

On *Gorytes niger* Costa ♂ and ♀. (Hym.)

By F. D. Morice, Woking, England.

While travelling in Greece last spring with Dr. *Schmiedeknecht* and M. *Maurice Pic* I took, among the ruins of Olympia several ♂♂ of the curious little hymenopteron *Gorytes niger* Costa, and also in the same locality on May 11th a single ♀, which must, I feel sure, belong to the same species.

In *Costa's* original description he says nothing as to the sex of the specimen or specimens before him, but I gather from *Handlirsch's* Monograph that the ♀ of *Gorytes niger* is as yet unknown. My specimen agrees very closely with the ♂ except that the 2 basal segments of the abdomen are brightly red and only slightly clouded with black towards their apices. As in the ♂, the *tibiae anticae* are streaked in front with yellowish-white, the apices of the mandibles rufescent, the base of the scutellum impressed with a row of conspicuous foveolae, the triangular area of the median segment large, well defined, and obliquely striated — its sides rugose with a shining smoother space nearly bordering the area. The puncturation seems to me quite identical with that of the ♂. Thus in both, the two basal segments of the abdomen are shining — the 1st with a few and the 2nd with many, very large scattered punctures, in whose intervals appears (but only when highly magnified) another intensely fine piligerous punctulation. The other segments are comparatively dull, being covered almost evenly with very close fine punctures, and only their extreme apices a little shining and rufescent. In the fore-wings the radial cell is distinctly clouded throughout, the 2nd and 3rd cubitals only a little so and only in the middle. The length of my specimen is about 6 millimètres.

As I am not aware that anything has yet been published about the habits of the species, I may mention that the behaviour of the males struck me as very peculiar, and altogether unlike that of any other *Gorytes* known to me. I never saw them among flowers or grasses, but always running rapidly over smooth stones — the bases of fallen columns etc. — among the ruins during the hottest part of the morning. They did not look like *Gorytes* either in appearance or movements, but rather (as Dr. *Schmiedeknecht* remarked to me) like *Nitela*. Unluckily I can say nothing as to the behaviour of the female, which I did not determine till after my return to England, and of whose capture I have no particular recollection. I am sure, however, that I did not take it along with the ♂♂ on the stones, but probably on a flower near them.

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Zeitschrift/Journal: [Zeitschrift für systematische Hymenopterologie und Dipterologie](#)

Jahr/Year: 1901

Band/Volume: [1](#)

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