

***Chalinus albitibialis*, a new species of Orussidae (Insecta, Hymenoptera) from Morocco**

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Abstract

Chalinus albitibialis n. sp. is described and illustrated. It differs from all other members of the genus by possessing an extensive white area on the hind tibia. It is the first record of the genus from North Africa. The phylogenetic position of the new species relative to other members of *Chalinus* and the implications for the biogeography of the genus are discussed.

Key words: New species, Western Palaearctic, Afrotropical, zoogeography

Introduction

Chalinus is a small genus of strikingly blue-green metallic coloured wasps primarily distributed in sub-Saharan Africa. They superficially resemble Chrysididae, but the absence of a wasp-waist and the presence of a cirlet of cuticular pegs around the median ocellus clearly identify them as members of the Orussidae. Vilhelmsen (2001) recently revised *Chalinus*, synonymising a number of previously recognised species. The phylogeny and biogeography of the genus were explored in the comprehensive treatments of the entire family by Vilhelmsen (2003, 2004). With the species described here, the number of valid species of *Chalinus* totals nine.

Materials & Methods

The specimens were examined with a Leica MZ APO dissection microscope. Images were taken with a Leica DC 300 digital camera and integrated with Automontage.

The specimens were scored for as many characters as possible from the dataset assembled by Vilhelmsen (2003) for analysing the phylogeny of the entire Orussidae. The char-