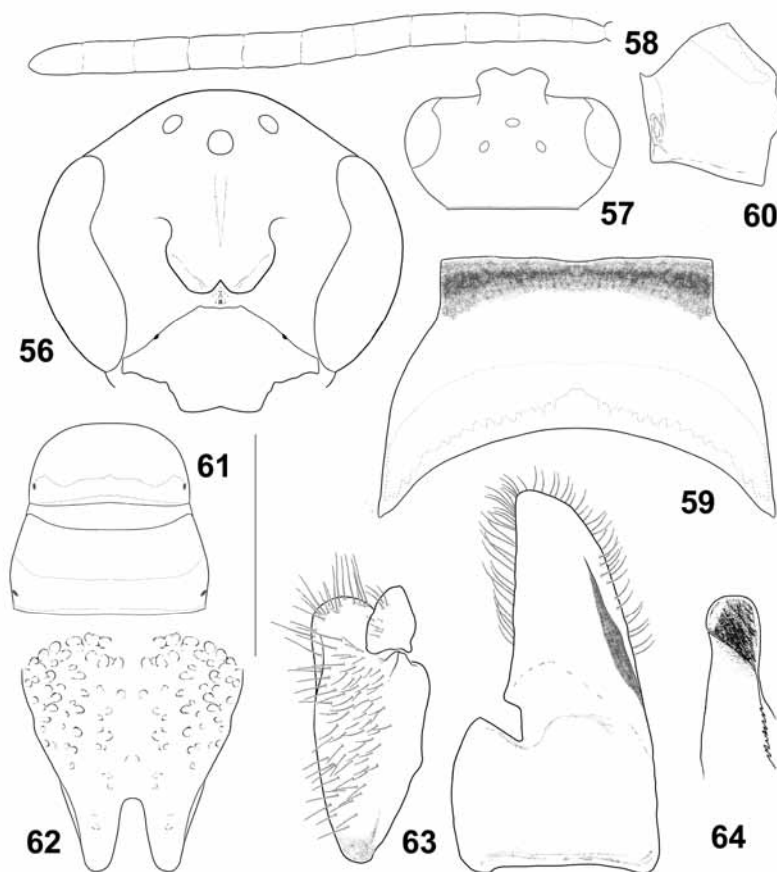
Figs 38-43: *Meria elamita* **nov.sp.** Holotype ♂. (38) head, frontal aspect; (39) head, antenna and pronotum, dorsal aspect; (40) pronotum, lateral aspect; (41) basal metameri, dorsal aspect; (42) 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; (43) gonostylus and volsella.

(38, 39, 40, 41: scale bar = 2mm) (42: scale bar = 1 mm) (43: scale bar = 0.5mm).



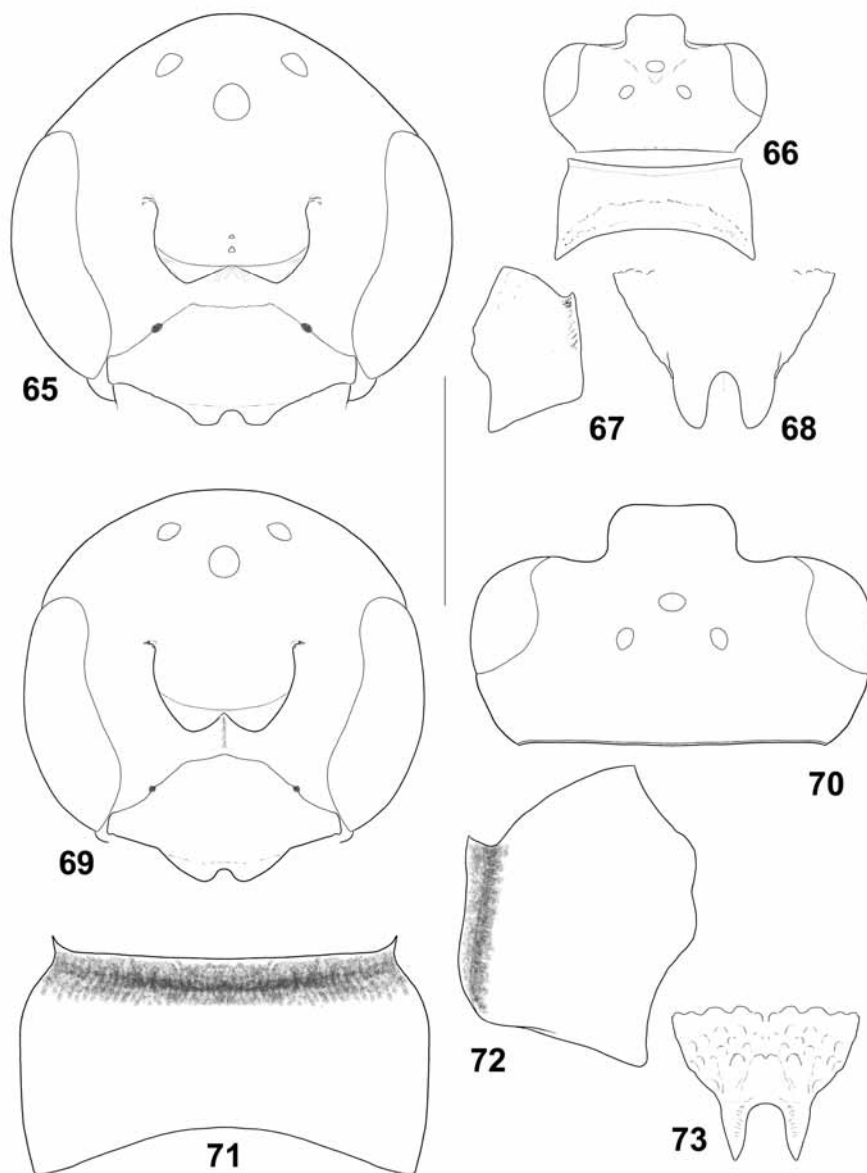
Figs 44-52: *Meria oriarcha* nov.sp. Holotype ♂. (44) head, frontal aspect; (45) head, dorsal aspect; (46) flagellum; (47) pronotum, dorsal aspect; (48) pronotum, lateral aspect; (49) basal metameri, dorsal aspect; (50) 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; (51) gonostylus and volsella; (52) aedeagus. **Figs 53-55:** *Meria oriarcha* nov.sp. Paratype ♀. (53) head, frontal aspect; (54) mesosoma, dorsal aspect; (55) basal metameri, dorsal aspect.

(44, 45, 47, 48, 49, 54, 55: scale bar = 2 mm) (46: scale bar = 4 mm) (50: scale bar = 1 mm) (53: scale bar = 1.25 mm) (51, 52: scale bar = 0.5 mm).

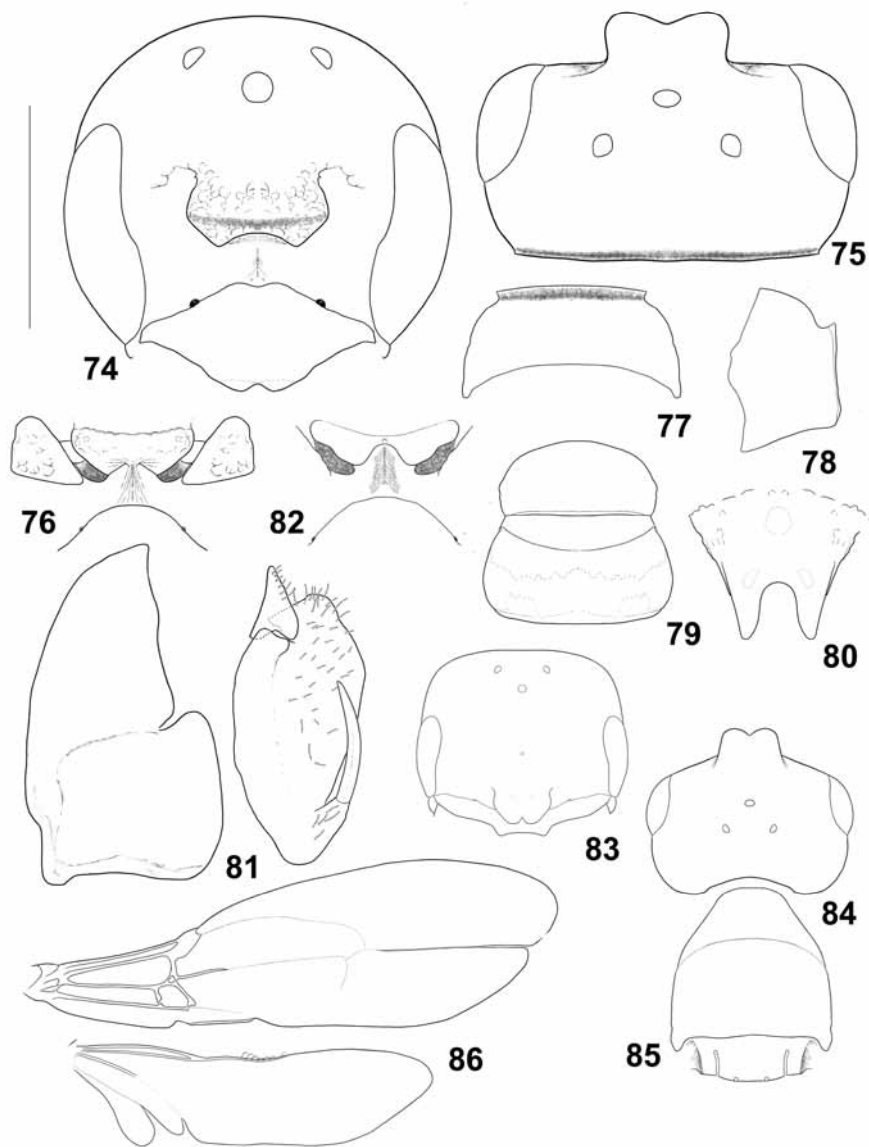


Figs 56-64: *Meria origena* nov.sp. Holotype ♂. (56) head, frontal aspect; (57) head, dorsal aspect; (58) flagellum; (59) pronotum, dorsal aspect; (60) pronotum, lateral aspect; (61) basal metameri, dorsal aspect; (62) 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; (63) volsella and gonostylus; (64) aedeagus, lateral aspect.

(56: scale bar = 1.25 mm) (57, 58, 60 61: scale bar = 2 mm) (59, 62: scale bar = 1 mm) (63, 64: scale bar = 0.5 mm).

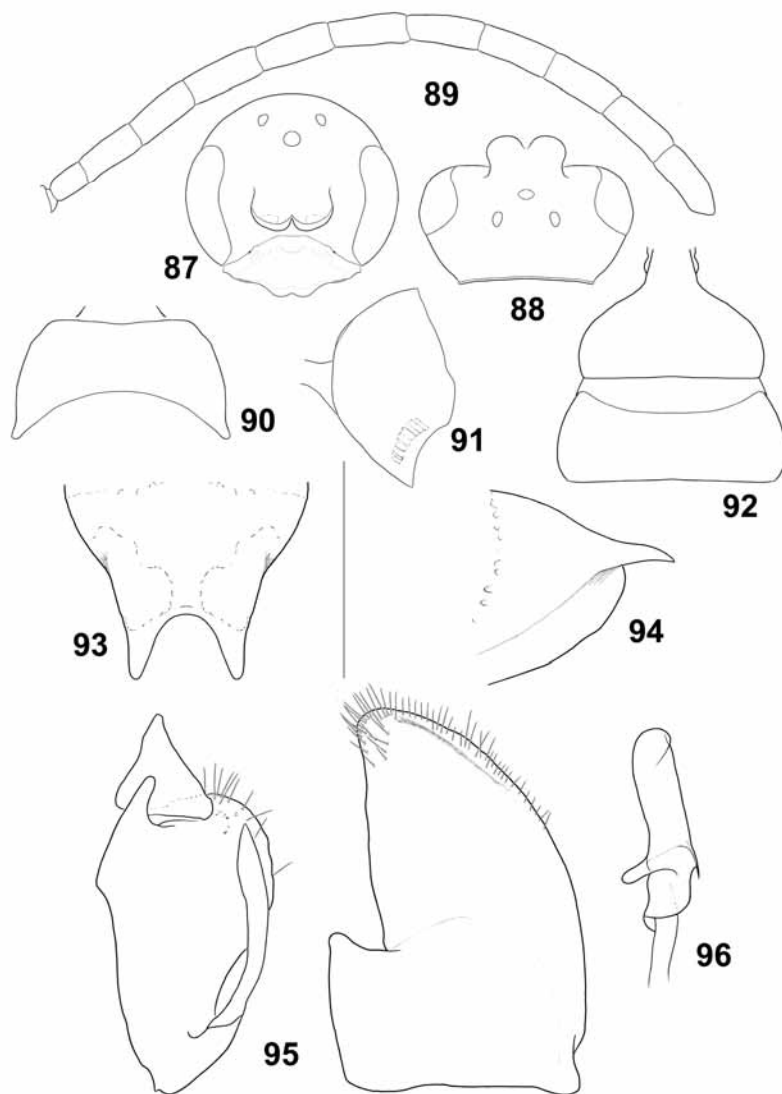


Figs 65-68: *Poecilotiphia parvula* ♂. (65) head, frontal aspect; (66) head and pronotum, dorsal aspect; (67) pronotum, lateral aspect; (68) 7th tergum, dorsal aspect. **Figs 69-73:** *Poecilotiphia pseudofasciculata* Paratype ♂. (69) head, frontal aspect; (70) head dorsal aspect; (71) pronotum, dorsal aspect; (72) pronotum, lateral aspect; (73) 7th tergum, dorsal aspect.
(65, 68, 69, 70 71, 72, 73: scale bar = 1 mm) (66, 67: scale bar = 2 mm).



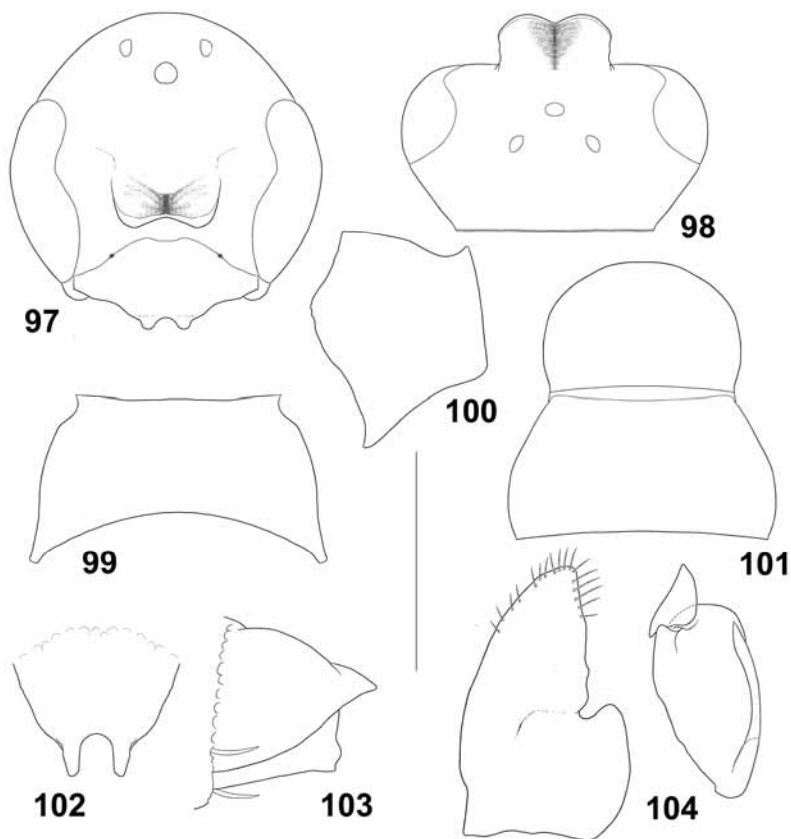
Figs 74-81: *Poecilotiphia aramaica* **nov.sp.** Holotype ♂. (74) head, frontal aspect; (75) head, dorsal aspect; (76) lower frons, anteroventral aspect; (77) pronotum, dorsal aspect; (78) pronotum, lateral aspect; (79) basal metameri, dorsal aspect; (80) 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; (81) gonostylus and volsella. **Fig. 82:** *Poecilotiphia collarinata* Paratype ♂: lower frons, anteroventral aspect. **Figs 83-86:** *Poecilotiphia aramaica* **nov.sp.** Paratype ♀. (83) head, frontal aspect; (84) head dorsal aspect; (85) pronotum and Sc₁, dorsal aspect; (86) wings.

(74, 75, 76, 80, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86: scale bar = 1 mm) (77, 78, 79 = 2 mm) (81: scale bar = 0.5 mm).



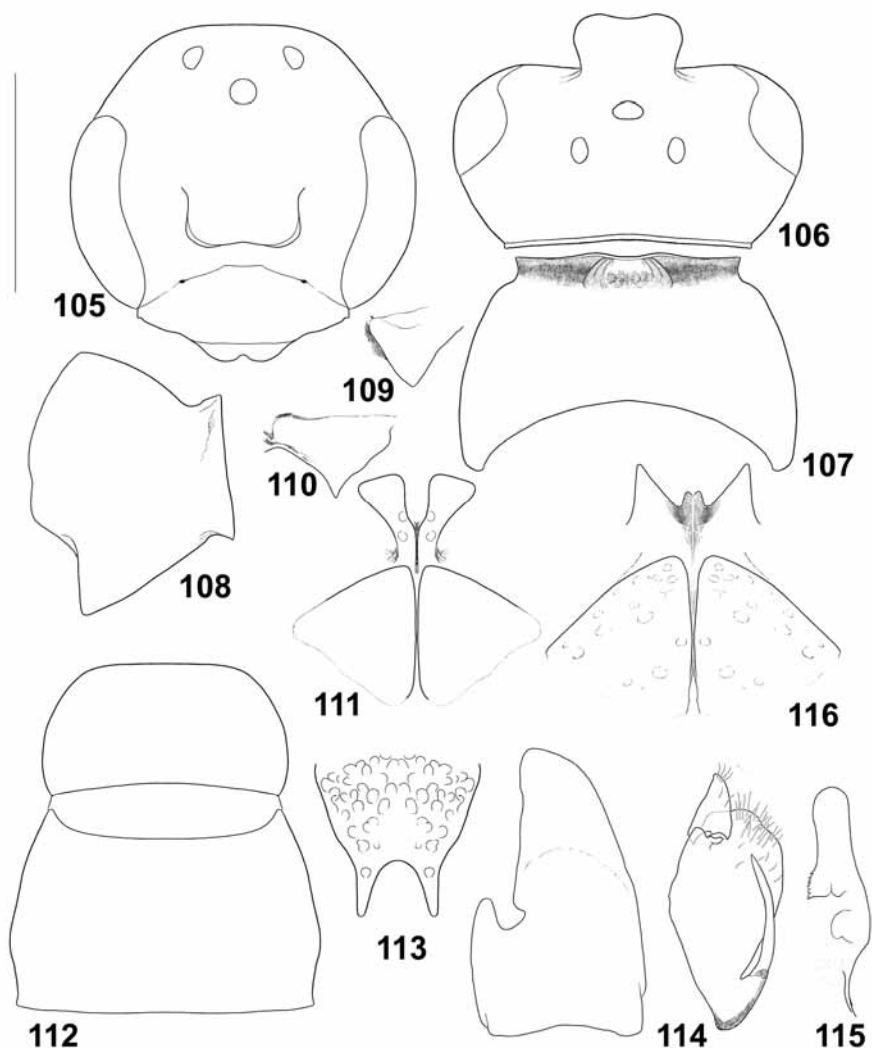
Figs 87-96: *Poecilotiphia hoplomera* **nov.sp.** Holotype ♂. (87) head, frontal aspect; (88) head, dorsal aspect; (89) flagellum; (90) pronotum dorsal aspect; (91) pronotum, lateral aspect; (92) basal metameri, dorsal aspect; (93) 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; (94) 7th tergum, lateral aspect; (95) volella and gonostylus; (96) aedeagus.

(87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92: scale bar = 2 mm) (93, 94: scale bar = 1 mm) (95, 96: scale bar = 0.5 mm).



Figs 97-104: *Poecilotiphia kerena* nov.sp. Holotype ♂. (97) head frontal aspect; (98) head, dorsal aspect; (99) pronotum, dorsal aspect; (100) pronotum, lateral aspect; (101) basal metameri, dorsal aspect; (102) 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; (103) 7th tergum, lateral aspect; (104) gonostylus and volsella.

(97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103: scale bar = 1 mm) (104: scale bar = 0.5 mm).



Figs 105-115: *Poecilotiphia turanica* nov.sp. Holotype ♂. (105) head frontal aspect; (106) head, dorsal aspect; (107) pronotum, dorsal aspect; (108) pronotum, lateral aspect; (109) propleura, posteroventral aspect; (110) propleura, lateral aspect; (111) metasternum (St_3) and mesosternal lobes ($LaSt_2$) in ventral aspect; (112) basal metameri, dorsal aspect; (113) 7th tergum, dorsal aspect; (114) gonostylus and volsella; (115) aedeagus. **Fig. 116:** *Poecilotiphia rugosopunctata* lectotype ♂: metasternum (St_3) and mesosternal lobes ($LaSt_2$) in ventral aspect.

(105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 112, 113: scale bar = 1 mm) (111, 114, 115, 116: scale bar = 0.5 mm).

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