



***Chakra*, a new genus of Scelioninae (Hymenoptera: Platygasteridae) from India, along with description of a new species**

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Abstract

A new genus and one new species of Scelioninae (Hymenoptera: Platygasteroidea: Platygasteridae) is described and illustrated from India: *Chakra* Rajmohana and Veenakumari, gen. nov. and *Chakra sarvatra* Rajmohana and Veenakumari, sp. nov. The new genus is most similar to *Opisthacantha* Ashmead and differs from it in the presence of a unique sculpture on the head and mesosoma: large and round tubercles separated by sinuous, narrow furrows; the position of lateral ocelli; the dorsally extended prominent interantennal prominence and the fore wing with stigmal and postmarginal veins distinctly longer than the marginal vein.

Key words: Egg parasitoids, Andaman islands, Indian Ocean, S. India

Introduction

Platygasteroidea, with 5700 species and 264 genera is the third largest superfamily in parasitic Hymenoptera after Ichneumonoidea and Chalcidoidea (Austin *et al.* 2005, Johnson 2013). Scelioninae, the largest subfamily of platygasteroid wasps (Hymenoptera) are egg parasitoids of Orthoptera, Mantodea, Heteroptera, Embioptera and Araneae (Austin *et al.* 2005). In India, the subfamily is highly diverse and is represented by 37 genera and 149 species (Rajmohana 2011, Rajmohana & Bijoy 2011, Rajmohana 2012, Rajmohana & Peter 2012a, 2012b, Veenakumari *et al.* 2012, Burks *et al.* 2013 and Rajmohana 2013).

During our taxonomic studies on Indian Platygasteroidea, we came across a few scelionine specimens—from southern India as well as from Andaman islands in the Indian Ocean—that were quite distinct in having a unique body sculpture, which is setigerous tuberculate, with tubercles large and round and the spaces in between with sinuous, narrow furrows. Due to the combination of the unique sculpture, the location of ocelli (OOL>POL>LOL), the prominent interantennal prominence and the fore wing with stigmal and postmarginal veins longer than the marginal vein these specimens represent a new scelionine genus.

Material and methods

Specimens were collected using yellow pan traps, malaise traps and sweep net and were mounted on point-card tips. Specimens were examined and imaged using a Leica M205A stereomicroscope, with 1× objective and Leica DFC-500 digital camera.

The holotype and two paratypes of the new species are deposited in the National Zoological Collection at the Zoological Survey of India, Calicut (ZSI), while five paratypes are at the National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Insects, Bangalore (NBAIL).

Morphological terminology follows Masner (1976, 1980), Austin and Field (1997) and Mikó *et al.* (2007, 2010). Tibial spur formula as per Masner, 1976.

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