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Two Species of Genus Antrocephalus Kirby (Chalcididae: Chalcidoidea: Hymenoptera): New Records for Province Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

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Abstract

Two new records of genus Antrocephalus Kirby belonging to Family Chalcididae (Chalcidoidea: Hymenoptera) were identified from the collection of 200 specimens collected with insect collection sweep net and Malaise Trap from different ecological zones of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan for two consecutive years in 2012-13. These species were comprised of A. mitys and A. nicus. Diagnostic characters, host record and worldwide distribution of the species are also provided with the description of the species. Key to the species of genus Antrocephalus of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan is also provided along with illustrations of important characters.

Keywords: Antrocephalus, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, New records, Pakistan, Parasitoids and Taxonomy.

1. Introduction

Chalcididae are medium to large sized insects varying in size from 1.5mm to 27mm in length. Distinctive characters are coarse setiferous punctures on head and thoracic dorsum, enlarged and swollen metafemur with denticulate or toothed ventral margins, larger metapleuron and arched metatibia (Gibson et al., 1997) [15]. Chalcididae are similar to Leucospidae in numerous physical features including body size, coarse setiferous punctures on head and thorax, arched metatibia and enlarged and toothed metafemur. However, Chalcididae differs from them by having flat forewing instead of folded lengthwise, poorly developed labiomaxillary complex, usually exposed labrum, tegulae more of less broad and oval, modified apex of scutellum and simple dorsellum (Bouček, 1974) [7]. Subfamily Podagrioninae of Family Torymidae is also similar to chalcids but they lack setiferous punctures and long ovipositor. Members of family Chalcididae are endoparasites of insects belonging to order Coleoptera, Diptera, Lepidoptera and Hymenoptera. All these orders have several pests of economic importance, therefore chalcidids are generally beneficial to humans as a group and many of its species have been used to control insect pests. They play significant role in the ecosystems of various economically important crops and thus, their importance cannot be underestimated (Cowan, 1979 [11]; Ubaidillah, 1996) [53]. Linnaeus (1767) [32] was the first who studied chalcidids and reported species of Spex sispes (Chalcis sispes), Vespa minuta (Brachymeria minuta) etc. Linnaeus (1767) [32] was followed by Fabricius (1787) [12], Spinola (1811) [50], Westwood (1829) [60], Kirby (1883) [30]. Later on, Ashmead (1897, 1904) [3, 4], Cameron (1904) [10], Girault (1911)^[16], Masi (1929) ^[36], Walker (1834)^[54], Schimtz (1946)^[47], Bouček (1952) ^[6], Nikol'skaya (1952) ^[41], Mani (1935) ^[34], Habu (1960, 1962) ^[22,23] and Narendran (1989) ^[40] made significant contribution to the knowledge of Chalcididae. In Pakistan, Khokhar et al., [29] described Brachymeria bicolorata as pupal parasite of Earias spp. on cotton from Sind province. Brachymeria ocellata was recorded as pupal parasite of fruit fly Dacus ferrugineus in Karachi by Samad et al., (1971) [45]. Additionally, Ahmed et al., (1987) [2], Rafi et al., (1987) [44], Ishrat & Mailk (1987) [28] and Sheikh et al., (1987) [48] contributed to chalcidid fauna of Pakistan. According to Noyes (2014) [42], 29 species under seven genera are reported from Pakistan. Irshad (2003) [27] reported 14 species in four genera from Pakistan out of which 3 genera with six species are from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Iqbal et al., (2013) [26] reported 3 species of genus Hockeria from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He has also provided key for the identification of genera along with illustrations of important characters.

Keeping in view importance of taxonomic study of Chalcididae, current study was conducted

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in which we report 2 species of genus *Antrocephalus* Kirby new to Pakistan. Key to the species along with illustrations of the important characters is also given.

2. Materials and Methods

Different specimens were collected from diverse ecological zones of province Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. This area has variable climate due to different ecological zones. These zones included hilly areas in the North to dry sandy lands in the south, whereas from east to West this province is mainly composed of plain areas except for western dry mountains, which serve as border of Afghanistan.

Insect collection was done for two consecutive years 2012-2013. During each collection process, few members of Chalcididae were found. Among Chalcididae, species of genus *Antrocephalus* were collected from plain areas of the province and none of the species is reported from the hilly areas of the province. Collection of insects was generally carried out with the help of sweep net. However, Malaise traps were also installed in low vegetation especially grasses.

Literature shows that some chalcidids of genus Antrocephalus are natural enemies of stored product moth pests such as Corcyra cephalonica Stainton (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae) (Sastry & Appanna (1960) [46], Gates (1993) [13]; Konishi et al., (2004) [31]), Ephestia cautella (Walker) (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae) (Pereira et al., 2013) [43], Galleria mellonella L. (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae) (Subba, 1955) [52] and Opisina arenosella Walker (Lepidoptera: Xylorctinae) (Abdurahiman et al., 1983 [1]; Mohandas & Abdurahiman 1992, 1995) [38, 39]. Potential hosts were also reared in the laboratory at Entomology Museum, The University of Agriculture, Peshawar, Pakistan. Collected specimen were first preserved in 70% ethanol and subsequently transferred to 97% ethanol for 5 hours before mounting on point cards. Chalcididae are too small to pin, therefore specimen were mounted on point cards. Gibson et al., (1979) [15] was followed for morphological terms whereas Harris (1979) [24] was followed for terminology of surface sculpturing.

Literature followed include, Habu (1960, 1962) [22, 23], Zdenek Bouček (1988) [8], Narendran (1989) [41], Grissel and Schauff (1990) [21], Bouček & Delvare (1992) [9], Medvedev, (English translation (1995)) [38] and Gibson *et al.*, (1997) [15].

All specimens were compared with paratypes available at Bohart Museum of Entomology, The University of California, Davis, USA. Microscope Nikon SMZ 745T was used for observation and identification of specimens. Important characters of insects were drawn with the help of Camera (Lucida). Key to the important characters of the species is also provided.

Identified species were deposited in the Insect Museum of the Department of Entomology, The University of Agriculture, Peshawar, Pakistan.

Terminology and abbreviations used in the description are:

Metasoma: The abdomen in Apocrita (Hymenoptera)

Petiole: First metasomal segment. **T₁:** Abdominal segment 1

OOL: Ocello-Ocular Length
POL: Posterior Ocellar Length

BMNH: British Museum of Natural History **USNM:** United States National Museum

ZDAMU: Zoology Department Aligarh Muslim University

3. Results

3.1 Genus Antrocephalus Kirby, 1883 [30]

Genotype: Haltichella fascicornis Walker (Original designation)

Antrocephalus Kirby (1883) [30]. Journ. Linn. Soc. London, Zool. 17:54, 63.

Dilla Strand (1911) [51]. Arch. Naturges. 77: 210.

Genotype: Antrocephalus rufipes Kieffer.

Sabatiella Masi (1929) [37]. Boll. Lab. Ent. Bologna 2:167-168. Syn. novo

Genotype: Masi.

Dillisca Ghesquiere (1946) [14]. Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. 39:367. (For Dilla strand, nec Fischer De W Aldheim).

The known synonyms of *Antrocephalus* are: *Coelochalcis* Cameron (1904) [10]; *Stomatoceroides* Girault (1913) [17], *Metarretocera* Girault (1927) [19], *Tainania* Masi (1929) [37], *Sabatiella* Masi (1929) [37], *Stomatocerella* Girault (1930) [20], *Uxa* Girault (1930) [20], *Dillisca* Ghesquiere (1946) [14] and *Uda* Girault (1930) [20].

Published records show Apis cerana, Ceratovacuna lanigera, Contheyla rotunda, Corcyra cephalonica, Cydia pomonella, Dactylethrella candida, Grapholita molesta, Hapalia machaeralis, Homona coffearia, lasiocampid, Pimpla albipalpis, Siriocauta testulalis and Sitotroga cerealella as the hosts of genus Antrocephalus.

This genus is perhaps the most difficult one among Chalcididae to study taxonomically. Bouček (1988) [8] has discussed in detail the variation as well as the various synonymy involved in this genus. Members of this genus can be recognized by combination of the following characters; structure of preorbital carinae and their relation to the genal or post orbital carina; presence or absence of a distinct glabrous temporal furrow behind the eyes; development of lateral carinae on the pronotum, either stout or nearly joining themselves in the proximity of the apical margin of prothorax; presence or absence of a longitudinal furrow on the scutellum; presence or absence of two parallel carinae at the base of T₁, metafemur without lobes or uni, bi or trilobed; metacoxae with or without an inner basal tooth and presence or absence of external carina on metatibia.

Genus Antrocephalus Kirby has been identified as a new genus not only for the record of parasitic Hymenoptera in Pakistan but it also adds 2 new species to the records of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in our current study. Key to the main features of Antrocephalus species is provided as under, illustrations of important characters are also provided with the key.

3.2 Key to the species of genus *Antrocephalus* in province Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

(a) Antrocephalus mitys (Walker, 1846) [55]

Haltichella mitys Walker 1846 [55]. Part 1, Chalcidites: 81, ♀, Mauritius (BMNH).

Chalcis pandens Walker 1860 ^[56]. Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. 6:357, ♀, Sri Lanka, (BMNH) Narendran.

Haltichella simplex Walker (1862) [57].

Haltichella divisicornis Walker (1871)^[58].

Stomatocera sulcata Ashmead 1905 [5]. Proc. US. Natn. Mues. xxiii: 401. 3. Philippines, Manila, (USNM No. 8954), Narendran.

Antrocephalus mahensis Masi (1917) [35].

Stomatocera bergeraci Girault (1921) [18].

Antrocephalus humilis Waterson 1922 ^[59]. Ind. For. Rec. 9: 22. ♀. India, Dehra Dun (BMNH), Narendran.

Antrocephalus aethiopicus Masi (1926) [36].

Antrocephalus vitatus Husain & Agarwal 1982 [25]. Oriental Ins. 16:327. ♀. India, Aligarh, (ZDAMU) Narendran.

More details about synonymy and biology of genus *Antrocephalus* is provided by Bouček (1992) ^[9] in his book Australasian Chalcidoidea.

Diagnosis

The species can be identified by having a longitudinal furrow in the scutellum forming two apical tubercles (Fig. 1); abdominal segments with small punctations or shagreened appearance; forewing with a brown spot under marginal and stigma vein, not under the postmarginal vein (Fig. 2); pre and postorbital carina present (Fig. 3); frontogenal sulcus distinct and carinate (Fig. 3); genotemporal margin with a deep furrow (Fig. 4); propodeum with lateral teeth (Fig. 5); metafemur with an inner basal tooth and a series of small teeth in one or two lobes (Fig. 6).

Description of the Female (n=10, 6 $\stackrel{\frown}{}$, 4 $\stackrel{\frown}{}$) **Length:** 5.5 - 6.2 mm

Colour

Black. Head, thorax and propodeum completely black with narrow punctuation and silvery pubescence; abdomen dark brown to blackish brown; tegulae dark brown; eyes rusty brown, antennae, fore, mid and hind coxae, trochanter, femur and tibia dark brown with apices of tibia light brown; anteriorly metatibia blackish; forewings with slightly brownish tinge and a slight brown colour below the marginal and stigmal vein; postmarginal vein almost equal to the length of marginal vein; underside of abdomen light brown; antennal club and interantennal projection rusty brown.

Head

Slightly broader than thorax; OOL 3 times POL; preorbital carina coming up behind the anterior ocellus and meets the auricular carina at the base (Fig. 3); scrobe and scape reaching the anterior ocelli; genotemporal margin with a deep groove; pre and post orbital carina present; frontogenal carina carinate and distinct; antennae just above the clypeus; antennal scape reaching the anterior ocellus, the length of which is equal to first 5 funicular segments of the antennae.

Thorax

Slightly narrow than head; anterior margin of pronotum with distinct carina but they do not form a tubercle when meet in the middle; scutellum with a furrow starting from anterior margin and reaching to the posterior margin forming two slightly upturned tubercles at the apex of scutellum (Fig. 1); propodeum (Fig. 5) without a median carina, submedian carinae distinct with small cross carinae between them; accessorial carina distinctly forming a raised point of attachment with several cross cariane to the submedian carinae, sublateral carina meeting with lateral costae at anterior end and joins the lower part of propodeum; semi horizontal spiracles are present between the sublateral carinae and the lateral costae; tarsi are 5 segmented in fore, mid and hindleg, both fore and midfemur are swollen at the top and narrow at the base.

Abdomen

Abdomen longer than thorax, pointed posteriorly with ovipositor; base of abdomen with a small fovea between two very small ridges and without carina; T_1 larger in size than combined length of T_2 - T_5 ;

Type material Examined

India. Cherangode, Nilgiri Hills, 3500ft. 1 $\,\bigcirc$. 1987. P. S. Nathan Collection. DET T.C. Narendran, 2002. **Pakistan.** KPK. Peshawar. 1 $\,\bigcirc$. 34° 1.3′N, 71° 28.5′E. 12.iv.2009. Inayatullah. 1 $\,\bigcirc$, 1 $\,\bigcirc$. 1.v.2008. Inayatullah. 1 $\,\bigcirc$, 2 $\,\bigcirc$. 19.xi.2007. Inayatullah. 1 $\,\bigcirc$. 12.iv.2009. Inayatullah. 1 $\,\bigcirc$. 8.viii.2008. Toheed Iqbal. Swabi. 1 $\,\bigcirc$. 34° 1.3′N, 71° 28.5′E. 20.viii.2004. Inayatullah.

Male

Similar to female except the abdominal end which is round in male and pointed due to presence of ovipositor in female.

Distribution

Australia (Queensland), Afrotropical, Brazil, India (Kerala, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh), Israel, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Philippines, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Thailand (Noyes, 2014) [43] and Pakistan (Peshawar and Swabi, New Records).

Host

Lepidoptera: Corcyra cephalonica (Stainton) (Pyralidae), Lamida moncusalis Walker (Pyralidae), Chilo partellus (Swinhoe) (Crambidae), Ectomyelois ceratoniae (Zeller) (Pyralidae) (Noyes, 2014) [43] and Ephestia cautella (Walker) (Pyralidae) (Pereira et al., 2013) [44]

Yponomeutidae: Ypsolophus ocrophane. (Noyes, 2014) [43]

Plant Associates

Family Fabaceae: *Arachis hypogaea, Ceratonia siliqua, Pisum sativum* (Noyes, 2014) [43]

Family Poaceae: *Oryza sativa*, *Sorghum sp.*, *Zea mays* (Noyes, 2014) [43]

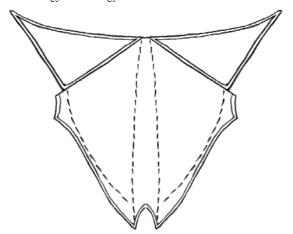


Fig 1: Apex of scutellum. A. mitys

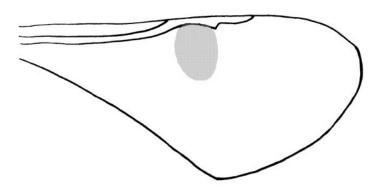


Fig 2: Forewing. A. mitys

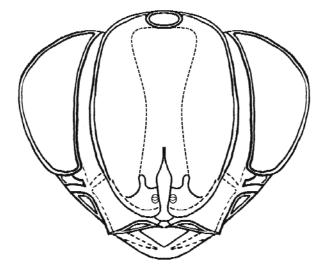


Fig 3: Head. A. mitys

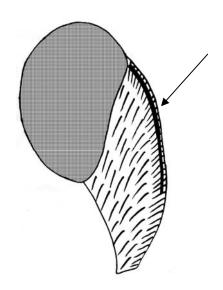


Fig 4: Genotemporal margin of head. A. mitys

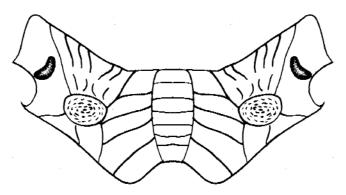


Fig 5: Propodeum. A. mitys

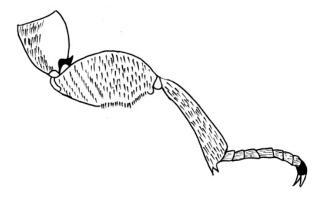


Fig 6: Metafemur. A. mitys

(b) Antrocephalus nicus Narendran, 1989 [41] Diagnosis

The species can be identified by having convex metanotum, without longitudinal furrow (Fig. 9); forewing without any brown patch below the marginal or post marginal vein, however wings have brown tinge (Fig. 7); preorbital carina narrowly meets auricular carina, postorbital carina absent (Fig. 10); frontogenal sulcus distinct in lower half, apical half indistinct (Fig. 10); propodeum without lateral teeth (Fig. 8); metafemur with an outer ventral margin weakly bilobed with a row of teeth that starts mid femur and ends till the base, no basal tooth present on metafemur; basal 2 segment of antennal

flagellum rusty brown, remaining segments dark brown.

Description of the Female (n=26, 7 $\stackrel{<}{\sim}$, 19 $\stackrel{<}{\circ}$) **Length:** 5.6 - 6.5mm

Colour

Black. Head and thorax dull black; with small impunctations and gaps between the impunctations; tegulae rust brown, abdomen shining black when viewed from above; abdomen blackish dorsally; eyes pale blackish yellow; all legs rust brown, basal segments of antennae rust brown, apical 7 segments dark brown; forewing with brownish tinge and dark

brown marginal and post marginal vein; coxa, trochanter, femur, and tibia of fore leg, mid leg and hind leg rust brown, tarsi of these legs light brown with a claw at end; propodeum with long silver pubescence on the lower side.

Head

Head slightly wider than longer; scrobe and scape reaching the front ocelli (Fig.10), POL almost 4 times the OOL; vertex slightly depressed in middle when viewed from front; preorbital carina narrowly meets the auricular carina; post orbital carina absent (Fig.10); frontogenal sulcus distinct in lower half, apical half indistinct; genotemporal furrow shallow; scape length almost equal to the combined length of pedicel and 3 anterior segments; length of club 2.3 time the proceeding segment; antennal toruli just above the clypeus.

Mesosoma

Thorax convex, with close pits on the dorsum, interstices narrow, rugose and carinate; prothorax with lateral carina that reach up the middle and meet in the center forming two carinae moving towards head; scutellum jetting over the propodeum; post marginal vein 1.25 χ marginal vein, marginal and post marginal veins at wing margin (Fig. 7); hind coxa with a well developed dorso basal tooth; metafemur without an inner basal tooth, outer ventral margin weakly bilobed with a row of comb of teeth; propodeum with deep pits, and well developed post spiracular pit on either side, spiracles almost vertical in position (Fig. 8); thorax sub equal to abdomen.

Abdomen

 T_1 with a shallow pit covered by two small ridges on both the sides of the pit; T_2 with small pits and rugae laterally; T_3 with a smooth anterior and rough posterior part covered with slight lateral pubescence; $T_{4,\ 5}$ entirely rough with small rugae laterally and dorsally; T_6 larger in size from $T_{4,5}$ but smaller than T_3 with sparse punctations and rugae.

Material Examined

Pakistan. KPK. Peshawar. 1♂. 34° 1.3′N, 71° 28.5′E. 23.viii.2013. Inayatullah. 1♂. 20.ix.2013. Inayatullah. 1♀. 10.vii.2003. Inayatullah. 1♀. 16.vii.2012. Inayatullah. 1♀. 19.xi.2007. Inayatullah. 2♂. 22.vi.2012. Toheed Iqbal. 1♂. 09.vi.2012. Toheed Iqbal. Charsadda. 2♀, 1♂. 34° 5.06′N, 71° 50.1′E. 5.vii.2011. Toheed Iqbal. 10♂. 5.vii.2011. Toheed Iqbal. 1♀, 1♂. 13.vi.2012. Toheed Iqbal. Nowshehera. 1♂. 34° 0.37′N, 71° 56.2′E. 22.v.2012. Toheed Iqbal. Swabi. 1♂. 34° 11.0′N, 72° 19.5′E. 15.vii.2000. Inayatullah. 1♀. 14.vii.2000. Inayatullah.

Male

Males are similar to the females except the abdominal end which is rounded in males.

Distribution

Philippines and Pakistan (Swabi, Peshawar, Charsadda and Nowshehra, New Record).

Host

Not Known

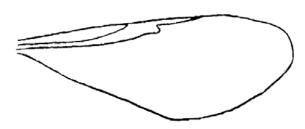


Fig 7: Forewing. A. nicus

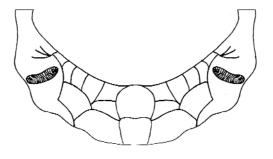


Fig 8: Propodeum. A. nicus

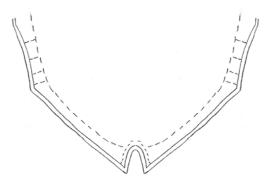


Fig 9: Scutellum. A. nicus

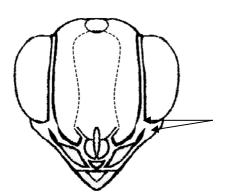


Fig 10: Head. A. nicus

4. Discussion

Diagnosis characters of *A. mitys* show that this species can be identified with the help of following character, i.e, by having a longitudinal furrow in the scutellum forming two apical tubercles; forewing with a brown spot under marginal and

stigma vein, not under the postmarginal vein; pre and postorbital carina present; frontogenal sulcus distinct and carinate; genotemporal margin with a deep furrow; propodeum with lateral teeth; metafemur with an inner basal tooth and a series of small teeth in one or two lobes. According to

Narendran (1989) [41], T₁ with basal carinae on both sides of the median fovea. In our case, there is a small median fovea between two lateral ridges, but without any carina, however remaining characters meet his description. Moreover, the specimen at Bohart Museum of Entomology was also studied and compared with Narendran's (1989) [41] description and the current description therefore adds more to his findings. The species distribution shows that it is widely distributed species. Host record also shows that the species is restricted to only one Lepidopterous family, Pyralidae. No host from other families has been reported till date. Research needs to be done to find out the host range of this species. Specimens in current research were collected from the grasses and alfalfa fields during spring season which shows that these parasitoids attack their hosts only in a specific time of the year.

A. nicus can be identified by having convex metanotum, without longitudinal furrow; forewing without any brown patch below the marginal or post marginal vein, however wings have brown tinge; preorbital carina narrowly meets auricular carina, postorbital carina absent; frontogenal sulcus distinct in lower half, apical half indistinct; propodeum without lateral teeth; metafemur with an outer ventral margin weakly bilobed with a row of teeth that starts mid femur and ends till the base, no basal tooth present on metafemur; basal 2 segment of antennal flagellum rusty brown, remaining segments dark brown. Narendran (1989) [41] mentioned that this species is different from rest of the species by having convex thoracic notum, and with a broad pit on the base of gaster. Our specimen is similar to the description provided by [36] and we did not find any difference from the description he provided. Distribution record of the species shows that it is reported from Philippines only. However current record adds to the knowledge of the species to be distributed in Peshawar, Swabi, Charsadda and Nowshera areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan. Host record of the species is not available.

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