

A new species of *Brachystegus* A. Costa (Hymenoptera: Crabronidae: Bembicinae) from Nepal

PAVEL G. NEMKOV

Institute of Biology and Soil Science, Russian Academy of Sciences, Vladivostok 690022, Russia
nemkov@ibss.dvo.ru

Abstract

Brachystegus nikitini sp. nov. from Nepal is described and illustrated. This new species is similar to *B. basalis* (Smith), but differs in having a pair of subconical tubercles on the interocellar space, mostly red legs in the male (presumably also in the female) and unusual male sternal brushes of long erect setae joined at their tips.

Key words: Hymenoptera, Crabronidae, Bembicinae, *Brachystegus*, new species, Oriental

Introduction

Digger wasps of the genus *Brachystegus* inhabit the Palaearctic, Ethiopian and Oriental regions. Twenty species of this genus are known (Bohart & Menke 1976, Krombein 1985, Wu & Zhou 1991, Nemkov 2003), but a key to the all species is not available now. The natural history of *Brachystegus* wasps is poorly studied. Delaurence (1943) presented evidence that *Brachystegus scalaris* (Illiger) is a cleptoparasite of *Tachytes panzeri* (Dufour). Other species of this genus presumably are also parasites of the *Tachytes* nests.

Materials and methods

During study of the Dr. C. Schmid-Egger digger wasp collection a new *Brachystegus* species from Nepal was found.

Abbreviations (after Tsuneki 1971) used throughout the text are as follows: distance between eyes on level of anterior ocellus (*IODo*); distance between eyes on level of antennal socket (*IODa*); distance between eye and antennal socket (*OAD*); width of antennal