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**New records of vespid wasps from Yemen  
with synonymy in *Belonogaster*  
(Hymenoptera: Vespidae: Polistinae and Eumeninae)**

L. DVOŘÁK & J. M. CARPENTER

**Abstract:** Several new records of Polistinae and Eumeninae from Yemen are presented. *Belonogaster adenensis adenensis* GIORDANI SOIKA 1957 and *Belonogaster adenensis somaliensis* RICHARDS 1982 are synonymised.

**Key words:** Hymenoptera, Vespidae, Polistinae, Eumeninae, new finds, synonymy, Yemen.

### Introduction

Vespid wasps of Yemen are relatively well known. RICHARDS (1985a) reviewed the Masarinae of the Arabian Peninsula, providing a checklist and key, and RICHARDS (1985b) and GUICHARD (1986) did the same for the the social wasps and Eumeninae, respectively. More recently, DVOŘÁK & CARPENTER (2008) reviewed the literature and published a checklist of the Vespinae and Polistinae of Yemen. Since the latter publication, the senior author received several wasps collected in Yemen in 2005 and 2007 by †Stanislav Kadlec. The material is discussed in this paper.

### Material

The material was identified using GUICHARD (1986) and RICHARDS (1982, 1985b). The nomenclature follows the same studies. For the whole material = †Stanislav Kadlec leg., Libor Dvořák det. et coll. In our paper queens vs. workers were not distinguished in *Belonogaster* spp.

### Recorded species

#### ***Delta hottentotum elegans* (DE SAUSSURE 1852)**

**Material:** Wadi Dahr, NW San'a', N=15°26', E=44°08', 2199 m, 5.10.2005, 2 ♀ ♀.  
Recently reported from Yemen by WAHIS (2000) and GUSENLEITNER (2007).

***Delta dimidiatipenne* (DE SAUSSURE 1852)**

**M a t e r i a l :** Wadi Daw'an, NW Al Mukalla, N=15°09', E=48°26', 946 m, 3.4.2007, 1 ♀.  
Recently reported from Yemen by GUSENLEITNER (2007).

***Delta fenestrata* (DE SAUSSURE 1852)**

**M a t e r i a l :** Jabal Bura', NEE Al Hudaydah, N=14°53', E=43°26', 557 m, 19.-21.3.2007, 1 ♂. Najd an Nashaman, S Ta'izz, N=13°20', E=44°05', 1433 m, 24.10.2005, 1 ♂. 20 km S Ta'izz, N=13°30', E=43°57', 1289 m, 24.10.2005, 1 ♀.  
Recently reported from Yemen by WAHIS (2000) and GUSENLEITNER (2007).

***Synagris rubescens* (GIORDANI SOIKA 1989)**

**M a t e r i a l :** Sukhnah, NE Al Mansuriah, N=14°50', E=43°31', 774 m, 8.4.2007, 1 ♂.  
GIORDANI SOIKA (1989) reported 1 ♂ and 1 ♀ from Yemen, 1 ♂ from Saudi Arabia, and WAHIS (2000) 1 ♂ from Yemen. This is the fifth known specimen.

***Belonogaster adenensis* GIORDANI SOIKA 1957**

=*Belonogaster adenensis somaliensis* RICHARDS 1982, **syn. nov.**

**M a t e r i a l :** 2 km E Hammam Ali, N=14°40', E=44°10', 1677 m, 7.4.2007, 1 ♀. Jabal Bura', NEE Al Hudaydah, N=14°53', E=43°26', 557 m, 19.-21.3.2007, 1 ♀.  
Recently reported from Yemen by WAHIS (2000) and GUSENLEITNER (2007).

A female from Hammam Ali has the biggest part of the thorax black, as in *B. adenensis somaliensis* in RICHARDS' (1982) key, but does not differ substantially from the female from Jabal Bura', which largely agrees with the description of the nominate form. The junior author studied the type series of both subspecies in collections of the Natural History Museum, London (BMNH). Contrary to the description in RICHARDS (1982), the sides of the clypeus are not differently marked: the holotypes of both *B. a. adenensis* and *B. a. somaliensis* have just the lateral lobes yellow. The holotype of *B. a. somaliensis* has the mesosoma except the pronotum, scutellum, and metanotum black, but one paratype of *B. a. somaliensis* has the mesosoma entirely ferruginous, and some *B. a. adenensis* (including the holotype) have the entire mesosoma tinged with blackish. The wings are the same in both forms, and size overlaps. Richards' key is wrong about the propodeum being reddish in *B. a. somaliensis* (and contradicts the description), and that the wings are differently coloured. The femoral tomentum is also not different. As shown by these comments, both forms have a large overlap in colour, and there are no other diagnostic characters, so their conspecificity is evident.

***Belonogaster arabica* GIORDANI SOIKA 1957**

**M a t e r i a l :** W Wadi Anis, 60 km SW San'a', N=15°00', E=44°09', 1522 m, 7.10.2005, 1 ♀.  
Recently reported from Yemen by WAHIS (2000) and GUSENLEITNER (2007).

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## Zusammenfassung

Verschiedene Erstnachweise von Polistinae und Eumeninae aus Jemen werden vorgestellt. *Belonogaster adenensis adenensis* GIORDANI SOIKA 1957 und *Belonogaster adenensis somaliensis* RICHARDS 1982 werden synonymisiert.

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