



Short Communication

NEW DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORDS OF *PARISCHNOGASTER MELLYI* (DE SAUSSURE, 1852) (HYMENOPTERA: VESPIDAE: STENOASRTINAE) FROM VARIOUS STATES OF INDIA

INTRODUCTION

The hover wasp of the genus *Parischnogaster* Von Schulthess, 1914 (Hymenoptera: Vespidae: Stenoasrtinae) consists of 10 valid species and all of them are described from the Oriental Region. Out of these, the species *P. mellyi* (de Saussure, 1852) is reported from India (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya and Sikkim). This species is also recorded from Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Philippines (Das & Gupta, 1989; Carpenter & Kojima, 1996; Srinivasan & Girish Kumar, 2009). In this paper, we recorded this species for the first time from Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The present records extend its known geographical range in India significantly from north eastern (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya) and eastern India (Sikkim) to central India (Chhattisgarh), southern India (Andhra Pradesh) and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The materials examined are added to the 'National Zoological Collections' of the Hymenoptera Section of the Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata (NZN). The pinned-and-dried specimens were studied and photographed by using a Leica Stereo microscope with LAS software version 3.6.0.

Abbreviations used for the Museums: MHN – Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Genève, Switzerland; NZC – Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata, India; OUM – Oxford University Museum, Oxford.

Abbreviations used for the terms: H = Head; M = Mesosoma; S = Metasomal sternum; T = Metasomal tergum.

RESULTS

1. *Parischnogaster mellyi* (de Saussure, 1852) (Figs. 1–6)

1852. *Ischnogaster mellyi* de Saussure, *Ann. Soc. Ent. France*, (2) 10: 25, pl. 2, fig. 1, male, "Java" (MHN).
1857. *Ischnogaster nigrifrons* Smith, *J. Proc. Linn. Soc., Zool.*: 113, female, "Borneo (Sarawak)" (OUM).
1922. *Stenogaster nigrifrons*; Dover and Rao, *J. Proc. Asiat. Soc. Bengal (N.S.)*, 18: 241.



Fig. 1. Body profile (Female)

1927. *Parischnogaster mellyi*; von Schulthess, *Suppl. Ent.*, 16: 82, 87.

1927. *Parischnogaster nigrifrons*; von Schulthess, *Suppl. Ent.*, **16**: 83, 87.

1962. *Stenogaster mellyi*; Pagden, *Malay. Nat. J.*, **16**: 95.

1996. *Parischnogaster mellyi*; Kojima and Carpenter, *J. New York Entomol. Soc.*, **104**(1-2): 30, 31.



Fig. 2. Head frontal view (Female)

Diagnosis: *Female:* Clypeus with a characteristic pointed tooth apically, basal two-thirds reticulate-rugose, apical one-third with a few scattered large punctures (Fig. 2); supraclypeal area, interantennal space, frons, vertex up to posterior ocelli, mesoscutum, scutellum and mesopleuron almost entirely rugose-reticulate (Figs. 2 & 3); propodeum (Fig. 4) with irregular narrow striations and narrow but distinct median groove; metasoma almost smooth without punctures.



Fig. 3. Head & mesosoma dorsal view (Female)



Fig. 4. Propodeum (Female)



Fig. 5. Head frontal view (Male)



Fig. 6. Genitalia (Male)

Colour: Head usually black, rarely blackish brown; mesosoma brown to blackish brown. Yellow markings are: mandible (except at apex reddish); rarely a mark on clypeus at apex; antennal scape below; rarely two spots on supraclypeal area; a band on pronotal collar;

another band on pronotum; two oval marks at base and a circular mark at apex of mesoscutum; two circular marks on scutellum; a band on metanotum at base (rarely interrupted at middle); two marks on mesepisternum; one mark on dorsal metapleuron; two circular marks on propodeum at apex; a mark on all coxa in front (highly variable); a mark on fore and mid femora apically; a line below fore and mid tibia; an apical mark on hind femur; a basal mark on hind tibia; a mark at base of all basitarsus (highly variable). Reddish brown on head and mesosoma are as follows: ventral side of flagellar segments; pronotum, mesopleuron and metapleuron (except the yellow marks); sides of propodeum; legs (except yellow marks). Metasoma reddish brown to blackish brown with the following yellow portions: one short line on metasomal petiole on sides towards apex; another on the side of petiolate T2; base of T3 at sides; a complete transverse band at base of T4 (usually not visible externally); small spots on either side of base of T5 (usually not visible externally); two vertical lines on S2 on sides; S3–S6 with large marks on sides. Body covered with fine silvery pubescence (sometimes pale golden yellow on head).

Male: Apex of clypeus without a characteristic pointed tooth (Fig. 5); genitalia as in figure 6. Body colour similar to that of female except mandible almost entirely yellow; T4–T7 with transverse basal yellow band (usually not visible externally).

Size (H+M+T1+T2): Female and Male, 9-9.5 mm.

Material examined: INDIA: Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Andaman district, Viper Island, 1 ♀, 28.viii.1928, Coll. R.B.S. Sewell, NZC Regd. No. 16172/H3; South Andaman, Port Blair, Middle Point, 1 ♀, 9.ii.1983, Coll. R.M. Sharma, 16173/H3; Nicobar Islands, Southern Nicobar, Pilo Milo, 1 ♀, 1.iv.1992, Coll. Kailash Chandra & Party, 16174/H3; North Andaman, Kalpong, 1 ♀, 20.vi.1994, Coll. Kailash Chandra & Party, 16175/H3; South Andaman, Rutland Island, 2 ♀, 24.ii.1995, Coll. G.C. Rao & Party, 16176/H3–16177/H3; South Andaman, BSI Garden, 4 ♀,

11.xii.2013, Coll. G. Srinivasan & Party, 16178/H3–16181/H3; Middle Andaman, Panchwadi, Moricedera Beachside, 2 ♀, 4.i.2014, Coll. G. Srinivasan & Party, 16182/H3–16183/H3; North Andaman, Webi Village, Karanallah, 1 ♀, 8.i.2014, Coll. G. Srinivasan & Party, 16184/H3; North Andaman, Saddle Peak National Park, Sindhur Nallah, 2 ♀, 10.i.2014, Coll. G. Srinivasan & Party, 16185/H3–16186/H3. Andhra Pradesh, East Godavari district, Lankapakalu, 1 ♀, 15.iii.1985, Coll. S.S. Saha & Party, 16187/H3. Assam, Gauhati, 1 ♂, 10.xii.2011, Coll. Neli, 16188/H3. Chhattisgarh, Bastar district, Jagadalpur, Jeeragaon, 1 ♀, 28.iii.2012, Coll. R.P. Gupta & Party, 16189/H3. Meghalaya, East Garo Hills district, Songsak, 1 ♀, 14.iv.1973, Coll. S. Biswas & Party, 16190/H3. Mizoram, Kolasib district, Kolasib, 1 ♂, 15.iv.1994, Coll. A.K. Hazra & Party, 16191/H3; Aizwal district, Lungdai, 1 ♀, 1.xii.1995, Coll. P. Parui & Party, 16192/H3. Sikkim, exact collection locality unknown, 1 ♀, September 1897, Coll. Dudgeon, 16193/H3.

Distribution: India: Andaman & Nicobar Islands (new record), Andhra Pradesh (new record), Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh (new record), Meghalaya, Mizoram (new record), Sikkim. *Elsewhere:* Indonesia; Malaysia; Myanmar; Philippines; Singapore; Thailand; Vietnam.

SUMMARY

The hover wasp species *Parischnogaster mellyi* (de Saussure, 1852) is recorded here for the first time from Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

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