

Tachysphex stysi sp. nov. (Hymenoptera: Apoidea: Crabronidae) from Central Asia

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Abstract. *Tachysphex austriacus* species subgroup of *T. pompiliformis* species group is defined. *Tachysphex stysi* sp. nov., a new member of this subgroup, is described. The new species is known from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan.

Key words. Hymenoptera, Apoidea, Crabronidae, *Tachysphex*, taxonomy, new species, description, Palaearctic region, Central Asia

Introduction

The genus *Tachysphex* Kohl, 1883, a member of the family Crabronidae, tribe Larrini (MENKE 1997), includes 444 described species from all over the world (PULAWSKI 2008). They can be found in most terrestrial habitats, but occur mainly in grasslands and deserts, where the most frequent prey – grasshoppers – occur in numbers. Adults or larvae of the Blattoidea, Mantodea, Ensifera and Caelifera are also known as prey of *Tachysphex* (KROMBEIN & PULAWSKI 1994).

Several species groups within the genus have been established. One of them, the *T. pompiliformis* group, is variable and complicated (see PULAWSKI 1971), and STRAKA (2005) proposed diagnoses of some subgroups (species complexes) of this group. A new subgroup is proposed for *T. austriacus* Kohl, 1892, and related taxa in this paper. *Tachysphex austriacus* was restored from synonymy with *T. pompiliformis* (Panzer, 1805) by Straka (2004) and thought to be its sibling species. However, there are some important and consistent characters distinguishing the species related to *T. pompiliformis* from those related to *T. austriacus*. A new species, described here, supports this differentiation.

Material and methods

Material from the following institutions and private collections was examined:

JSPC Jakub Straka, Praha, Czech Republic;

OLML Oberösterreichisches Landesmuseum, Linz, Austria (Fritz Gusenleitner);