

Occurrence of *Cidaphus alarius* (Gravenhorst, 1829) of the subfamily Mesochorinae in Iran

Occurrence of *Cidaphus alarius* (Gravenhorst, 1829) of the subfamily Mesochorinae in Iran (Hym.: Ichneumonidae); Eng. A. Masnadi-Yazdinejad^{1*} and Dr. M. Riedel²; Insect Taxonomy Research Dept., Iranian Research Institute of Plant Protection, P. O. Box 1454, Tehran 19395, Iran¹, amasnadi@yahoo.com*; Klinik Fallingbostel, Bad fallingbostel, Germany².

During the survey of ichneumonid fauna of Gilan province in 2006, one specimen of *Cidaphus alarius* (Gravenhorst, 1829) of the subfamily Mesochorinae was collected and identified. This is the first record of this subfamily, genus and species from Iran. The specimen is deposited at the Hayk Mirzayans Insect Museum (HMIM) in the Insect Taxonomy Research Department of Iranian Research Institute of Plant Protection.

The subfamily Mesochorinae contains nearly 665 known species in the world, of which 163 species occur in the palaeartic region (Horstmann & Yu, 1999. Zeitschrift Arbeitsgemeinschaft österreichischen Entomologen, 50: 77-84).

Diagnostic feature of Mesochorinae is as follows: Small to large; fore wings 6-29mm long. Clypeus usually not separated from face by groove, the apical margin evenly convex and without teeth; sternaulus of mesopleuron short or absent; fore wings with areolet large and usually rhombic (diamond-shaped) (Ceballos, 1925. Academia de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales. Madrid. 31: 293pp; Constantineanu & Mustata, 1982. Fauna Republicii Socialiste Romania. 9(10): 1-105. in Romanian). Almost all species are koinobiont hyperparasitoids of ectoparasitic ichneumonid wasps and less frequently, of Tachinidae (Diptera) (Goulet & Huber, 1993. Research Branch Agriculture Canada Publication 1894/E. 667pp).

Cidaphus alarius (Gravenhorst, 1829), 13mm. Fore wings 9.5 mm; hind wings 6 mm. Head black; anterior margin of compound eye concave; occipital carina complete. Tarsal claws pectinate. Metasomal segments compressed (Lee, 1991. Contributions of the American Entomological Institute. 26:1-48). The specimen attracting to the light and well known as hyperparasitoid of *Ichneumon mixtus* (Hym.: Ichneumonidae) (Schwenke, 1999. Spixiana Supplement. 26: 1-124.; Yu *et al.*, 2005. CD/DVD. Taxapad, Vancouver, Canada).

It is widely distributed in the Palearctic and Oriental regions (Lee, 1991. Contributions of the American Entomological Institute. 26:1-48; Yu *et al.*, 2005. CD/DVD. Taxapad,

A. Masnadi-Yazdinejad and M. Riedel

Vancouver, Canada; Fitton, 1985. Entomologist's Gazette. 36: 293-297). Locality and date:
Gilan, Loshan, Amarloo-Damash, 1750m. 12.VI.2006. Leg.: A. Masnadi-yazdinejad.