



Description of *Nebulovena persa* Pujade-Villar & Paretas-Martínez gen. n. and sp. n. (Hymenoptera: Cynipoidea: Figitidae: Figitinae) from Iran, with a key to the genera of Figitinae

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Abstract

Nebulovena persa, gen. n. and sp. n. is described from Iran. This is the first record of the subfamily Figitinae from Iran. *Nebulovena* is distinguished from all other figitines by the veins of the radial cell being nebulous and the head subtriangular. The morphology of *N. persa* is illustrated and compared to other figitines. A key to all genera of Figitinae plus *Melanips* (currently included in the Aspicerinae) is given and illustrated.

Key words: parasitoid, Palaearctic, key

Introduction

The Figitinae are a cosmopolitan subfamily of Figitidae (Hymenoptera: Cynipoidea) and, when known, are parasitoids of larvae of cyclorrhaphan Diptera (Ronquist 1999). The Figitinae are circumscribed by the lack of derived characters present in other figitid subfamilies, and Ronquist (1999) described the group as “an obvious classificatory wastebasket”. The analysis of the phylogeny of the Figitidae by Buffington *et al.* (2007) retrieved a monophyletic Figitinae excluding two genera: *Lonchidia* Thomson, which rendered the Figitinae paraphyletic in the parsimony analysis but was not formally excluded from the subfamily, and *Melanips* Haliday, which was placed in the Aspicerinae. The position of *Melanips* is controversial and will be subjected to further study in forthcoming papers; however, for the purpose of completeness, *Melanips* is included in the discussion of the genera of Figitinae in this paper.

The Figitinae are divided into two large morphological groups according to the presence or absence of a scutellar spine (Weld 1952). Although the three genera with a scutellar spine — *Neralsia* Cameron, *Xyalophora* Kieffer and *Xyalophoroides* Jiménez & Pujade-Villar have been revised in the last years (Jiménez *et al.* 2008a, b, c; Jiménez & Pujade-Villar 2008), most genera of Figitinae have not been treated since Weld (1952) and need revision. Here we give a key to all genera of Figitinae, including the new genus described here plus *Melanips*.

Only eight species of the family Figitidae have been cited from Iran, two Aspicerinae (Pujade-Villar *et al.* 2010) and six Charipinae (Rakhshani *et al.* 2001, 2004; Lotfalizadeh 2002a, b; Lotfalizadeh & van Veen 2004; Pujade-Villar *et al.* 2007; Khayrandish-Koshkoei *et al.* *in press*).

We describe herein *Nebulovena persa*, new genus and species, as the first record of the subfamily Figitinae from Iran. We assign *N. persa* to the Figitinae because it lacks the derived characters that define the other figitid subfamilies, following classifications of previous authors (Weld 1952; Ronquist 1999) and the last keys to figitid subfamilies (Ros-Farré & Pujade-Villar 2007; Paretas-Martínez *et al.* 2011). According to its morphology, *N. persa* cannot be assigned to any recognized genus of Figitinae; thus, we erect a new genus to include it.