



The digger wasps of the genus *Didineis* Wesmael (Hymenoptera: Crabronidae: Bembicinae) of Russia and adjacent territories, with a key to species and new synonymies

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Abstract

Ten species of *Didineis* Wesmael 1852 are recorded from Russia and adjacent territories. The new synonymy (valid name listed first) is established for *Didineis bactriana* Gussakovskij 1937 = *D. ogloblini* Gussakovskij 1937, *D. clavimana* Gussakovskij 1937 = *D. turanica* Gussakovskij 1937, and *D. lunicornis* (Fabricius 1798) = *Didineis ruthenica* Gussakovskij 1937. The number of valid species-group taxa in the genus *Didineis* is reduced to 25. The lectotypes are designated for four species: *Didineis bactriana* Gussakovskij 1937, *D. botsharnikovi* Gussakovskij 1937, *D. clavimana* Gussakovskij 1937, *D. ruthenica* Gussakovskij 1937. An original key to the species is provided.

Key words: sand wasps, *Didineis*, Palearctic, fauna

Introduction

Didineis Wesmael 1852 currently includes 28 species distributed worldwide except for the Australian Region (Pulawski 2014). Eighteen species are known from the Palearctic Region and nine from Russia. Most of the species are rarely collected, and some are known from the type series only. Biology is not well known but apparently similar to that of the closely related *Alysson* Panzer 1806 (Bohart & Menke 1976). The females construct nests with several cells in sandy soil. The larvae feed on Homoptera, mainly leafhoppers and fulgorids (Evans & O'Neill 2007, Nemkov 2012).

This paper deals with *Didineis* of Russia and the adjacent territories (the former Soviet Union, Mongolia, northern China, Korean Peninsula, and northern Japan). These wasps have been revised only by Gussakovskij (1937) about 80 years ago. Within the area considered, there are keys to the species of European part of former USSR (Pulawski 1978), Kazakhstan and Middle Asia (Kazenas 1978), and Russian Far East (Nemkov *et al.* 1995).

The current number of the valid species in the genus *Didineis* (including the new synonymies from this paper) is reduced to 25, to 15 in the Palearctic Region, and to eight in Russia.

Material and methods

About 40 specimens have been studied. The following are abbreviations of the names of institutions in which the type specimens and studied materials are deposited:

IBSS	Institute of Biology and Soils Science, Vladivostok, Russia
MNHAH	Museum of Nature and Human Activities, Hyogo, Japan
NHMW	Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien, Austria
TMB	Természettudományi Múzeum, Budapest, Hungary
ZIN	Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Russia

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