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### NOTE

**FIRST REPORT OF THE PARASITOID WASP *PIESTOPLEURA* FÖRSTER (HYMENOPTERA: PLATYGASTROIDEA: PLATYGASTRIDAE) FROM INDIA**

Kamalanathan Veenakumari, Peter Neerup Buhl, Anandhan Rameshkumar & Prashanth Mohanraj

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The family Platygasteridae has two subfamilies Platygasterinae and Sceliotrachelinae, the former being parasitoids of Cecidomyiidae (Diptera) while the latter are parasitoids of eggs of Flatidae, Pseudococcidae, Aleyrodidae, Curculionidae and Cerambycidae (Goulet & Huber 1993). *Piestopleura* belongs to the subfamily Platygasterinae. This genus is being reported for the first time from India.

While collecting Platygasteroidea from their natural habitat, a specimen of the genus *Piestopleura* Förster was collected from a Malaise trap erected at the Institute of Wood Science and Technology (IWST), Malleswaram, Bengaluru. The specimen was imaged with a Leica M205A stereomicroscope, with 1x objective and Leica DFC-500 digital camera. Voucher specimen is deposited at the ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India.

#### *Piestopleura* Förster (Images 1 & 2)

Material examined: ICAR/NBAIR/P1184, 28.vii.2012, India, Karnataka, Bengaluru, IWST, Malaise trap, forest land, coll. A. Rameshkumar.

Diagnosis: This genus can be easily distinguished from other genera of Platygasterinae by the presence of the following character states: head antero-posteriorly compressed; mesosoma extremely laterally compressed; mesoscutellum elongate, never semicircular; metasoma with flat ventral surface. The presence of a distinct T1 makes it more related to *Leptacis* than *Synopeas*

### FIRST REPORT OF THE PARASITOID WASP *PIESTOPLEURA* FÖRSTER (HYMENOPTERA: PLATYGASTROIDEA: PLATYGASTERIDAE) FROM INDIA

Kamalanathan Veenakumari<sup>1</sup>, Peter Neerup Buhl<sup>2</sup>,  
Anandhan Rameshkumar<sup>3</sup> & Prashanth Mohanraj<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1,3,4</sup> ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources,  
P.B. No. 2491, Hebbal, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560024, India

<sup>2</sup> Trolldhøjvej 3, DK-3310 Ølsted, Denmark

<sup>1</sup> veenapmraj@gmail.com (corresponding author),

<sup>2</sup> pnbuhl@hotmail.com, <sup>3</sup> drrameshtrichy@gmail.com,

<sup>4</sup> veenaprashi@rediffmail.com

(Ashmead 1893; Jackson 1969).

Biological information: *Piestopleura* parasitizes the eggs or larvae of gall midges (Cecidomyiidae). The wasp egg does not hatch until the fly larva is fully grown. The egg divides multiple times when the host is much larger than the wasp, resulting in identical clones that allow many wasps to develop from a single egg (polyembryony). Ossiannilsson (1937) recorded different parasitic Hymenoptera such as *Macroglenea penetrans* (Kirby), *Leptacis tipulae* (Kirby), *Platygaster tuberosula* Kieffer, *Platygaster* sp., *Isostasius punctiger* Nees, *Piestopleura thomsoni* Kieffer, *Sactogaster pisi* Förster, and *Ectadius mamertes* (Walker) as parasitizing the lucerne flower midge *Contarinia medicaginis* Kieffer. Barnes (1939) recorded eulophids [*Aprostocetus annulatus* (Förster) and *Omphale aetius* (Walker)] and platygasterids [*Synopeas* sp. and *Piestopleura catillus* (Walker)] as parasitoids of *Dasyneura alpestris* (Kieffer).

Distribution: *Piestopleura* is represented by 19 species worldwide (Johnson 2016). Of these, 14 are known from

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Image 1. *Piestopleura* sp. (female)

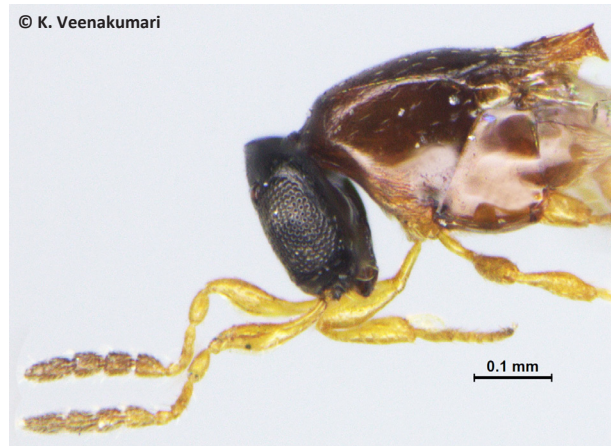


Image 2. Dorsally compressed mesosoma of *Piestopleura* sp.

the Palaearctic region while one species each has been reported from the Nearctic, Neotropical, Afrotropical, Australasian and Oriental regions (Vlug 1995; Johnson 2016). The only Oriental species - *Piestopleura milnei* Buhl - was described from Philippines, and subsequently reported from Laos. This is the first report of the genus from India.

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**Article****Flora richness as an indicator of desert habitat quality in Kuwait**

-- Yahya Al-Shehabi & Kevin Murphy, Pp. 9777–9785

**Communications****Distribution of *Cryptopotamon anacoluthon* (Kemp, 1918) (Crustacea: Brachyura: Potamidae), a freshwater crab endemic to Hong Kong**

-- David John Stanton, Michael Robertson Leven & Tommy Chung Hong Hui, Pp. 9786–9794

**Moths of the family Limacodidae Duponchel, 1845 (Lepidoptera: Zygaenoidea) from Bhutan with six new generic and 12 new species records**

-- Jatishwor Singh Irungbam, Meenakshi Singh Chib & Alexey V. Solovyev, Pp. 9795–9813

**Odonates of Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu, India**

-- M. Suhirtha Muhil & P. Pramod, Pp. 9814–9828

**Twenty-three new records of mantodea (Insecta) from some states of India**

-- Tushar Kanti Mukherjee, Geetha Iyer & Parbati Chatterjee, Pp. 9829–9839

**Short Communications****On the feeding habit of the Guiana Dolphin *Sotalia guianensis* (van Bénédèn, 1864) (Mammalia: Cetartiodactyla: Delphinidae) in southeastern Brazil (~220S): has there been any change in more than two decades?**

-- Ana Paula Madeira Di Benedetto, Clara da Cruz Vidart Badia & Salvatore Siciliano, Pp. 9840–9843

**Additions to the scorpion fauna (Arachnida: Scorpiones) of Kerala, India, with an illustrated key to the genera**

-- K. Aswathi & P.M. Sureshan, Pp. 9844–9850

**Diversity of two families Libellulidae and Coenagrionidae (Odonata) in Regional Institute of Education Campus, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India**

-- Priyamvada Pandey & Animesh Kumar Mohapatra, Pp. 9851–9857

**A report on occurrence of aphidophagous predators of *Aphis odinae* (van der Goot) (Hemiptera: Aphididae) in cashew ecosystem from Goa, India**

-- Ramasamy Maruthadurai & Narendra Pratap Singh, Pp. 9858–9861

**Notes****A new critical habitat for conservation of the White-bellied Heron *Ardea insignis* Hume, 1878 (Aves: Ardeidae) from Bhutan**

-- Karma Wangdi, Tashi Dhendup & Tsethup Tshering, Pp. 9862–9863

**First report of the parasitoid wasp *Piestopleura Förster* (Hymenoptera: Platygastroidea: Platygasteridae) from India**

-- Kamalanathan Veenakumari, Peter Neerup Buhl, Anandhan Rameshkumar & Prashanth Mohanraj, Pp. 9864–9865

**A century later the Manipur Argus *Callerebia suroia* Tytler, 1914 (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae: Satyrinae) recorded in its type locality in Manipur, India**

-- Jatishwor Singh Irungbam, Harmenn Huidrom & Baleshwar Singh Soibam, Pp. 9866–9869

**First record of the predatory stinkbug *Eocanthecona concinna* (Walker, 1867) (Pentatomidae: Asopinae) from India**

-- Sadashiv Hanumant Waghmare & Sunil Madhukar Gaikwad, Pp. 9870–9873

**New records of Aplousobranch ascidians to Indian waters from Andaman Islands**

-- Jhimli Mondal, C. Raghunathan & K. Venkataraman, Pp. 9874–9880

**Additions to the flora of Coimbatore hills, Tamil Nadu, India**

-- K. Kiruthika, M. Sulaiman & R. Gopalan, Pp. 9881–9884