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***Ascogaster disparilis* TOBIAS 1986
(Hymenoptera: Braconidae: Cheloninae),
the second record for Palaearctic Region from Turkey**

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A b s t r a c t : In this study the *Ascogaster disparilis* TOBIAS 1986 is given as a new record for Turkey from Samsun located in the Northern part of Turkey. Little is known about its taxonomy and distribution and it has never been recorded from anywhere over the world, except the sole record from Krasnodar in Russia. By the adding this new record, the number of *Ascogaster* species in Turkey has been raised from 9 to 10.

K e y w o r d s : *Ascogaster disparilis*, Hymenoptera, Palaearctic, Turkey.

Introduction

Ascogaster is a rather big and cosmopolitan genus. Very little work has been done on the biology of *Ascogaster* and, as far as is known, the species are solitary endoparasites of Microlepidoptera, principally Tortricidae. They lay their eggs into the egg of the host, this is clearly an adaptation to the use of hosts whose larvae live in concealment, thereby deriving some protection against the attacks of parasites (HUDDLESTON 1984). *Ascogaster* species commonly occur in scrubby areas and forests (WHARTON et al. 1998)

The Palaearctic species of the genus *Ascogaster* were revised and keyed (HUDDLESTON 1984), the author reported a total of 30, five of it were described as a new to science.

To date, a total of 100 species of *Ascogaster* have been reported in the world and 50 species are found in the Palaearctic region (TOBIAS 1986).

Although some studies have been conducted by various local and foreign scientists on the species of *Ascogaster* occurring in Turkey, in Turkish fauna this genus is not well-known. Only nine species of *Ascogaster* are recorded from Turkey (BEYARSLAN 1985; BEYARSLAN & INANÇ; BEYARSLAN et al. 2002; HUDDLESTON 1984).

Material and Methods

Adult specimens of *Ascogaster disparilis* TOBIAS were collected from vegetation under beech forest in Samsun, Turkey. Sweeping nets were used to obtain samples on grass-type plants. Collected samples were then pinned and labeled according to taxonomic

rules and regulations. The specimens are deposited in the collection of the Zoological Museum of Department of Biology, Trakya University.

The specimens were identified using the key in TOBIAS (1986).

Abbreviations

H.....high
 M.....meter
 Mm.....millimeter
 OOL.....ocular-ocellar line
 OD.....ocellar diameter.

Figures were drawn and measurements taken using a camera lucida attached to a stereomicroscope. The distribution of the species throughout Palaearctic region is given on the map (Fig. 1).

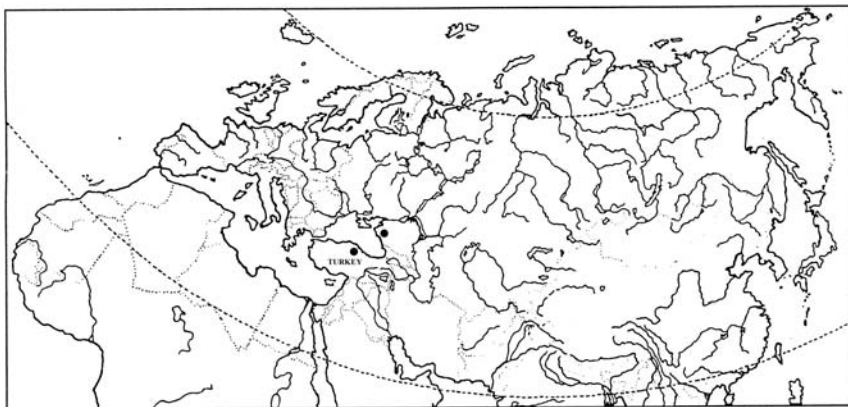


Fig. 1: Distribution of *Ascogaster disparilis* TOBIAS 1986 in Palaearctic region.

Results

Ascogaster WESMAEL 1835

Ascogaster disparilis TOBIAS 1986 (Figs 2-6)

Description: ♀. Length of forewing 2.8-2.9 mm, of body 3.4-3.6 mm.

Antenna 27-30 segmented. Subapical antennal segments small and robust. Head broad, distinctly broader than mesonotum, more or less roundly contracted behind eyes. Temple slightly shorter than eye in dorsal view. Occiput strongly concave. Ocelli small, OOL=3.8-4.0 OD; not on line (fig. 2). Face broad, at least twice as broad as high. Mandibles small, strongly twisted. Clypeus at anterior margin bulged, denticles absent (fig. 3). Scutellum quite densely punctate, mesonotum and sides of mesothorax more

densely punctate, dimly lustrous. Hind femora 4 times as long as wide. Recurrent vein antefurcal (fig. 4). Hind coxa transversely rugose. Carapace elongate, oval, coarsely reticulate-rugose anteriorly, more finely reticulate-rugose posteriorly (fig. 5); at apex distinctly decurved. Ovipositor short, straight, stout, abruptly tapered shortly before apex (fig. 6).

Colour; body brownish yellow with dark spots on vertex, clypeus, genae, scutellum, on lower part mesothorax, metathorax and middle of propodeum. Hind tibia distinctly darkened in apical half, yellowish white in basal half.

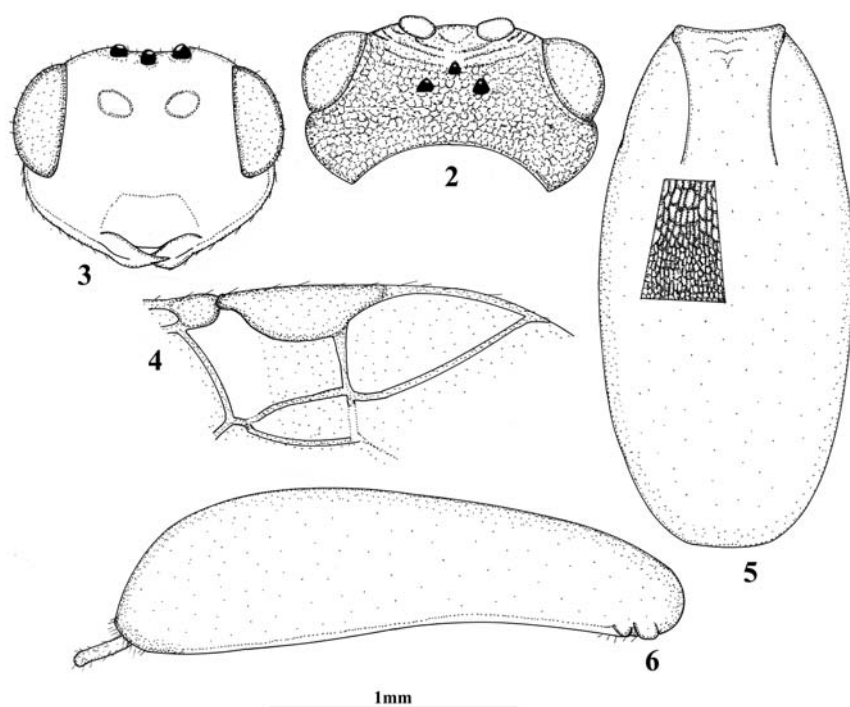
♂. Same as ♀ except subapical antennal segment rather slender, antenna 29 segmented; body black, head brownish yellow with dark spots on vertex, legs yellow, hind tibiae darkened only at apex.

Material examined: Samsun-Salipazari-Derbentalti (h: 970 m), 40°46'60N/ 36°16'0E, 03.vii.2003, 5 ♀♀, ♂.

General Distribution: Russia (Krasnodar).

Hosts: Unknown.

New record for Turkey.



Figs 2-6: *Ascogaster disparilis* TOBIAS 1986: (2) head dorsal; (3) head frontal; (4) forewing anterodorsal; (5) carapace dorsal; (6) carapace lateral.

