

Taxonomic studies on Indian *Tropobracon* Cameron (Hymenoptera: Braconidae: Braconinae), with descriptions of two new species

A. A. HAIDER*, Z. AHMAD & SHUJAUDDIN

Entomology Section, Department of Zoology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh-202 002, India;

*e-mail: draahaider@yahoo.com

Abstract

The paper deals with the Indian species of *Tropobracon* Cameron (Hymenoptera: Braconidae: Braconinae). Two new species, namely, *Tropobracon hayati* Haider sp. nov. and *Tropobracon shafeei* Haider sp. nov., are described, while *Tropobracon comorensis* Achterberg and *Tropobracon infuscatus* Achterberg are reported for the first time from India. Material pertaining to *T. luteus* Cameron are also recorded and a key to the Indian species is given.

Key words: Hymenoptera, Braconidae, Braconinae, *Tropobracon*, new species, India

Introduction

The genus *Tropobracon* was described by Cameron (1905) for *Tropobracon luteus* as its type species. *Tropobracon* belongs to the subtribe Braconina of the tribe Braconini (Quicke, 1987). It may be easily distinguished from other genera of Braconinae by: antennae long, median flagellomeres longer than wide; mesoscutum smooth or granulate, largely glabrous, notauli deeply impressed; fore wing vein SR1 reaching wing margin more than 0.7 of the way from the apex of the pterostigma to the wing tip; vein 1-SR+M of fore wing straight; vein 2-SC + R of hind wing elongate; tarsal claws with basal lobe; second metasomal tergite sculptured and with a pair of posteriorly converging grooves; ovipositor with a distinct pre-apical dorsal nodus and with well developed apico-ventral serrations. Members of *Tropobracon* are ectoparasites of larvae of stem borers belonging to the Pyralidae and Noctuidae of Lepidoptera (Achterberg, 1993).

Tropobracon is a small genus and is distributed in the Afrotropical and Oriental regions. Achterberg (1993) revised the genus and included five species viz., *T. antennatus* (Granger), *T. persimilis* (Szepliget), *T. comorensis* Achterberg, *T. infuscatus* Achterberg