Zootaxa 3681 (2): 197–200
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

Correspondence

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
ZOOTAXA
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3681.2.11
http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:33AF4370-8582-485D-9CB4-087CBC3E02F6

Oligogaster gen. nov., a new chrysidid genus from Egypt (Hymenoptera, Chrysididae, Elampini)

AHMED M. SOLIMAN[1] & LYNN S. KIMSEY[2]

[1]*Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science (Boys), Al-Azhar University, P.O. Box 11884, Nasr City, Cairo, Egypt. E-mail: ammsoliman@yahoo.com*

[2]*Department of Entomology, University of California, Davis, California, 95616, U.S.A. E-mail: lskimsey@ucdavis.edu*

Oligogaster Soliman & Kimsey, **gen. nov.** (type species *Oligogaster kimseyae* Soliman, **sp. nov.**) from the tribe Elampini is described from Egypt.

Currently cosmopolitan family Chrysididae includes approximately 3000 described species (Kimsey & Bohart 1991, Engel 2006). The family is divided into four subfamilies: Cleptinae, Loboscelidiinae, Amiseginae, and Chrysidinae. The species rich subfamily Chrysidinae contains tribes Elampini, Chrysidini, Parnopini and Allocoeliini (Tyrner 2007); in addition to the tribe Kimseyini, which is considered one of the smallest tribes in the subfamily, established by (Antropov 1995) based on one species (female) from Uzbekistan.

Chrysididae exhibit more diverse foraging habits than other Chrysidoidea (Dryinidae or Bethylidae). The Chrysididae includes brood parasites, ectoparasitoids and endoparasitoids, including the only egg parasitoids known among aculeate Hymenoptera. Most species are solitary feeders, but a few feed gregariously as larvae (O'Neill 2001). With the exception of species of *Praestochrysis* Linsenmaier that are parasitoids of Lepidoptera, Chrysidinae attacks solitary aculeate bees and wasps in almost all families. Most chrysidines lay their eggs on prey within host nests but several species oviposit on the host prey insects before those are taken into the nest.

Chrysidine tribes have a reduced number of exposed metasomal segments compared to other subfamilies in the family or even to other Aculeata. Both Elampini and Chrysidini possess three visible segments with no sexual dimorphism in number; Parnopini have four segments in males and three in females; Kimseyini, known from females, has three segments, of which the third is very tiny. Allocoeliini is unusual in having two metasomal terga and three sterna visible. The shape of the last visible tergum is characteristic for various taxa and serves as one of the main characters for identification. Elampini is the second largest tribe in the Chrysidinae. Although distributed worldwide, the majority of genera and species occur in the arid sections of the Holarctic region, particularly southwestern North America, southern regions of the former USSR and the Middle East. In addition to the three visible metasomal segments, Elampini can be distinguished by T3 without a pit row or subapical foveae and tarsal claws usually dentate (Kimsey & Bohart 1991).

The discovery of a new chrysidid wasp with two visible metasomal terga in the Palaearctic region, where all previously known chrysidids are distinguished by 3–5 visible terga, is extraordinary. Only the allocoeliines, a monogeneric tribe occuring in southern Africa, are known to have this tergal morphology. However, members of this tribe are also characterized by presence of a genal carina, anterolaterally dentate propleuron, obscured tegula, dentate tarsal claws, non-metallic colouration and a number of other features clearly distinguishing them from our new species. In addition to the extremely reduced number of exposed metasomal segments (two terga and four strongly concave sterna), the new chrysidid wasp is characterized by: face with scapal basin concave and cross-ridged; mandible with one subapical tooth; occiput without transverse carina or welt; propodeum abruptly declivitous, without dorsal surface; propodeal lateral angle well developed, slender (digitate); tegula unmodified; fore wing with three closed cells and short Rs, without *Rs+M* or *Cu*; mesopleuron reticulate-punctate, moderately angulate ventrally; hind tibia with dark spot on inner surface; tarsal claws edentate; T2 subapically without pit row or foveae, with apical margin entire. The new genus has the wing venation, mesopleural sculpturing, propodeal shape and lateral angle and absence of pit row on apical rim of posterior visible tergum typical of the Elampini. It most closely resembles the genus *Hedychridium* Abeille de Perrin. Additionally, there are two other elampine genera, *Prochridium* Linsenmaier (one species, Egypt) and *Xerochrum* Bohart (one species, southwestern North America). The chrysidid wasp described here is certainly different enough to be a new genus, just because of the two visible metasomal terga, four visible sterna and edentate tarsal claws.

Accepted by A. Lelej: 28 May 2013; published: 20 Jun. 2013