



Review of the Palaearctic species of *Macromyrme* Lelej 1984 (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae) with description of a new species from Egypt

ASHRAF M. EL-TORKEY^{1,5}, ALAA DIN A. OSHAIBAH², MAGDI M. H. SALEM³,
MOHAMMAD T. HOSNI², ABDEL-RHMAN G. ABDEL-RHMAN⁴ & AHMED M. SOLIMAN²

¹Plant Protection Department, College of Food and Agriculture Science, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
E-mail: aeltorkey@ksu.edu.sa

²Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science (Boys), Al-Azhar University, P.O. Box 11884, Nasr City Cairo, Egypt.
E-mail: ammsoliman@yahoo.com

³Department of Classification, Plant Protection Research Institute, Agriculture Research Center, Ministry of Agriculture, Dokki, Giza, Egypt

⁴Department of Plant Protection, Desert Research Center, Ministry of Agriculture. P.O. Box 11753, Mataria, Cairo, Egypt.

⁵Corresponding author. E-mail: aeltorkey@ksu.edu.sa

Abstract

Three Palaearctic species of *Macromyrme* Lelej 1984 from the tribe Mutillini are reviewed. A new species, *M. leleji* Soliman, **sp. nov.** from South Sinai (Egypt) is described.

Key words: Mutillini, *Macromyrme*, new species, Palaearctic, Egypt, South Sinai

Introduction

Mutillidae or "velvet ants" represent a large family of solitary wasps within a large hymenopteran group known as Aculeata, in which the female's ovipositor serves to deliver venom, but is not used in egg laying. Mutillidae exhibit strong sexual dimorphism, the males are fully winged (rarely brachypterous or apterous) and possess a normal apocritan mesosoma, while the females are entirely apterous and most of them exhibit complete fusion of the mesosomal sclerites. Mutillids are well known as ectoparasitoids of digger wasps, bees and some Vespoidea (Brothers *et al.* 2000), with some exceptions: two mutillid species of the genus *Chrestomutilla* have been reported to parasitize tsetse flies (*Glossina*, Diptera) in Africa (Brothers 1971). Two species of *Macromyrme* Lelej occur in the Palaearctic region and ten species in the Afrotropical region (Lelej 2007). Bischoff (1920) included these species in his new genus *Pycnotilla* (junior synonym of *Ronisia* Costa 1858). The Palaearctic species are *Macromyrme binotata* (Radoszkowski) and *M. sinuata* (Olivier). In addition, a new species *M. leleji* **sp. nov.** (Egypt) which considered the first record of subfamily Mutillinae in Sinai Peninsula (Egypt) was detected during the present study.

Material and methods

The present work started with examination of the Egyptian Reference Insect Collections for mutillid wasps of the genus *Macromyrme* Lelej. These collections are: C. of Ministry of Agriculture, Plant Protection Research Institute (MAC); C. of Alfieri, Al-Azhar University, Faculty of Agriculture (ALFC); C. of Egyptian Entomological Society (EESC); C. of Ain Shams University (ASUC) and C. of Cairo University (CUC). This paper is based mainly on material collected directly by hand from the ground or indirectly by using pitfall traps from Sinai Peninsula (Egypt) and Ghazza (Palestine) [deposited in MAC, CUC and Lelej's collection]. Examination and illustrations of the external features of the mounted specimens were achieved using a stereo-binocular microscope MBC-9 (USSR) in the