



The species of *Ormyrus* Westwood (Hymenoptera: Ormyridae) in Iran with description of an unusual new species

HOSSEINALI LOTFALIZADEH^{1*}, RICHARD R. ASKEW², PABLO FUENTES-UTRILLA³ & MAJID TAVAKOLI⁴

¹ Department of Plant Protection, East-Azerbaijan Research Center for Agriculture & Natural Resources, Tabriz, Iran

² 5, Beeston Hall Mews, Brook Lane, Beeston, Tarporley, Cheshire CW6 9TZ, UK

³ Institute of Evolutionary Biology, University of Edinburgh, Ashworth Laboratories, King's Buildings, West Mains Road, Edinburgh EH9 3JT, UK

⁴ Lorestan Agricultural and Natural Resources Research Center, Lorestan, Khorramabad, P.O.Box: 348, Iran

E-mail: ¹lotfalizadeh2001@yahoo.com, ²olynx@btinternet.com, ³p.fuentes@ed.ac.uk, ⁴majide322@yahoo.com

¹Corresponding author

Abstract

An account is given of the Iranian species of *Ormyrus* Westwood (Hymenoptera: Chalcidoidea: Ormyridae). Eleven species are listed from Iran, including *Ormyrus pallens* Lotfalizadeh & Askew **n. sp.**, and six species that are newly reported from Iran, *O. bingoeliensis* Doğanlar, *O. bucharicus* Zerova, *O. cupreus* Askew, *O. diffinis* (Fonscolombe), *O. discolor* Zerova and *O. wachli* Mayr. New biological associations for the Iranian species are presented, and geographical distribution and biological data are summarised.

Key words: Biological associations, fauna, gall, parasitoid

Introduction

Ormyridae is a small family of Chalcidoidea (Hymenoptera) represented on all continents. There are three described genera, *Ormyrus* Westwood, *Ormyrus* Bouček and *Eubeckerella* Narendran. Of these, *Ormyrus* is by far the largest genus and the only one to occur in the Palaearctic region (Zerova and Seryogina 2006). The family is characterised by coarsely pitted gastral tergites, the presence of large hind coxae (as in Toryminae), reduced stigmal vein, a very small prepectus (smaller than tegula), and two stout, curved metatibial spurs.

Treatments of Ormyridae in different countries and zoogeographical regions have been presented by Erdős (1946), Bouček (1970), Nieves-Aldrey (1984), Doğanlar (1984; 1991a, b), Zerova (1985), Hanson (1992), Askew (1994), Zerova and Seryogina (1998, 2006), Narendran (1999), Stojanova (2005), and Narendran *et al.* (2007). Hanson (1992) revised the Nearctic species of *Ormyrus*, describing seven new species, and Zerova and Seryogina (2006) provided a key to 34 species in the Palaearctic region. Subsequently, Narendran *et al.* (2007) described a new species from Yemen and newly recorded six species (*O. desertus* Zerova & Dawah, *O. diffinis* (Fonscolombe), *O. gratus* (Förster), *O. pomaceus* (Geoffroy), *O. orientalis* Walker and *O. yemensis* Narendran) from Middle East countries.

Species of *Ormyrus* are mostly solitary, larval, primary or occasionally secondary ectoparasitoids of gall-inducing Cynipidae (Hymenoptera) and Cecidomyiidae, Tephritidae and Agromyzidae (Diptera) (Askew 1994; Zerova and Seryogina 1998, 2006). A few species are also parasitoids of phytophagous Eurytomidae (Chalcidoidea) in seeds. The genus is mostly associated with cynipid galls, especially Aylacini, in the New World (Hanson 1992), whereas in the Old World, in addition to cynipid galls, several species are associated with cecidomyiid and tephritid galls (Zerova 1985; Zerova and Seryogina 2006) and, in Africa, chalcidoid galls in figs (*Ficus*) (Bouček *et al.* 1981).

Only four species of *Ormyrus* had been recorded from Iran prior to the present study — *O. orientalis* (OILB