

Geobios new Reports 13 : 94-96, 1994

**DESCRIPTIONS OF A NEW EUCHARITID GENUS "CHERIANELLA"
AND A NEW SPECIES "NARAYANI" OF CHALCIDOIDEA FROM
INDIA**

T.C. NARENDRAN

Department of Zoology, University of Calicut-673 635, India

(Received November 2, 1993; Revised January 3, 1994)

Key words: New genus, new species, Eucharitidae, Hymenoptera

ABSTRACT

A new genus and a new species viz. *Cherianella narayani* sp. nov. (Hymenoptera : Chalcidoidea : Eucharitidae) is described and illustrated.

INTRODUCTION

The following genera of Eucharitidae (Hymenoptera : Chalcidoidea) are known from Oriental Region : *Orasema* Cameron, *Orasemarpa* Bouček, *Indosema* Husain & Agarwal, *Losbanus* Ishii, *Stibula* Spinola, *Schizaspidia* Westwood, *Chalcura* Kirby, *Ancylotropus* Cameron, *Collumitella* Hedqvist, *Eucharis* Latrielle, *Saccharisa* Kirby, *Anorasema* Bouček and *Parasitogastrus* Chesquiere. Among these 13 genera (except the last two) 11 genera were found in the Indian subcontinent. The genus *Cherianella* does not fit to any of the descriptions of published genera nor to the key of Bouček (1988) or to the key of Narendran (1985). Hence the genus and species are described hereunder as new to science.

TAXONOMIC TREATMENT

Genus *Cherianella* gen. nov.

Type species : *Cherianella narayani* sp. nov. Monotypy.

Diagnosis : Head width distinctly less than maximum width of thorax in dorsal view; head extremely smaller compared to thorax, transverse; median below antennal base raised; frons granulate; each mandible sickle-shaped; hind ocelli situated on posterior border of vertex; antenna 13 segmented with scape very short, subequal to pedicel. Thorax with pronotum not visible from dorsal view; mesoscutum greatly swollen with dorsum finely granulate and with characteristic adpressed setae; notaulices absent; scutellum with a long posterior single horn without emargi-

nation at apex. Forewing venation indiscernible.

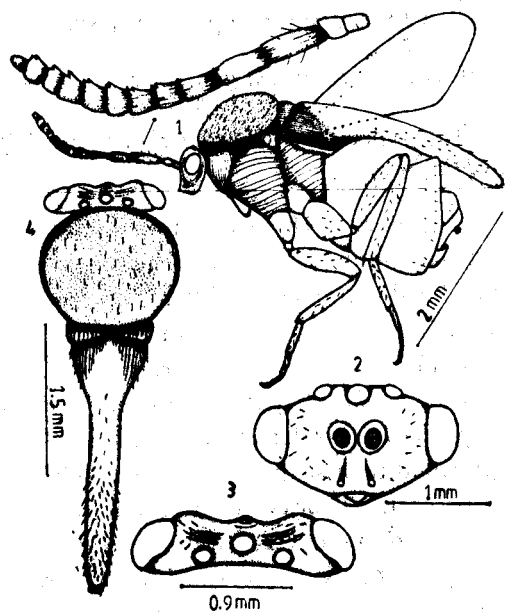
Remarks : This new genus of the subfamily Eucharitinae differs from all the known genera in having the following combination of characters : Antenna 13 segmented with F4 onwards with a notch on one side (Fig. 1); head width distinctly less than the maximum width of thorax; each mandible with single sickle-shaped tooth, mesoscutum unusually swollen and granulate without punctures or striations on dorsum; scutellar horn extraordinarily long and strong and forewing veins indiscernible.

Etymology : The genus is named in honour of Dr. P.T. Cherian, Joint Director,

Zoological Survey of India for his significant contributions to the taxonomy of insects. The species is named after Dr. K.V.L. Narayana of the same institute who collected the species. Both genus and species names are of masculine gender.

Cherianella narayani sp. nov.

Female : Length 4.02 mm Blackish metallic green; antenna blackish brown; all coxae black; fore femur pale brown with basal part darker; fore tibia and tarsus pale brown; mid femur and hind femur brownish black with bases and apices paler; fore and mid tarsi pale brown; all claws darker; gaster brownish black; wings extremely hyaline; pubescence on head and body white.



Figs. 1-4. *Cherianella narayani* sp. nov. Female side view (1), head front view(2), head dorsal view (3), head and thorax dorsal view(4).

Head : (Figs. 1, 2, 3) extremely smaller when compared to the large, bulging thorax; head width in dorsal view less than width of mesoscutum; 4.72 x as wide as its median dorsal length; head in anterior view a trifle over 1.72 x as wide as its median length; eyes small, maximum diameter in profile a trifle over length of malar space; frons granulate and striate; median area below antennal toruli raised forward with sides of median area depressed; vertex granulate and striate; POL 2.41 x OOL; occipital carina not visible since head closely pressed to thorax. Antenna (Fig. 1) 13 segmented; funicular segments with striations; scape subequal in length to pedicel; ring segment absent; F4 onwards with a slight notch on one side at apex of each segment.

Thorax : Pronotum not visible from dorsal view; mesoscutum (Fig. 4) unusually large and swollen with dorsum finely granulate, not punctured, not striated; notaulices absent; dorsum of mesoscutum and scutellum with characteristic depressed hairs; axillae (Fig. 4) and sides of mesoscutum, mesopleuron, striated; base of scutellum striated; scutellum with a very long, characteristic, strong posterior horn which exceeds apex of gaster; prepectus large (Fig. 1) and not reaching tegula; mesocoxa without sharp lateral carina; wings extremely hyaline with veins indiscernible. Propodeum flat with transverse carinae, interstices between carinae smooth.

Gaster : (Fig. 1) length, including petiole, shorter than thorax; petiole longer than hind coxa.

Male : Unknown.

Host : Unknown.

Material examined : *Holotype: Female*: India, Tamil Nadu, Pambukurichi; Coll. K.V.L. Narayana & Party; 24-11-1991 (The type is with the author but eventually will be deposited in Zoological Survey of India, Madras).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to Dr. P.T. Cherian, Joint Director, ZSI, Madras for giving me facilities to study the Hymenoptera collection. I also acknowledge the help and assistance given to me during my study stay at ZSI, Madras by the scientists Dr. Rao, Dr. Regunath and Miss Emily.

REFERENCES

- Boucek, Z. Australasian Chalcidoidea (Hymenoptera). C.A.B. International: Wallingford, 1988, pp. 832.
- Narendran, T.C. Family Eucharitidae. *Oriental Insects*, 1985, 20, 51-55.

