



Description of a New Species of *Pararrhynchium* Saussure (Hymenoptera, Vespidae, Eumeninae) from Taiwan with a Catalogue of the *Pararrhynchium* Species

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Abstract

A new eumenine species, *Pararrhynchium taiwanum* sp. nov., from Taiwan is described. Based on the examination of holotype, the subspecies *multifascitum* Giordani Soika 1986 of *Pararrhynchium paradoxum* is actually a subspecies of *P. ornatum* (Smith), **comb. nov.** A catalogue of the nine species of *Pararrhynchium* Saussure is presented.

Key words New species, *Pararrhynchium*, Catalogue

Introduction

Pararrhynchium Saussure is a small genus of the vespidae subfamily Eumeninae, comprising nine species occurring in the eastern Palaearctic and Oriental regions. Nothing is known concerning its biology except for the nesting behavior in *P. ornatum* (Iwata, 1938; Yamane, 1990).

In the course of our examination of the Far Eastern eumenine wasps, we found a new species from Taiwan and a new combination, each of which is described and designated below.

In spite of the small number of species, our understanding of *Pararrhynchium* is still insufficient even in taxonomic aspect. Particularly a closer examination of the taxonomic validity of some species and subspecies based on insufficient specimens (sometimes based on a single specimen) is highly desirable. To aid future researchers, we present a revised catalogue of the described species of this genus to show the present status of our knowledge.

Pararrhynchium can be diagnosed by the following character combination: presence of a sessile metasoma having a somewhat blunt, basal, transverse carina on tergum I; presence of apical lamellae on at least the first and second metasomal terga with lamellae on same plane as tergal disk; presence of a submedian carina on propodeum that is well developed with a deep dorsomedian incision; presence of notauli situated on the apical one-third to one-half of the mesoscutum; presence of a slit-like axillary fossa; and presence of a short prestigma that is approximately one-fourth the length of the pterostigma.

Materials and Methods

The criterion for the establishment of new species adopted here is reproductive isolation. Although not directly observed, reproductive isolation is inferred on two criteria, morphological divergence and geographic distribution. Morphologically discontinuous forms that occur sympatrically are considered distinct species