

Linzer biol. Beitr.	44/1	1071-1077	28.12.2012
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A checklist on Iranian Bethylidae (Hymenoptera: Chrysidoidea)

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Abstract: A checklist of Iranian Bethylidae (Hymenoptera, Chrysidoidea) is presented. The list is based on detail studies of all available published data, as well as on new records. Eleven bethylid species from six genera (including, *Bethylus* LATREILLE, *Botoryan* ARGAMAN, *Cephalonomia* Westwood, *Epyris* WESTWOOD, *Goniozus* FÖRSTER, and *Laelius* ASHMEAD) are currently recognized as occurring in Iran. Two species, *Cephalonomia gallicola* (ASHMEAD 1887) and *Epyris fuscipes* (KIEFFER 1906) are herein presented as new to the Iranian fauna. Synonymies and distribution data are given in this paper.

Key words: Hymenoptera, Chrysidoidea, Bethylidae, Checklist, Iran.

Introduction

The family Bethylidae (Hymenoptera, Chrysidoidea) is known as a group of primitive aculeate Hymenoptera (BROTHERS & CARPENTER 1993), which its extant species represented by 2.216 species distributed in 97 genera of seven subfamilies (AZEVEDO 2006; LOTFALIZADEH et al. 2012). The bethylids are widely distributed throughout the world, being found in all zoogeographic regions, but the majority of species occur in tropical areas (AZEVEDO 1999). The lack of worldwide systematic collecting limits the improvement of the distribution data on these wasps, which often seem to be restricted to specific regions of the planet (AZEVEDO & GUIMARÃES 2006).

The fauna of Iranian Bethylidae was poorly studied and totally 9 species were reported so far (see the result: Iranian record). The aim of the present paper is to summarize all accessible published data on Bethylidae of Iran, as well as to present two new original faunal records. Furthermore, these results will provide a base for future investigations on biodiversity and systematic studies of Iranian bethylids.

Materials and Methods

The published data on Iranian bethylids was summarized. The original materials were collected in two different regions of the country, by Malaise trap as well as rearing of the host. The checklist comprises the following data: the valid scientific name, published records with provincial distribution, synonyms in records; original data: provinces and localities, altitude (m), month and year of collecting, number and sex of specimens, host

(in case of rearing); general distribution. Classification, nomenclature, and distribution data as suggested by GORDH & MÓCZÁR (1990), BROTHERS & CARPENTER (1993), and TERAYAMA (2003a, b) have been followed.

Results

The present paper includes 11 bethylid species of 6 genera belong to 3 subfamilies in Iran. Two species herein newly recorded to the fauna of Iran. The species are arranged in alphabetic order.

Subfamily **B e t h y l i n a e**

***Bethylus cephalotes* (FÖRSTER 1860)**

Perisemus cephalotes FÖRSTER 1860, 17: 111-112.

Bethylus fuscicornis var. *tibialis* KIEFFER 1905, 9: 280.

I r a n i a n r e c o r d : Mazandaran (GHAHARI et al. 2008).

G e n e r a l d i s t r i b u t i o n : Western and Northern Europe.

***Goniozus claripennis* (FÖRSTER 1851)**

Bethylus claripennis FÖRSTER 1851, 8: 7-10.

Bethylus fuscipennis FÖRSTER 1851, 8: 10.

Goniozus distigmus THOMSON 1861, 18: 452.

Goniozus audouinii WESTWOOD 1874: 168-169.

Goniozus claripennis var. *fuscipennis* KIEFFER 1905, 9: 266.

Goniozus claripennis var. *tibialis* KIEFFER 1905, 9: 267.

Goniozus claripennis claripennis KIEFFER 1914, 41: 522, 523, 525.

I r a n i a n r e c o r d : Khorasan (ALAVI & GHOLIZADEH 2008; LOTFALIZADEH et al. 2012), Khuzestan (KADJBAF VALA & BAYAT ASADI 1995).

G e n e r a l d i s t r i b u t i o n : Western Europe.

C o m m e n t : Ectoparasitoid of the lesser date moth, *Batrachedra amydraula* MEYRICK (Lepidoptera: Cosmopteridae) (KADJBAF VALA & BAYAT ASADI 1995), and also larval parasitoid of grape berry moth, *Lobesia botrana* (DENIS & SCHIFFERMÜLLER) (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae) (ALAVI & GHOLIZADEH 2008).

***Goniozus gallicola* (KIEFFER 1905)**

Parasierola gallicola KIEFFER 1905, 9: 260-261.

I r a n i a n r e c o r d : Khorasan (ALAVI & GHOLIZADEH 2008; LOTFALIZADEH et al. 2012).

G e n e r a l d i s t r i b u t i o n : France (Frejus), Italy (Sicily), Austria, former Czechoslovakia, USSR (Moldavia).

C o m m e n t : Larval parasitoid of grape berry moth, *Lobesia botrana* (DENIS & SCHIFFERMÜLLER) (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae) (ALAVI & GHOLIZADEH 2008).

***Goniozus indicus* ASHMEAD 1903**

Goniozus indicus ASHMEAD 1894, 25: 195, 196.

Goniozus indicus MUESEBECK 1940, 42: 121-122.

Iranian record: Khuzestan (SAKENIN et al. 2011).

General distribution: India (Widespread), Pakistan, Philippines.

***Goniozus legneri* GORDH 1982**

Goniozus legneri GORDH 1982, 93: 136-139.

Iranian record: Fars (EHTESHAMI et al. 2010a).

General distribution: Uruguay, U.S.A. (California, Arizona?), Israel, Palestine.

Comment: Biology of *G. legneri* as the larval ectoparasitoid of carob moth, *Ectomyelois ceratoniae* (ZELLER) (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae) was studied by EHTESHAMI et al. (2010b).

Subfamily Epyrinae

Tribe Epyrini

***Epyris fuscipes* (KIEFFER 1906)**

Rhabdepyris fuscipes KIEFFER & MARSHALL 1906: 378.

Material examined: East Azarbaijan province: Arasbaran (941 m), 2♂♂, April 2006.
New record for Iran.

General distribution: Italy, Republic of Korea.

Tribe Sclerodermini

***Cephalonomia gallicola* (ASHMEAD 1887)**

Sclerochroa gallicola ASHMEAD 1887, 3: 75.

Holopedina nubilipennis ASHMEAD 1887, 3: 97.

Cephalonomia xambeui GIRAD 1898: 51.

Cephalonomia quadridentata DUCHAUSSOY 1920 (1917), 8: 111-112.

Cephalonomia caesarorum VAN EMDEN (nomen nudum).

Cephalonomia (Cephaloderma) strandi HOFFER 1936, 1: 460-461.

Material examined: Ardabil province: Bile-Savar (137 m), 2♀♀, August 2006,
parasitoid of *Lastoderma serricornis* (FABRICIUS) (Coleoptera: Anobiidae). New record for Iran.

General distribution: USA (Florida), Europe, Algeria, Tunisia, Republic of Korea, Japan (worldwide in stored products).

***Cephalonomia hypobori* KIEFFER 1919**

Cephalonomia hypobori KIEFFER 1919: 32-33.

Cephalonomia nigricornis SARRA 1930, 24: 223-225.

Iranian record: Iran (no locality cited) (BERLAND 1928; ZEIRI et al. 2011).

General distribution: France, Iran, Israel, Italy, Morocco (BERLAND 1928), Tunisia (ZEIRI et al. 2011).

***Cephalonomia tarsalis* (ASHMEAD 1893)**

Ateleopterus tarsalis ASHMEAD 1893, 45: 44, 45-46.
Cephalonomia carinata KIEFFER 1907 (1906), 51: 295-296.
Cephalonomia meridionalis BRETHERS 1913, 24: 87-88.
Cephalonomia kiefferi FOUTS 1920, 22: 71-72.

Iranian record: Khuzestan (MOHAJERY & AZIMI 1995), Khorasan (AKBARI ASL et al. 2009).

General distribution: Albania, Argentina, Australia, England, Israel, Japan, Nigeria, Palestine, Republic of Korea, North America (Widespread).

Comment: *C. tarsalis* was collected from *Oryzophilus surinamensis* (LINNAEUS 1758) (Coleoptera: Cucujidae) from Iran (MOHAJERY & AZIMI 1995).

***Laelius microneurus* (KIEFFER 1906)**

Allepyris microneurus KIEFFER 1906, 9: 416-417.
Allepyris nigricrus KIEFFER 1906, 9: 417.

Iranian record: Mazandaran (GHAHARI et al. 2008).

General distribution: Belgium, France, Japan (Honshu).

Subfamily Mesitiinae

***Botoryan discolor* (NAGY 1968)**

Iranian record: Southwestern Iran (no locality cited) (ARGAMAN 2003).

General distribution: India, Iran (ARGAMAN 2003).

Discussion

This paper is the first work on Iranian Bethyilidae which included all the data on Iranian bethyilids which were recorded in different resources so far together with two new records. Among the six genera of Iranian Bethyilidae, *Goniozus* FÖRSTER 1856 with four recorded species is the most diverse than the others. This genus consists of approximately 170 species worldwide, of which are recorded from Oriental (53 spp.), Neotropical (35), Nearctic (32), Palaearctic (28), Afrotropical (12), and Australian (9) regions (LIM & LEE 2012). Most species of *Goniozus* are the ectoparasitoids of immature stages of microlepidopteran families such as Cosmopteridae, Gelechiidae, Pyralidae, and Tortricidae (GORDH & MÓCZÁR 1990; KADJBAF VALA & BAYAT ASADI 1995; ALAVI & GHOLIZADEH 2008), and one species, *G. microstigma* MELO & EVANS is the parasite of *Microstigma* spp. (Hymenoptera: Crabronidae) (MELO & EVANS 1993). Due to these habits, some species (e.g. *Goniozus legneri* GORDH, parasitoid of *Amyelois transitella* WALKER (Lepidoptera, Phycitidae)) are using for control of agricultural pests (LEGNER & GUIDO 1983; BERRY 1998). On the other hand, temporary problem caused by stings of

G. antipodum WESTWOOD on human was reported (HARRIS 1996). Iran is a large country incorporating various geographical regions and climate. Nevertheless, we could just find the records or specimens belong to three subfamilies among the most common four subfamilies in other geographical regions. Thus, we expect that some other species remain to be discovered. Additionally faunistic works on bethylid wasps in different regions of the world toward to completing of distribution data, phylogenic studies which a few of them have been conducted so far (TERAYAMA 1995, 2003a; LANES & AZEVEDO 2008; CARR et al. 2010) are very necessary for resolving some present taxonomic problems and ambiguities. Hopefully, in the future such researches will be encouraged in different regions of the world especially in the areas where their faunas are unknown completely.

Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to Dr. T. Ljubomirov of Bulgaria for identification of some specimens, Dr. C.O. Azevedo of Brazil for preparing several necessary resources, and Dr. F. Gusenleitner of Austria for editing and preparing the manuscript for publishing. The research was supported by Shahre Rey Islamic Azad University.

Zusammenfassung

Vorliegende Arbeit gibt eine Zusammenfassung über das Vorkommens der Bethyloidea (Hymenoptera, Chrysoidea) im Iran. Neben der Auswertung von Literaturangaben wurde auch unpubliziertes Material einbezogen. Insgesamt konnten 11 Arten aus den 6 Gattungen *Bethylus* LATREILLE, *Botoryan* ARGAMAN, *Cephalonomia* WESTWOOD, *Epyris* WESTWOOD, *Goniozus* FÖRSTER, *Laelius* ASHMEAD nachgewiesen werden. *Cephalonomia gallicola* (ASHMEAD 1887) und *Epyris fuscipes* (KIEFFER 1906) sind Neunachweise für den Iran.

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Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Linzer biologische Beiträge](#)

Jahr/Year: 2012

Band/Volume: [0044_2](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Ghahari Hassan, Lim Jongok

Artikel/Article: [A checklist on Iranian Bethylidae \(Hymenoptera: Chrysidoidea\) 1071-1077](#)