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To the knowledge of *Hedychridium* Abeille de Perrin, 1879 (Hymenoptera: Chrysididae) of Mediterranean Region, with description of new species and new synonymy

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Abstract

New species *Hedychridium goloensis* Strumia, **sp. nov.** from Western Mediterranean Region is described and figured. New synonymy is proposed for *Hedychridium jucundum* Mocsáry, 1889 (= *Hedychridium reticulatum hyalitarse* Perraudin 1978, **syn. nov.**). The number of *Hedychridium* species known for Sardinia and Corsica increased to 15 and 17 respectively.

Key words: new species, new synonymy, Corsica, Sardinia, Portugal, Tuscany

Introduction

In his revision paper on the Chrysididae of Corsica Island, W. Perraudin (1978) briefly described a new subspecies *Hedychridium reticulatum hyalitarse*, based on males captured in Bravone (Corsica) in July 1969 and 1972. The original material is preserved in Linsenmaier's collection (in Lucerne Nature-Museum), but the original description is too short: "antennes nettament plus courtes et plus épaisses. Tarses, en entier, uniformement clairs. L'observation de la femelle et d'une série plus importante permettra, peut-être, de déterminer s'il ne s'agit pas là d'une espèce réelle" (Perraudin 1978).

The description above is unfortunately compatible with several forms of this genus, rich in species. More recently Linsenmaier (1997) proposed a redescription of *Hedychridium hyalitarse* Perraudin, 1978 as valid species, from the holotype and paratypes preserved in his collection. According to Linsenmaier, *H. hyalitarse* is a frequent and widespread species in Corsica and he added some features to distinguish *H. hyalitarse* from *H. jucundum* Mocsáry, 1889, a species that appear to be closer to *H. hyalitarse* than to *H. reticulatum*, by the short and large clypeus, as long as the antennal socket (Linsenmaier 1959).

In my investigation on the Chrysididae of Corsica, I collected material all over the island, and *H. jucundum* was captured in about 80 males and females, also in the typical sites of the supposed *hyalitarse* (Bravone and Ponte Leccia). *H. jucundum* is one of the most frequent *Hedychridium* species in Corsica and Italy, and shows an intraspecific variation in body size, color and sculpture, including all the distinctive features given by Perraudin and Linsenmaier for *hyalitarse*. In particular all studied *H. jucundum* Corsican specimens have: "tarses, en entier, uniformement clairs" (Perraudin 1978), and more or less thin antennae.

Recently I could study the holotype and a paratype of *H. reticulatum hyalitarse*, from the Linsenmaier's collection. As results, the holotype of *H. reticulatum hyalitarse* fits well within the intraspecific variability range of *H. jucundum*, and, therefore, the following synonymy can be proposed: *Hedychridium jucundum* Mocsáry, 1889 (= *Hedychridium reticulatum hyalitarse* Perraudin, 1978, **syn. nov.**).

Surprisingly a paratype of Linsenmaier's collection, labeled as *H. hyalitarse*, is not a specimen of *H. jucundum*, but belongs to a new undescribed species of the same *ardens* group. Fortunately, in my collection I have found additional specimens of this new species, captured in Corsica, Sardinia, Tuscany and Portugal. Thus this new species appears to be widely distributed in the West Mediterranean Region.