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Review of the Gasteruptiidae (Hymenoptera: Evanioidea) from the territory of the former Yugoslavia, with three newly reported species

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Abstract

The results of more than 120 years of investigation of the fauna of Gasteruptiidae for the territory of former Yugoslavia (including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia) are summarized. Results from recently collected material and from unidentified specimens in collections are combined with those of published records. The total number of valid species of the genus *Gasteruption* Latreille for the area of former Yugoslavia is 22, which is more than in any country represented in Fauna Europaea database. One species is firstly recorded for the mainland Europe (*G. syriacum* Szépligeti), two more species are newly recorded for the investigated area and there are 23 first country-records for the involved countries (based on 17 species).

Key words: *Gasteruption*, distribution, former Yugoslavia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia

Introduction

The family Gasteruptiidae is a small group of wasps comprising two subfamilies, Gasteruptiinae (four genera) (Crosskey 1962; Rasnitsyn 1991; Macedo 2011; Zhao et al. 2012) and Hyptiogastrinae (two genera) (Jennings & Austin 2002). Aguiar et al. (2013) noted a total of 496 species in six genera: Gasteruptiinae (four genera) and Hyptiogastrinae (two genera). They are easily recognized from the other apocritan hymenopterans by the elongated "neck" (propleuron), the swollen hind tibiae and the elongate and highly attached metasoma. Adults are free-living insects feeding on nectar mainly on flowers with easily accessible nectar such the families Apiaceae, Asteraceae or Euphorbiaceae, but likely at least some *Gasteruption* species feed on both nectar and pollen (Jennings & Austin 2004). Gasteruptiidae are also known by their hovering flight during inspection of bee nests (van Achterberg 2013). The larvae feed on the larval food of solitary bees, after consuming the egg or larva of the bee (Malyshev 1966). They select bees of the subfamilies Apinae, Colletinae and Megachilinae nesting in stems or in wood, and less often in clay banks or other vertical soil substrates (Zhao et al. 2012; van Achterberg 2013); as far as known, bees nesting in flat ground are far less attacked. In Australia members of the Hyptiogastrinae attend bee nests in the ground (Houston 1987). There is only indirect evidence that Gasteruptiinae attack wasp nests, e.g. Crabronidae, Sphecidae and solitary Vespidae (Eumeninae) (Crosskey 1951; Gauld & Hanson 1995; Jennings & Austin 1997a, 1997b, 2004). Metamorphosis takes place inside the host's nest where gasteruptiid pupa hibernates until the next spring or summer (He 2004; Jennings & Austin 2004). Gasteruptiidae are traditionally classified in the superfamily Evanioidea, along with two more families—Aulacidae and Evaniidae. All three families share the highly inserted metasoma and the mid-coxal articulation. However, the biology of each family is different as are the thoracic

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