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A survey of Euphorinae (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) of southern Iran, with description of a new species

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Abstract

A faunistic survey of Euphorinae (Hym., Braconidae) in southern Iran, as well as an updated checklist of the genera and species in Iran, are presented. Sampling was performed using Malaise traps at different locations of Hormozgan province and Qeshm Island in Persian Gulf during 2011–2013. In total, 38 species belonging to 10 genera are listed from Iran. The recorded species belong to the following genera: *Allurus* Forster, 1862 (two species), *Chrysopophthorus* Goidanich 1948 (one species), *Dinocampus* Forster, 1862 (one species), *Ecclitura* Kokujev, 1902 (one species), *Leiophron* Nees von Esenbeck, 1819 (10 species), *Meteorus* Haliday, 1835 (12 species), *Perilitus* Nees von Esenbeck, 1819 (five species), *Syntretus* Forster 1862 (three species), *Wesmaelia* Foerster, 1862 (one species) and *Zelee* Curtis, 1832 (two species). *Allurus lituratus* (Haliday 1835), *Dinocampus coccinellae* (Schrank, 1802), *Leiophron (Peristenus) grandiceps* (Thomson 1892), *Meteorus rubens* (Nees, 1811) and *Wesmaelia petiolata* (Wollaston, 1858) are new records for Hormozgan province and *Leiophron (Peristenus) grandiceps* (Thomson 1892) is recorded for the first time from Iran. In addition, *Meteorus breviterebratus* Ameri, Talebi & Beyarslan **sp. n.** is newly described and illustrated.

Key words: *Meteorus*, new species, fauna, biological control, Hormozgan province, checklist

Introduction

The subfamily Euphorinae Foerster, 1862 is one of the largest groups of the family Braconidae (Hym.: Ichneumonoidea), comprising 55 genera (Chen & van Achterberg 1997; Yu *et al.* 2012) and more than 1,213 described species (Yu *et al.* 2012) distributed worldwide. Thirty genera are known from the Palaearctic region (Tobias 1986; Yu *et al.* 2012). Members of the subfamily Euphorinae can be recognized by the petiolated metasoma, fore wing with a short marginal cell, two to three cubital cells and an open brachial cell. These wasps are small to medium sized and generally yellow or black (Shaw 1985). Euphorinae are endoparasitoids of adults and immature stages of Coleoptera, Diptera, Hymenoptera, Lepidoptera, Neuroptera, Psocoptera and Hemiptera, thus this subfamily has a very broad host range compared with other braconids (Shaw 1985; Wharton *et al.* 1997). Most genera are rather unusual parasitoids attacking the adult stage of various insects (Shaw & Huddleston 1991). The taxonomy of the subfamily Euphorinae in the Palaearctic region was studied by many researchers including Belokobylskij (1992, 2000), Chen & van Achterberg (1997), Haeselbarth (1988, 1998, 1999), Maeto (1990), Shaw (1985, 1996), Stigenberg & Ronquist (2011), van Achterberg (1994), van Achterberg & Quicke (2000) and van Achterberg & Haeselbarth (2003). There are some different opinions on how to classify the genera; Shaw (1985) has given an excellent review of the genera and recognized nine tribes and separated the subfamily Meteorinae Cresson to include the genera *Meteorus* Haliday and *Zelee* Curtis. Only four tribes, Euphorini, Cosmophorini, Centistini, Meteorini are recognized by van Achterberg (1994) while Yu *et al.* (2012) listed 16 tribes (Centistini, Cosmophorini, Cryptoxilonini, Dinocampini, Euphorini, Helorimorphini, Mannokeraiini, Meteorini, Myiocephalini, Neoneurini, Oncometeorini, Perilitini, Planitorini, Proclithrophorini, Syntretini, Tainitermini).

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