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New and noteworthy records of vespid wasps (Hymenoptera: Vespidae) from the Palaearctic region

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Abstract. Records of 15 Palaearctic species of Vespidae are given. The following taxa are newly recorded: *Polistes rubellus* Gusenleitner, 2006, from Nepal, *Dolichovespula adulterina* (du Buysson, 1905) and *Katamenes tauricus* (de Saussure, 1855) from the Tuva Republic (Eastern Siberia, Russia), *Vespula vulgaris* (Linnaeus, 1758) from Ciudad Real province (Spain), *Ancistrocerus gazella* (Panzer, 1798) from Gran Canaria (Spain, Canary Islands), *Hemipterochilus bicoloricornis* (Giordani Soika, 1952) from Turkey (Asian part), *Microdynerus latro* Blüthgen, 1955, from Syria, and *Leptochilus membranaceus* (Morawitz, 1867) and *Pseudepipona tricolor* Gusenleitner, 1976, both from Kazakhstan. Worldwide distribution of each taxon is also summarized.

Key words. Hymenoptera, Vespidae, Eumeninae, Polistinae, Vespinae, first records, distribution, Palaearctic region

Introduction

In recent years we have seen some specimens of the family Vespidae which either belong to taxa that are rarely reported or were collected in areas from where the species or subspecies have not been recorded so far. They include 15 species from the subfamilies Eumeninae, Polistinae and Vespinae, and come from 11 countries of Europe and Palaearctic Asia. The data are given below, with the taxa arranged by subfamilies and accompanied by information on the worldwide distribution of each taxon. The specimens are deposited in our private collections and in the collections of the American Museum of Natural History (New York, AMNH) and National Museum in Prague (Praha, NMPC).

Results

EUMENINAE

Ancistrocerus gazella (Panzer, 1798)

Material examined. SPAIN: Canary Islands, Las Palmas province, Gran Canaria Island, Santa Lucía, in the village, 21.viii.2006, 1 ♀, L. Dvořák leg. & coll., J. Gusenleitner det.

Common species known from Madeira, North-West Africa, the British Isles, most of continental Europe and the Mediterranean islands, and from Israel and Turkey to Afghanistan and Iran (Gusenleitner 1972, 1995). The species seems to have arrived in the Canary Islands in the first half of the 20th century, probably as a result of accidental introduction (Giordani Soika 1974), which is certainly the reason for its presence in New Zealand and parts of North America (Harris 2004, Buck et al. 2006). In the Canary Islands it has been recorded so far only from the islands of Tenerife and La Palma (Báez et al. 2004). First record from Gran Canaria.

Ancistrocerus longispinosus gazelloides Guiglia, 1943

Material examined. FRANCE: Corse [= Corsica], Haute-Corse province, St. Florent, 15.vi.2005, 1 ♂, P. Baňař leg., J. Gusenleitner det., L. Dvořák coll.; Corse-du-Sud province, Petreto, Col de Ste. Eulalie, 950 m a.s.l., 26.ix.1981, 1 ♂, H. Tussac leg. & det., L. Castro revid. & coll. **ITALY:** Sardegna [= Sardinia], Cagliari province, mount Cresia, 18.ix.1993, 2 ♀♀; Marina di Arbus, 7.iv.1994, 2 ♀♀; Capoterra mountains, 23.v.1997, 1 ♀; all the Italian specimens D. Sechi leg., L. Castro det. & coll.

Relatively rarely recorded subspecies, endemic to Corsica and Sardinia (Gusenleitner 1995). Outside these two islands, the nominotypical subspecies is found in the Mediterranean areas of Europe and also in North-West Africa, Ukraine, Turkey and on most of the other Mediterranean islands. According to Blüthgen & Königsmann (1969) it also occurs in Egypt.

Delta dimidiatipenne (de Saussure, 1852)

Material examined. SPAIN: Canary Islands, Las Palmas province, Gran Canaria Island, Maspalomas, in the town, 31.vii.2006, 1 ♂, L. Dvořák leg., det. & coll.; Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, 5 m a.s.l., ii.1989, 1 ♂, G. Aguado leg., L. Castro det. & coll.

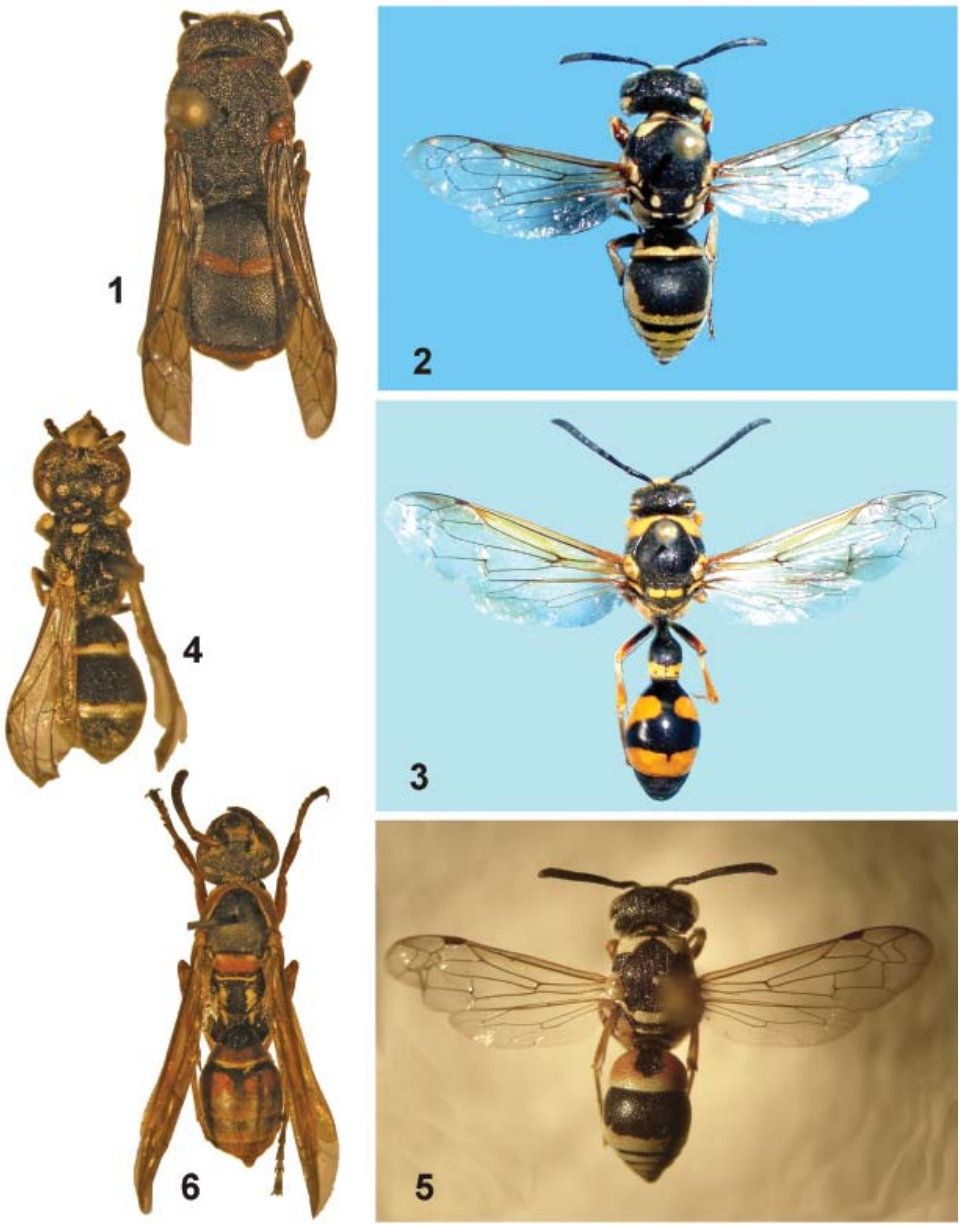
This is a wide-ranging species whose distribution area reaches from North-West Africa, Egypt, Somalia, Turkey, Yemen, and Afghanistan to Nepal and western India (van der Vecht & Fischer 1972). Since the last decades of the 20th century, the species is known also from the Canary Islands (the first record was published by Vardy & Vardy (1988)), currently from the islands of Lanzarote, Fuerteventura, Gran Canaria and Tenerife. It is now widespread in the south and south-east of Gran Canaria (Lauterbach & Latsch-Lauterbach 2007).

Euodynerus reflexus (Brullé, 1839)

(Fig. 1)

Material examined. SPAIN: Canary Islands, Las Palmas province, Gran Canaria Island, La Culata, Pico de las Nieves, by the road, 1900 m a.s.l., 25.vii.2006, 5 ♀♀, L. Dvořák leg., det. & coll., J. Gusenleitner revid.

Endemic to the Canary Islands, known to occur on Gran Canaria, La Gomera and Tenerife (Báez et al. 2004). Our specimens were taken in the highest area of Gran Canaria.



Figs. 1-6. 1 – *Euodynerus reflexus* (Brullé, 1839), ♀ from Gran Canaria, Spain; 2 – *Hemipterochilus bicoloricornis* (Giordani Soika, 1952), ♀ from Antalya province, Turkey; 3 – *Katamenes tauricus tauricus* (de Saussure, 1855), ♀ from the Tuva Republic, Russia; 4 – *Microdynerus latro* Blüthgen, 1955, ♂ from Dimashq province, Syria; 5 – *Pseudepipona tricolor* Gusenleitner, 1976, ♀ from Batys Qazaqstan province, Kazakhstan; 6 – *Polistes rubellus* Gusenleitner, 2006, ♀ from the Gandaki area, Nepal. 1, 4, 6 – photo: L. Dvořák; 2, 3, 5 – photo: L. Castro.

Hemipterochilus bicoloricornis (Giordani Soika, 1952)

(Fig. 2)

Material examined. TURKEY: Antalya province, Payallar, 17.v.2003, 1 ♂; Konakli, 27.v.2003, 1 ♀; both specimens: D. Schulz leg., L. Castro det. & coll.

Until now known only from Israel and Jordan (Gusenleitner 2001). First record from Turkey.

Katamenes tauricus tauricus (de Saussure, 1855)

(Fig. 3)

= *Katamenes sesquicinctus sesquicinctus* (Lichtenstein, 1796), name suppressed by plenary powers of the ICZN (1995)

Material examined. MONGOLIA: Övörkhangay [= Ovorhangay] province, 139 km SW Arvaykheer [= Arvayheer], 1430 m a.s.l., small canyon in lava, 45°17′ N, 101°41′ E, 4.vii.2004, 1 ♀, J. Straka leg., L. Castro det., L. Dvořák coll. **RUSSIA:** Eastern Siberia, Tuva [= Tyva] Republic, Tannu Ola mountains (SW), Sagly, 2000 m a.s.l., 3.vii.2003, 1 ♀, S. Vastchenko leg., L. Castro det. & coll.

Distributed mainly in central Asia (Afghanistan, south-eastern Kazakhstan, Mongolia and the Chinese territory of Xinjiang and province of Hebei), with populations in south-eastern European Russia, southern Ukraine (from where it was described) and northern Iran (Gusenleitner 1972, Kurzenko 1977). The Iranian population is known as ssp. *viratus* (Giordani Soika, 1949), while the form traditionally considered as ssp. *baicalensis* (Kokuyev, 1927) was synonymised by Kurzenko (1977) with the nominotypical subspecies, the only formal taxon now generally recognised outside Iran. First record from Tuva.

Leptochilus membranaceus membranaceus (Morawitz, 1867)

Material examined. KAZAKHSTAN: Batys Qazaqstan province, Zhalpaksor lake, 49º12′ N, 48º12′ E, 10.vi.2001, 2 ♀♀, V. Karalius & J. Miatleuski leg., L. Castro det. & coll.

Leptochilus membranaceus has been recorded from southern Italy, the Balkans, Ukraine, southern Russia, Armenia, Turkey, Israel and Iran; the Israeli population is known as ssp. *luxuriosus* Blüthgen, 1955 (Gusenleitner 1993, Tobias & Kurzenko 1978, van der Vecht & Fischer 1972). First record from Kazakhstan.

Microdynerus latro Blüthgen, 1955

(Fig. 4)

Material examined. SYRIA: Dimashq [= Damascus] province, mount Hermon, 1767 m a.s.l., 33°29′ N, 35°59′ E, 28-29.iv.2001, 1 ♂, P. Baňař leg., J. Gusenleitner det., L. Dvořák coll.

The species was known only from Palestine (originally part of Israel) (Bytinski-Salz & Gusenleitner 1971, van der Vecht & Fischer 1972). First record from Syria.

Pseudepipona tricolor Gusenleitner, 1976

(Fig. 5)

Material examined. KAZAKHSTAN: Batys Qazaqstan province, Dzhanybek, 49º25′ N, 46º51′ E, 12.vi.2001, 1 ♀; Aralsor lake, 49º00′ N, 48º15′ E, 8.vi.2001, 1 ♀; Zhalpaksor lake, 49º12′ N, 48º12′ E, 10.vi.2001, 4 ♀♀ 1 ♂; all specimens V. Karalius & J. Miatleuski leg., L. Castro det. & coll.

The original description (Gusenleitner 1976: 115-116) was based on a female and a male from the Caucasus region (Russia: Dagestan), and no other material has been published so

far. The new specimens differ from the types in that the females have a white spot on the last tergum (the spot is orange in the holotype) and the male has an entirely black propodeum (with a small orange markings in the paratype). First record from Kazakhstan.

Symmorphus angustatus (Zetterstedt, 1838)

Material examined. RUSSIA: eastern Siberia, Irkutsk province, 110 km S of Irkutsk, Vidrino area, 51°26′ N, 104°38′ E, 5.-8.vii.2002, 1 ♀, J. Straka leg. & det., L. Dvořák revid. & coll.

Rare species occurring in most parts of northern, central and eastern Europe, Turkey, parts of Siberia (Buryatia to Kamchatka and Primorye), North Korea (Cumming 1989, Gusenleitner 1999, Kurzenko 1995) and Japan (Yamane 1990, as *Symmorphus iwatai*); it has also been mentioned from France (Gusenleitner et al. 1997).

POLISTINAE

Polistes rubellus Gusenleitner, 2006

(Fig. 6)

Material examined. NEPAL: Gandaki area , Annapurna region, Chandrakot, 20.vi.1999, 1 ♀, A. Kudrna jr. leg., L. Dvořák det. & coll., J. Gusenleitner revid.

This recently described species was only known from the type series of 7 ♀♀ from Sikkim in northern India (Gusenleitner 2006: 684-685). First record from Nepal.

VESPINAE

Dolichovespula adulterina (du Buysson, 1905)

Material examined. RUSSIA: eastern Siberia, Tuva [= Tyva] Republic, Uyuksky range, Kamennyy valley, 1000 m a.s.l., 16.vii.2003, 1 ♀, S. Vastchenko leg., L. Castro det. & coll.

Holarctic species found in most countries of northern, central and eastern Europe, Turkey, central Asia (from Kyrghyzstan to Mongolia), most regions of Siberia and the Russian Far East (from Yamalia and Novosibirsk to Chukotka, Kamchatka and Primorye), Sakhalin, Japan, Canada and the United States (Carpenter & Kojima 1997; Dubatolov 1998, 2005). It has also been mentioned by various authors from Taiwan, but Starr (1992) did not include it in his monograph, and there is yet another reason why the existence of a Taiwanese population of *D. adulterina* should be considered highly unlikely: the wasp has always been seen as a strictly intrageneric inquiline, and no other members of the genus have ever been recorded from Taiwan. First record from Tuva.

Dolichovespula intermedia (Birula, 1930)

= *Dolichovespula asiatica* Archer, 1981, unnecessary replacement name (see Carpenter & Kojima 2002)

Material examined. MONGOLIA: Zavkhan [= Dzavhan] province, 40 km SW Uliastay, dunes, 18.vii.2005, 4 ♀♀, P. Tyrner leg., L. Dvořák det., J. M. Carpenter revid., coll. L. Dvořák & AMNH. **TAJIKISTAN:** Dushanbe province, Ganishob, 2200 m a.s.l., 22.vi.2003, 1 ♀, N. Vanch leg., L. Castro det. & coll.

Species with a relatively limited distributional range, extending from Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Pakistan to the Chinese province of Sichuan and Mongolia (Carpenter & Kojima 1997, Dubatolov & Milko 2004). The only data (3 ♀♀) from Mongolia were given by Eck (1984). First record from Tajikistan.

Dolichovespula norwegica (Fabricius, 1781)

Material examined. BULGARIA: Blagoevgrad province, Pirin mountains, Kozia dolina valley, 2000 m a.s.l., 30.v.1999, 1 ♀, J. Straka leg., L. Dvořák det. & coll.; Banderica, vi.1938, 1 ♀, Hlisnikowski leg., L. Dvořák det., coll. NMPC.

Boreomontane species found in the British Isles, Sardinia, a large part of continental Europe (from Scandinavia and northern Russia to Spain [Cantabrians and Pyrenees], northern Italy, Bulgaria and southern Russia), northern Turkey, central Asia (from eastern Kazakhstan to Mongolia and the Chinese territory of Xinjiang), most of Siberia, north-eastern China, Sakhalin, Alaska, Canada, and the extreme north-eastern United States (Maine) (Carpenter & Kojima 1997; Dubatolov 1998, 2005; Giordani Soika & Borsato 1995; Madero Montero 1988; Ocharan et al. 2003; Yildirim & Özbek 1992). The new localities lie at the southern boundary of its continental distribution in Europe (Atanassov 1942).

Vespula vulgaris (Linnaeus, 1758)

Material examined. SPAIN: Ciudad Real province, Cortijo de Arriba, 39º18′ N, 04º03′ W, forest with *Quercus rotundifolia* and undergrowth of *Daphne gnidium*, *Thymus* sp. and *Phillyrea angustifolia*, 850 m a.s.l., 12.vii.-16.viii.2006, 1 ♀, beer-baited trap, E. Jordán leg., L. Dvořák det. & coll.

Widespread species known from all of Europe, across the Palaearctic part of Asia to Japan and most of North America, from Alaska to northern Mexico; introduced to Iceland, New Zealand, Australia (Victoria, Tasmania) and Hawaii (Carpenter & Kojima 1997). In Spain this species has a contiguous distribution only in the northern half, whereas in the rest of the country it is restricted to the highest parts (Madero Montero 1988). First record from Ciudad Real province.

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