

GIOVANNI MINEO (\*), VIRGILIO CALECA(\*\*)

A NEW SCELIONID WASP FROM AFRICA:  
*ARADOPHAGUS NICOLAI* SP. N. (\*\*\*)

UN NUOVO SCELIONIDE DALL'AFRICA:  
*ARADOPHAGUS NICOLAI* SP. N.

ABSTRACT

A new scelionid wasp is described from Africa: *Aradophagus nicolai* sp. n.

***Aradophagus nicolai* sp. n.**

*Female.* (Fig. 1) Head and thorax bright dirty honey yellow; the gaster foscous honey yellow; antenna varicoloured; radicle and basal portion of A1 honey yellow, rest of scape brownish in contrast with honey and with infuscation more intense towards apex; A2, A8-A12 chestnut brown, A3-A7 whitish; fore wing venation brownish becoming almost hyaline in the portion not interested by cross bands; disc on fore wing brownish except two hyaline bands as shown in fig. 1; hind wing hyaline excluding darkened areas shown in fig. 1; tegulae and mandibles bright dirty honey yellow, except reddish teeth.

Vertex rounded; lateral ocelli far their own diameter from inner orbit; LOL 1/2 POL; head weakly wider than long (14: 13, length measured from vertex to toruli); *ios- eh- ms* ratio as 9.8: 6: 3; radicle as 1/3 of scape's length; A2-A5 length ratio as 4: 2.7: 2: 2; A4 a little wider than A5; A8-A12 length ratio as 1.7: 2.3: 2: 2: 3.5, they have the same width; A8-A11 cylindrical, A12 tapering towards apex; T1-T4 length ratio as 3: 6.5: 5: 4.8.

Frons, mesoscutum, scutellum and metanotum lustrous with minute scattered hairs; cheeks sculpturless with almost obsolete fan like striation; eyes with short scattered hairs; occipital carina complete; mesoscutum with almost percurrent notaulices; propodeum with two lateral and one median carinae; T1 with dense and fine striae; on T2 weak longitudinal striation reaching about 4/5 of its length. Length 1.3 mm.

*Male.* Similar to the female, except in following characters: body and appendages chestnut brown excluding temples, radicle, cheeks, occiput, trochanteres and

---

(\*) Istituto di Entomologia agraria dell'Università degli Studi, viale delle Scienze 13, 90128 Palermo.

(\*\*) Dipartimento di Scienze Animali, Vegetali e dell'Ambiente, Università degli Studi del Molise, via Cavour 50, 86100 Campobasso.

(\*\*\*) Paper n. XXXVII «Studi sugli Scelionidi» of the senior author realized by the financial support of M.U.R.S.T. (60%).

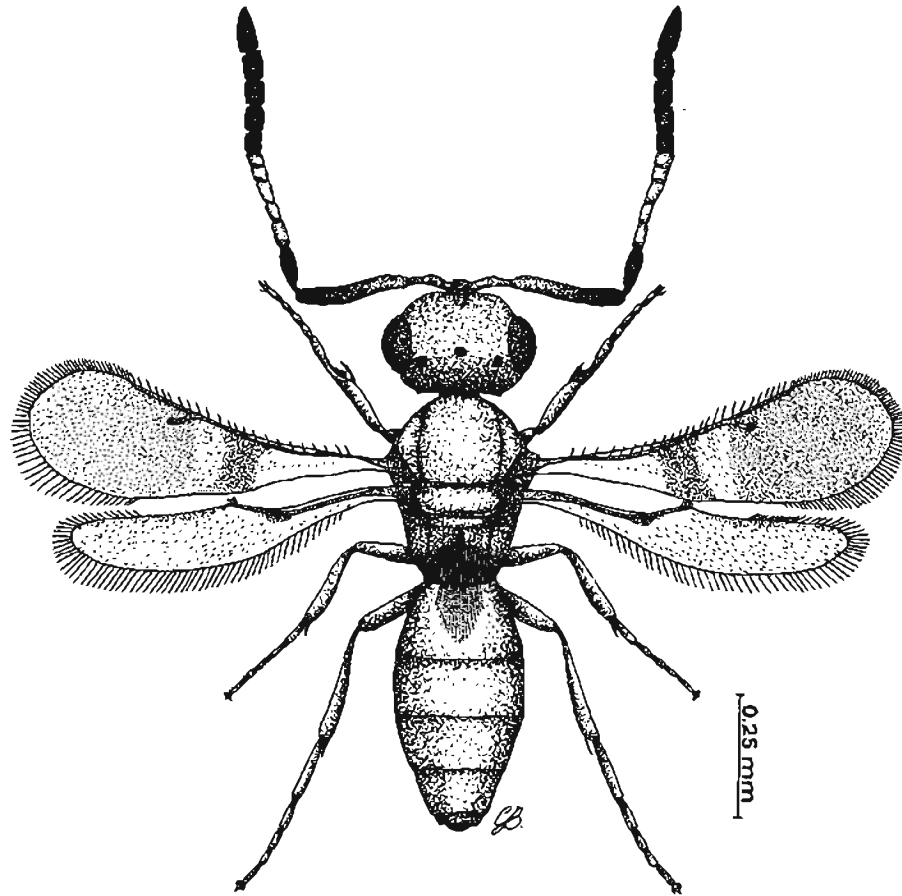


Fig. 1 - Habitus of *Aradophagus nicolai* sp. n. (holotype ♀).

T1, T2 of the same colouration in contrast with honey; notaulices a little less abbreviate than in female; striation on T2 almost percurrent; A2 barely shorter than A12 (3: 3.8); A3-A4 about of same length and width, but longer than A5 and A11; these last two antennomeres about equal in shape, wider than long; surface between lateral ocelli and inner orbits coriaceous.

Length 1.1 mm.

*Material examined.* 1 ♀ (holotype) (Zimbabwe Salisbury, Aug. 1980, A. WARSHAM); 1 ♂ (allotype) with the same data of holotype.

Both specimens from a residue in alcohol received from Dr. L. Masner; holotype preserved in CNC - Ottawa).

*Comments.* In the revision of Aradophagini, MASNER & HUGGERT (1979) recognize 3 genera. By the key provided in that paper *A. nicolai* sp. n. should run into *Abuko* Masner & Huggert, except for the absence of the tuft of erected long black bristles below subcostalis; this species differs from the only species until

now included in *Abuko* also in the colouration of antennae.

In our opinion the presence of the tuft of bristles, on the basis of which the genus *Abuko* has been erected, is to be considered a distinguishing character at species-group level; then we prefer to avoid to erect an unnecessary new genus, and classify the upmentioned new species into *Aradophagus* Ashmead that we recognize as the only genus of Aradophagini, so far.

The new species is for the senior author's son.

#### SUMMARY

A new scellionid wasp is described from Zimbabwe: *Aradophagus nicolai* sp. n.

#### RIASSUNTO

In questo lavoro viene descritto un nuovo scellionide africano (Zimbabwe): *Aradophagus nicolai* sp. n.

#### BIBLIOGRAFIA

MASNER L., HUGGERT L., 1979 - Revision of the world species of Aradophagini (Hymenoptera: Scellionidae). *Can. Ent.*, 111: 1089-1100.

*Manoscritto presentato il 26 Novembre 1992*