

REICHENBACHIA

Staatliches Museum für Tierkunde Dresden

Band 25

Ausgegeben: 30. Oktober 1987

Nr. 14

A new species of genus *Heriades* SPINOLA from India (Insecta, Hymenoptera, Apoidea, Megachilidae)

With 1 Plate

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Abstract. The genus *Heriades* SPINOLA from India was represented by two species, namely *Heriades parvula* and *H. aureocincta* both of BINGHAM. A new species *Heriades binghami* has been described for the first time from Pathankot, Himachal Pradesh (India). This species has some close affinities with *H. parvula*.

Prior to this work, genus *Heriades* SPINOLA from India was described with two species, namely: *H. parvula* BINGHAM and *H. aureocincta* BINGHAM (1897). Genus *Heriades* can be distinctly separated from the allied megachilid genera, with the help of following combination of characters:

Body small, clypeus transversely convex, apical margin entire or finely tubercled; mandible tridentate in female, without any bevelled cutting edges and bidentate in male; axillae may be rounded or produced posteriorly; scutellum distinctly transversely carinate; posterior face of propodeum perpendicular; fifth tarsal segment with a well developed pulvillus and first tergum with a strongly developed carinate margin.

Heriades binghami sp. n.

Female

Integument black-shining, punctures coarse and sparsely distributed; pubescence silky transparent, on legs pale and scopa white (medially pale).

Median length of head is greater than width; eye carina distinct and widely separated; median line below the mid-ocellus absent; apical margin of clypeus incurved and non-tuberculate; occipital margin at vertex incarinate and invaginated; genae narrowed below as well above; mandible tridentate, interspace inbetween 2nd & 3rd tooth wide.

Scutum swollen anteriorly; metanotal surface sulcate; fore wing clear hyaline and both recurrent veins well within the base and apex of second cubital cell; claws pale; tergal margins with white apical fasceae, upto 2nd; tergum 4th & 5th strongly downcurved; sternites without any apical fasceae; apex of last sternum broadly rounded and with white hairs on its surface.

Measurements (in mm) Total length 4.0; eye: length 0.9, lateral width 0.4; clypeus: median length 0.3, basal and apical width 0.32 & 0.7 antennae: length of scape 0.25, pedicel 0.1, flagellar segment 1st 0.12, Xth 0.12; labrum: median length 0.4, basal and apical width 0.25 & 0.15; mandible: length of inner, lower and dentate margin 0.3, 0.52 & 0.22; labial palpi: length of segment 1st 0.2 & 2nd 0.35; scutum: median length 0.75, maximum width 1.0; fore wing: total length 2.6 and relative widths of terga 1st to VIth: 0.82, 1.25, 1.25, 0.92, 0.8, 0.5.

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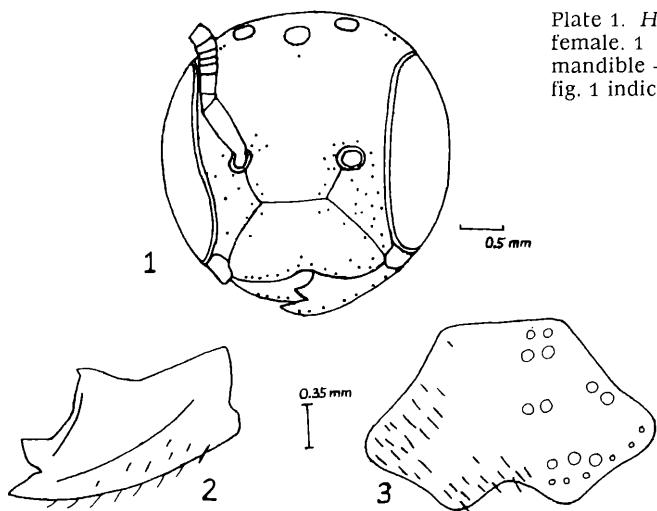


Plate 1. *Heriades binghami* sp. n., female. 1: Head, front view — 2: mandible — 3: clypeus. (Dots on fig. 1 indicate pubescence)

Male Not known.

Material examined Holotype ♀, Simla Hill, Pathankot (H. P.), 400' m. s.l., 3. V 1982, Coll. Rajiv K. Gupta; Paratype ♀, same data as for holotype (Division of Entomology, I. A. R. I., New Delhi).

Flower record *Caesulia* sp., *Salix* sp.

Etymology This species is named after Col. C. T. BINGHAM.

Remarks The new species described above has been found related to *H. parvula* BINGHAM (placed under subgenus *Michenerella* KROMBEIN, 1950), however, *parvula* distinctly differ from *binghami* in its flat clypeal surface, clypeal margin not incurved but transverse; interspace inbetween 2nd and 3rd tooth much wider; tergal fasceae complete and prominent with all tergites; body size large (6–7 mm).

Acknowledgments

Authors wish to thank Dr. H. N. Baijal, Head of the Zoology Department, Agra College, Agra, for providing necessary facilities and also to Drs. S. I. Farooqui, S. L. Gupta both at Entomology Division, I. A. R. I., New Delhi, for reviewing this manuscript.

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Zeitschrift/Journal: [Reichenbachia](#)

Jahr/Year: 1987-1988

Band/Volume: [25](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Gupta Rajiv K., Tewari V. K.

Artikel/Article: [A new species of genus Heriades SPINOLA from India \(Insecta, Hymenoptera, Apoidea, Megachilidae\) 65-66](#)