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To the knowledge of cuckoo wasps (Hymenoptera: Chrysididae) of the Balearic Archipelago, Spain

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Abstract

The Chrysididae of the Balearic Archipelago were studied by operating four Malaise traps in the Mallorca and Menorca Islands. Traps captured 98 individuals belonging to 19 species. Including all available data from literature, the number of species in this archipelago rise to 34. *Hedychridium balearicum* Strumia, **sp. nov.** (Mallorca) is described and key to the *Hedychridium monochroum* species-group is given. Extrapolation from available data suggests the presence of about 58 to 107 Chrysididae species in the Balearic Archipelago.

Key words: new species, Mallorca, Menorca, Balearic Islands, Spain, key, Chrysididae

Introduction

Five major islands form the Balearic Archipelago: Mallorca (3625 km²), Menorca (689 km²), Eivissa (567 km²), Formentera (77 km²), and Cabrera (15.7 km²), with a total surface of 4991 km². A few additional minor islands complete the Archipelago. These islands resulted, together with Sardinia, Corsica and part of Tuscany Archipelago, from the fragmentation of Cordillera Betica, beginning in the Oligocene about 23 mya. Some micro plates moved westward, rotated counter clockwise (Sardinia and Corsica) or reached southern Italy (Calabria) and North Africa (Kabylia, Algeria) (Edel *et al.* 2001; Alvarez *et al.* 1974).

Since then the Balearic Islands remained separated from mainland, with a possible exception during the Messinian salinity Crisis (5.6–5.3 mya). As a consequence, the Hymenoptera fauna of the above West Mediterranean Islands shows an affinity with those of the Iberian mainland (Strumia & Scaramozzino 2002).

It is surprising how few papers reporting data on Chrysididae of Balearic Islands can be found in literature. The only available data are few occasional citations about single specimens (Navás 1910; Erlandsson 1974; Hohmann 1984; Mingo 1994; Linsenmaier 1959, 1968, 1997; Pons & Palmer 1996; Reder & Arens 2012), but no comprehensive review study was ever published.

Material and methods

Recently Balearic Hymenoptera were studied under supervision of Salamanca University (Prof. S.F. Gayubo), by operating Malaise traps. Here we report about the material captured in 2003–2005 years by four traps, positioned on Mallorca and Menorca Islands, namely:

Site 1—Menorca: Ciudadela, 40°00'N 3°50'E. Trap operating between May and September 2003.

Site 2—Mallorca: Soller, 39°46'N 2°42'E. Trap operating between May and September 2005.

Site 3—Mallorca: Valdemossa, 39°42'N 2°38'E. Trap operating between May and September 2005.

Site 4—Mallorca: Bunyola, 39°42'N 2°41'E. Trap, operating between May and September 2004.