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A new species of *Neochrysocharis* Kurdjumov (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae), a parasitoid of serpentine leafminers (Diptera: Agromyzidae) in Southeast Asia

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Abstract

Neochrysocharis beasleyi **sp.n.** (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae: Entedoninae) is described from Indonesia and Vietnam. This species is a parasitoid of leafmining Agromyzidae, and is a potential biological control agent for invasive agromyzid species. Variation within Southeast Asian specimens of *Neochrysocharis formosa* is described and discussed. *Neochrysocharis* **stat. rev.** is treated as a valid genus, and removed from synonymy with *Closterocerus*.

Key words: Hymenoptera, Eulophidae, *Neochrysocharis*, parasitoids, Agromyzidae, *Liriomyza*, Indonesia, Vietnam, *Neochrysocharis formosa*, variation

Introduction

Leafmining insects reduce plant metabolic activities and can lead to desiccation and premature fall of the leaves. Among the most serious leafmining pests are serpentine leafminers, which are flies in the family Agromyzidae. If leaves are seriously attacked, crops can be reduced or seedling plants even totally destroyed (Spencer, 1973; 1990). Eulophid wasps are the most common parasitoids recorded on leafminers worldwide (Reina & La Salle, 2003), as well as the most successful agents used within biological control programs against agromyzids (Minkenberg & van Lenteren, 1986; Waterhouse & Norris, 1987; Konishi, 1998; Murphy & La Salle, 1999).

This paper describes a new species of eulophid wasp in the genus *Neochrysocharis* Kurdjumov, which is a potential biological control agent for leaf-mining agromyzid pests. The New World *Liriomyza huidobrensis* (Blanchard) is a serious pest (Spencer 1973; Weintraub & Horowitz 1995), which recently invaded Southeast Asia where it attacks a variety of economically important host plants (Shepard *et al*. 1998). Three species of *Neo-*

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