



A new species of *Pristapenesia* Brues (Hymenoptera, Scolebythidae) from Asia

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Abstract

Pristapenesia asiatica **sp. nov.** is described and illustrated from two female specimens collected in China and Thailand. This species is readily recognized by the absence of a tubular radial vein in the fore wings. A key to world fossil and living species of *Pristapenesia* is provided.

Key words: *Pristapenesia*, Oriental region, Palearctic region, taxonomy

Introduction

Pristapenesia was originally described by Brues (1933) to accommodate *P. primaeva*, an Eocene fossil species from the Baltic region and based on a series of males and a single female “with extremely long, slender abdomen and prothorax much produced anteriorly”. At that time he classified the genus in the Bethyidae. Subsequently, Prentice *et al.* (1996) described *Dominibythus*, which was later synonymized with *Pristapenesia* by Brothers and Janzen (1999), and properly assigned the latter to Scolebythidae. Two species were described in *Dominibythus* and later transferred to *Pristapenesia*, the Miocene fossil *P. inopinata* (Prentice & Poinar 1996) in Early Miocene amber from the Dominican Republic, and the extant *P. stricta* (Azevedo 1999) from Brazil.

Herein we record a fourth and new species of *Pristapenesia* from Thailand and Palearctic China (Shaanxi). The purpose of the present work is to provide the description of this new species and make comparisons with its congeners. In addition, a revised key to the world species, living and fossil, of the genus is provided.

Material and methods

The holotype from northeastern Thailand will be deposited in the Natural History Museum, London (BMNH), while the paratype from Northern China is deposited in the Hymenoptera Collection of South China Agricultural University (SCAU).

The main measurements used here are as follows: LH, length of head; WH, width of head; WF, width of frons; HE, height of compound eye; OOL, ocello-ocular line; WOT, width of the ocellar triangle, including the ocelli; DAO, diameter of anterior ocellus; VOL, vertex-ocular line; LFW, length of fore wing. The terms used to describe the general body structure follow those of Evans (1963), the wing cells and veins follow Gauld and Bolton (1988), and the integumental sculpturing follows Harris (1979). All photographs were prepared by the second author using a Zeiss Imager A1 attached to a digital camera CoolSNAP, and manipulated with Image-Pro Plus software.