



A new species of *Phanerotoma* Wesmael (Hymenoptera: Braconidae: Cheloninae) from the Andaman Islands, India

ANKITA GUPTA^{1,3} & CORNELIS VAN ACHTERBERG²

¹National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Insects, Post Bag No. 2491, H. A. Farm Post, Bellary Road, Hebbal, Bangalore 560 024, Karnataka, India

²Dept. Terrestrial Zoology, Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Darwinweg 2, 2333 CR Leiden, Netherlands.

³Corresponding author. E-mail: drankitagupta7@gmail.com

Abstract

A new species *Phanerotoma andamanensis* Gupta & van Achterberg **sp. nov.** is described from the Andaman Islands, India. Differences of the new species from the other Oriental species are discussed. *Phanerotoma agarwali* Varshney & Shujauddin, 1999, is a junior synonym of *P. syleptae* Zettel, 1990, **syn. nov.**

Key words: *Phanerotoma*, parasitoid, new species, Andaman Islands

Introduction

The cosmopolitan genus *Phanerotoma* Wesmael (1838) was named with *Chelonus dentatus* Panzer as the type species. From India nine species are documented (Shenefelt 1973, Zettel 1990, Varshney and Shujauddin 1999, Ahmad and Shujauddin 2004, and Sheeba and Narendran 2008). From India and Malaysia the biology of some species is known, viz., *Phanerotoma divergens* van Achterberg is reared from a host in Dipterocarpaceae seeds (van Achterberg *et al.* 2009), *P. syleptae* Zettel, 1990 from *Diaphania indica* (Saunders), *Haritalodes derogata* (Fabricius), *Hendecasis duplifascialis* (Hampson) and *Palpita machaeralis* (Walker), its synonym *P. agarwali* Varshney & Shujauddin, 1999 from *Haritalodes derogata* (Fabricius), *P. buchneri* Fahringer, 1932 from *Pseudohypatopa pulvereae* (Meyrick), *P. noyesi* Zettel, 1990 from *Glyphodes pulverulentalis* Hampson and *P. hendecasisella* Cameron, 1905 has been reared from 21 hosts (Yu *et al.* 2013). In this paper we describe a new species of *Phanerotoma* from the Andaman Islands, India associated with *Cassia* sp. (Fabaceae); it is the first species of *Phanerotoma* reported from the Andaman Islands. The terminology used follows van Achterberg (1993).

Material and methods

The wasps were aspirated manually while hovering over the inflorescence of *Cassia* sp. at Jirkatong, South Andaman in the early morning hours. LEICA M 205A stereozoom microscope with LEICA DC 420 inbuilt camera using automontage software (version 3.8) was used for imaging. The holotype and two paratypes are deposited in the National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Insects (NBAIL), Bangalore. Two paratypes are deposited in Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, Netherlands.

Species description

***Phanerotoma andamanensis* Gupta & van Achterberg sp. nov.**

(Figs A–N)

Acknowledgements

AG thanks the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for providing financial support for the survey and Dr. Abraham Verghese (Director, NBAII) for encouragement and guidance. She is grateful to Dr. P. Vishwakannan, Deputy Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Andamans for granting permission to undertake insect survey. The taxonomic study was done under the Network project on Insect biosystematics funded by ICAR. Literature aid from Dr Dicky Sick Ki Yu (Ottawa, Canada), Prof. Dr Michael J. Sharkey (Lexington, USA), Mr. Yves Braet (Brussels, Belgium) and Dr Rebecca Kittel (The University of Adelaide, Australia) is kindly acknowledged.

References

- Achterberg, C. van (1993) Illustrated key to the subfamilies of the Braconidae (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonoidea). *Zoologische Verhandelingen*, 288, 1–189. [Leiden]
- Achterberg, C. van, Hosaka, T., Ng, Y.F. & Ghani, I.B.A. (2009) The braconid parasitoids (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) associated with seeds of Dipterocarpaceae in Malaysia. *Journal of Natural History*, 43, 11–12, 635–686.
- Ahmad, Z. & Shujauddin (2004) Description of a new species of the genus *Phanerotoma* Wesmael (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) along with a key to Indian species. *Zoos' Print Journal*, 19 (12), 1706–1707.
- Cameron, P. (1905) On the phytophagous and parasitic Hymenoptera collected by Mr. E. Green in Ceylon. *Spolia Zeylanica*, 3, 67–143.
- Fahringer, J. (1932) Zwei neue Braconidenarten als Feinde einer Mordraupe. *Zeitschrift für Angewandte Entomologie*, 19, 144–146.
- Sheeba, M. & Narendran, T.C. (2008) A new species of the genus *Phanerotoma* Wesmael (Braconidae: Cheloniinae) with a key to Indian species. *Journal of Bio-Science*, 16, 11–14.
- Shenefelt, R.D. (1973) *Hymenopterorum Catalogus*. (nov. ed.) Part 10, Braconidae, 6, 813–936. [s Gravenhage]
- Varshney, K. & Shujauddin (1999) Two new species of the genus *Phanerotoma* Wesmael (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) from India. *Records of Zoological Survey of India*, 97, 259–263.
- Wesmael, C. (1838) Monographie des braconides de Belgique. 4. *Nouveaux Memoires de l'Academie Royale des Sciences et Belles-lettres de Bruxelles*, 11, 165.
- Yu, D.S., Achterberg, van K. & Horstmann, K. (2013) Ichneumonoidea 2012 (Biological and taxonomical information). Taxapad Interactive Catalogue, Ottawa. Available from: <http://www.taxapad.com/> (accessed 13 August 2014)
- Zettel, H. (1990) Die *Phanerotoma*-Arten des indischen Subkontinents (Insecta: Hymenoptera: Braconidae: Cheloniinae). *Reichenbachia*, 27, 147–158.