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Description of two new species of Microgastrini (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) from India

MIR SAMIM AKHTAR[1,3], ZUBAIR AHMAD[2] & V.V. RAMAMURTHY[1,3]

[1]*Network Project on Insect Biosystematics, Division of Entomology, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi-110012, India*
[2]*Department of Zoology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh 202002, UP, India*
[3]*Corresponding authors. E-mail: msakhtar123@yahoo.com (Mir Samim Akhtar), vvrento@gmail.com (V.V. Ramamurthy)*

Abstract

Parapanteles sireeshaae Ahmad et Akhtar, **sp. nov.**, is described from Bapatla, Andhra Pradesh, India. Specimens of the new species were reared from *Hyposidra successaria* (Lepidoptera: Geometridae) on *Tinospora cordifolia* (Ranunculales: Menispermaceae) in betel vine garden. The new species is distinguished from *P. masoni* Austin et Dangerfield by the punctation on coxae and anterior diagonal carina of propodeum. *Pholetesor hayati* Akhtar, **sp. nov.**, is described from Jammu and Kashmir, India and distinguished from *P. salalicus* (Mason) by the size of frons, sculpture on tergite II and smooth tergite III. The *Pholetesor* is recorded for the first time from the Oriental region.

Key words: *Parapanteles, Pholetesor,* new species, India

Introduction

Mason in 1981, re-erected the *Parapanteles* Ashmead and described *Pholetesor* while reclassifying the Microgasterinae and explaining the polyphyletic nature of *Apanteles* Förster. *Parapanteles* contains 19 described species: 13 from Neotropical region (Mason, 1981; Valerio *et al.* 2009), two from Nearctic region (Valerio *et al.* 2009), one each from Australasian (Austin and Dangerfield, 1992), Afrotropical (Valerio *et al.* 2005), Oriental (Sathe *et al.* 1989), and from both the Neotropical and Nearctic region (Mason 1981; Valerio *et al.* 2009). *Pholetesor* has 35 known species so far, of these 13 are Palearctic (Haliday 1834; Reinhard 1880; Marshall 1885; Tobias 1964; Papp 1973; Nixon 1973; Komenko 2007), 19 are Nearctic (Mason 1981; Valerio and Whitfield 2003; Whitfield 2006), and two are from both the Palearctic and Nearctic regions (Whitfield 2006); one species is from the Neotropical region (Valerio and Whitfield 2003). Two new species namely, *Parapanteles sireeshaae* Ahmad et Akhtar, **sp. nov.**, parasitizing *Hyposidra successaria* on *Tinospora cordifolia* in betel vine garden, and *Pholetesor hayati* Akhtar, **sp. nov.**, are described and illustrated herein from India.

Material and methods

The morphological terminology used in the species description for the various body parts and wing venation is that of Sharkey and Wharton (1997). Line diagrams were drawn using camera lucida attached with Leica MZ12 stereomicroscope. Female genitalia were mounted in DPX after overnight immersion in 10% KOH and exposure to 80% and 99% alcohol.

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