

The first report of *Metaphycus hodzhevanishvilii* Yasnosh from Iran

The first report of *Metaphycus hodzhevanishvilii* Yasnosh (Hym.: Encyrtidae) from Iran. Eng. S. Hesami^{1*}, Dr. E. Ebrahimi², Dr. H. Ostovan³, Dr. M. Shojai⁴, Dr. K. Kamali⁵, Eng. M. Moghaddam². Dept. of Plant Protection, Islamic Azad University, Shiraz branch, P.O.Box 71475-1334, Shiraz, Iran¹; Insect Taxonomy Research Dept., Plant Pests and Diseases Research Institute, P. O. Box 1454, Tehran 19395, Iran²; Dept. of Entomology, Islamic Azad University, Science and Research branch of Fars, Iran³; Dept. of Entomology, Islamic Azad University, Science and Research branch, Tehran, Iran⁴; Dept. of Entomology, Tarbiat Modarres University, Tehran, Iran⁵. S_hesami@yahoo.com*.

To study the natural enemies of scale insects (Hemiptera: Coccidea) in Fars province of Iran, branches of ephedra (*Ephedra procera* Fisch. et Mey.) infested with *Stotzia ephedrae* (Newstead) (Hemiptera: Coccidae) were collected in Bamu National Park (Badjgah, North of Shiraz) in June 2003 and preserved in laboratory conditions. The parasitoid *Metaphycus hodzhevanishvilii* Yasnosh, 1972 (Hymenoptera: Chalcidoidea: Encyrtidae: Encyrtinae) were emerged from these samples that is a new record from Iran. Females of this species have scape about 3× as long as broad, thorax with notaular lines complete and reach the posterior margin of mesoscutum, femorae and tibiae with dark rings. *M. hodzhevanishvilii* is closely allied to *Metaphycus stephaniae* Guerrieri and *Metaphycus zebratus* Mercet (Guerrieri, E. 2006. J. Nat. Hist. 40: 863-865). The identification was confirmed by Dr. E. Guerrieri (Institute of Plant Protection, CNR, Italy).

This parasitoid was previously recorded from Georgia and Turkmenistan as a primary parasitoid of *Stotzia maxima* Borkhs (Japoshvili, G. O. & J. S. Noyes, 2005. Zoosystematica Rossica, 14: 135-145; Noyes, J. S. 2006. <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/entomology/chalcidoids/>). Therefore it is a new host-parasitoid relationship for *M. hodzhevanishvilii* and *S. ephedrae*. 6 females and 2 males of this species were deposited in Insect collection of Islamic Azad University, Shiraz branch.