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Revision of the subgenus *Dufourea* (*Flavodufourea*) Ebmer, 1984 (Hymenoptera, Halictidae, Rophitinae) and description of a new species *D.*(*Flavodufourea*) *ulkenkalkana* sp.nov. from Kazakhstan

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Abstract

Flavodufourea Ebmer, 1984 was described on the basis of *D. flavicornis* Friese, 1913. The females of this species are actually still unknown and this taxon is the only one included in the subgenus *Flavodufourea*. Moreover the generic attribution of *Flavodufourea* to *Dufourea* Lepeletier, 1841 or *Rophites* Spinola, 1808 constitutes an unresolved problem. Both sexes of a new *Flavodufourea* species, *D.* (*Flavodufourea*) *ulkenkalkana* sp.nov., are described here. This description also provides an opportunity to discuss the systematic position of *Flavodufourea* on a morphological basis.

Key words: Apoidea, *Rophites*, *Dufourea*, subgenus, new species, Central Asia

Introduction

The bee family Halictidae includes 4 subfamilies: Halictinae, Nomioidinae, Nomiinae and Rophitinae (Michener, 2000). The latter is particularly interesting due to several unique biological characteristics. Among Rophitinae, *Dufourea* Lepeletier, 1841 constitutes the most diversified genus, including nearly 125 species in the whole Holarctic region. Ebmer (1984, 1993) and Warncke (1979) distributed these species into 13 subgenera. The subgenus *Dufourea* (*Flavodufourea*) Ebmer, 1984 was described on the basis of the males of a single species, *Dufourea flavicornis* Friese, 1913, from Monda (Mongolia). *Flavodufourea* displays a very unusual morphology among *Dufourea*, leading Michener to propose its inclusion in *Rophites* Spinola, 1808 rather than in *Dufourea*. There is thus a confusion concerning the exact generic classification of *Flavodufourea*. Recently a short series of 3 remarkable Rophitinae specimens (2 males and 1 female) was found in the OÖL museum (Oberösterreich Landesmuseum, Linz, Austria) collections. These specimens belong obviously to a new species, *D.*(*Flavodufourea*) *ulkenkalkana* sp.nov., close to *D.flavicor-*

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