

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY RECORDS OF VESPID WASPS (HYMENOPTERA: VESPIDAE) FROM THE PALAEARCTIC REGION (II)

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Abstract: A total of 45 species of Vespidae are recorded from 21 countries (Europe, Palaearctic Asia, Nepal, India and north-west Africa). The following taxa are recorded for the first time from the countries and provinces listed here: **Azerbaijan**, *Polistes sulcifer*; **Bulgaria**, *Eumicrodynerus europaeus*; the Isle of Man (**Great Britain**), *Dolichovespula media*; Goa province (**India**), *Polistes stigma tamulus* and *Ropalidia jacobsoni*; **Iran**, *Euodynerus notatus notatus*; Tehran province (Iran), *Katamenes sichelii tauriae*; Kohkiluyeh-va-Boyerahmad province (Iran), *Dolichovespula sylvestris*; **Israel**, *Delta esuriens*; **Kazakhstan**, *Euodynerus strigatus* and *Symmorphus mizuhonis*; Batys Qazaqstan province (Kazakhstan), *Odynerus fulvitaris* and *Stenodynerus fastidiosissimus difficilis*; **Mongolia**, *Symmorphus angustatus* and *Polistes snelleni*; **Nepal**, *Ropalidia hongkongensis*; **Slovakia**, *Ancistrocerus scoticus*; **Spain**, *Odynerus albopictus*; the Balearic Islands (Spain), *Ancistrocerus kitcheneri*; Granada province (Spain), *Leptochilus mauritanicus andreui*; **Tajikistan**, *Delta dimidiatipenne*; **Tunisia**, *Onychopterocheilus mirus*; **Turkmenistan**, *Pseudepipona lativentris lativentris*; Mary province (Turkmenistan), *Odynerus laticinctus inermis*; **Ukraine**, *Antepipona deflenda*; **Uzbekistan**, *Antepipona barrei*, *A. deflenda*, *A. specifica* and *Katamenes sichelii tauriae*. The worldwide distribution of each taxon is summarised, and some descriptive, taxonomic and nomenclatural comments are also included.

Key words: Hymenoptera, Vespidae, Eumeninae, Polistinae, Vespinae, first records, rarely recorded taxa, distribution, Palaearctic region, Nepal, India.

Citas nuevas o notables de véspidos (Hymenoptera: Vespidae) de la región paleártica (II)

Resumen: Se citan 45 especies de Vespidae de 21 países (Europa, Asia paleártica, Nepal, la India y el Magreb). Los taxones siguientes se citan por primera vez de los países y provincias aquí enumerados: **Azerbaiyán**, *Polistes sulcifer*; **Bulgaria**, *Eumicrodynerus europaeus*; **Eslovaquia**, *Ancistrocerus scoticus*; **España**, *Odynerus albopictus*; islas Baleares (España), *Ancistrocerus kitcheneri*; provincia de Granada (España), *Leptochilus mauritanicus andreui*; isla de Man (**Gran Bretaña**), *Dolichovespula media*; provincia de Goa (**India**), *Polistes stigma tamulus* y *Ropalidia jacobsoni*; **Irán**, *Euodynerus notatus notatus*; provincia de Teherán (Irán), *Katamenes sichelii tauriae*; provincia de Kohkiluyeh-va-Boyerahmad (Irán), *Dolichovespula sylvestris*; **Israel**, *Delta esuriens*; **Kazajistán**, *Euodynerus strigatus* y *Symmorphus mizuhonis*; provincia de Batys Qazaqstan (Kazajistán), *Odynerus fulvitaris* y *Stenodynerus fastidiosissimus difficilis*; **Mongolia**, *Symmorphus angustatus* y *Polistes snelleni*; **Nepal**, *Ropalidia hongkongensis*; **Tayikistán**, *Delta dimidiatipenne*; **Túnez**, *Onychopterocheilus mirus*; **Turkmenistán**, *Pseudepipona lativentris lativentris*; provincia de Mary (Turkmenistán), *Odynerus laticinctus inermis*; **Ucrania**, *Antepipona deflenda*; **Uzbekistán**, *Antepipona barrei*, *A. deflenda*, *A. specifica* y *Katamenes sichelii tauriae*. Se resume la distribución mundial de cada taxón y se incluyen también algunos comentarios descriptivos, taxonómicos y nomenclaturales.

Palabras clave: Hymenoptera, Vespidae, Eumeninae, Polistinae, Vespinae, primeras citas, taxones poco citados, distribución, Paleártico, Nepal, India.

Introduction

In the past few years we have been able to examine some material of the family Vespidae that we consider interesting on the grounds that the species or subspecies have only rarely appeared in publications and / or the specimens have been collected in areas or countries from where the taxa have not been recorded until now. In a previous paper (Dvořák & Castro, 2007) we published information on some of that material, and we can now contribute a second series of records. The new specimens belong to 45 species from the subfamilies Eumeninae, Polistinae and Vespinae, and come from 21 countries of Europe, Palaearctic Asia and north-west Africa, plus Nepal and India. The taxa are listed by subfamilies, and the records are accompanied by information on the worldwide distribution of each taxon and in some cases by various comments. One of the specimens is deposited in London's Natural History Museum (BMNH), another in the National Museum in Prague (NMPC); the remaining material is in the authors' and other private collections, as indicated below.

Results

EUMENINAE

• *Ancistrocerus kitcheneri* (Dusmet 1917)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **SPAIN:** MALLORCA (= Majorca), BALEARES, **Alcúdia: S'Albufera**, 39° 48' N, 03° 06' W (UTM: 31S-EE00), 10-IX-2002, 1 ♀, D.W. Baldock leg., L. Castro det., BMNH coll.

This wasp had only been reported from north-west Africa (Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco) and peninsular Spain (Sanza *et al.*, 1997). First record from the Balearic Islands.

• *Ancistrocerus maroccanus* Gusenleitner 1977

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **MOROCCO:** MARRAKECH, **Tizi-n-Tichka pass**, 2260 m. alt., 31° 17' N, 07° 21' W (UTM: 29R-PQ56), 26-III-1988, 1 ♂, F.J. Ortiz leg., L. Castro det. & coll.

The species is only known from Morocco (Gusenleitner, 1977). No records had been published since the original description.

• *Ancistrocerus nigricornis* (Curtis 1826)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **ITALY:** SARDEGNA (= Sardinia), NUORO province, **Tonara**, 40° 02' N, 09° 11' E (UTM: 32T-NK13), 8-VII-1977, 1 ♀, B. Pitralis leg., L. Castro det. & coll.

A fairly widespread eumenine found in most of the Palaearctic: from Finland and Sweden, Great Britain and the Iberian Peninsula, across the whole of continental Europe and Siberia to Sakhalin and Japan, and from Turkey and Iran to Kashmir, Central Asia, Mongolia and north-eastern China; it also occurs on some Mediterranean islands (Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily, Crete, Samos) and in Morocco (Kurzenko, 1995; Gusenleitner, 1977, 1995b, 1996; Borsato & Turrisi, 2004; Borsato, 2006; Pekkarinen & Huldén, 1991). The species had been recorded from Sardinia only once previously (Borsato, 2006).

• *Ancistrocerus scoticus scoticus* (Curtis 1826)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **SLOVAKIA:** ŽILINA, **Vel'ká Fatra Mts.:** **Malino**, 23-VII / 2-VIII-1982, 2 ♂♂, P. Tyrner leg., det. & coll., L. Dvořák revid. & coll.

The range of *A. scoticus* extends from Ireland, Great Britain, Norway, Finland, Karelia and most of continental Europe to the eastern end of Palearctic Asia (Mongolia, north-eastern China, Korea, Primorye, Kamchatka and Sakhalin) (Nash *et al.*, 1990; Kurzenko, 1977b, 2004; van der Vecht & Fischer, 1972; Pekkarinen & Huldén, 1991; Giordani Soika, 1982), with the known southern boundary running from Morocco and Spain to northern Italy, Turkey, Iran, Kazakhstan and Mongolia (Gusenleitner, 1977; van der Vecht & Fischer, 1972; Giordani Soika & Borsato, 1995; Kurzenko, 1977b); it has recently been found in Sicily (Borsato & Turrisi, 2004). The distribution area of *A. scoticus scoticus* includes most of this area, but it is absent from north-west Africa, which is home to *A. s. meridianus* Gusenleitner 1977, and has traditionally been considered to be also absent from the Iberian Peninsula, where it is said to be replaced by a third subspecies, *A. s. iberogallicus* Blüthgen 1956 (which has also been treated (Castro, 1997) as a mere clinal form and a synonym of the nominotypical race). First record from Slovakia.

• *Antepipona barrei* (Radoszkowski 1893)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **KAZAKHSTAN:** ALMATY, **Baqanas**, 44° 48' N, 76° 16' E (UTM: 43T-FK06), 2-VII-1970, 1 ♀, V. Kazenas leg., N.V. Kurzenko det., L. Castro coll. **TAJIKISTAN:** KHATLON, **Dangara**, 38° 05' N, 69° 20' E (UTM: 42S-WH21), 4-IX-1972, 1 ♂, V. Kazenas leg., N.V. Kurzenko det., L. Castro coll. **UZBEKISTAN:** SURKHONDARYO, **Babatagh Mts.**, 38° 10' N, 68° 05' E (UTM: 42S-VH12), 13-III-2002, 1 ♂, S. Romankov leg., L. Castro det. & coll.

A rarely recorded species known from Armenia, Iran, Central Asia and Afghanistan (van der Vecht & Fischer, 1972; Gusenleitner, 1972). First record from Uzbekistan.

• *Antepipona deflenda* (Saunders 1853)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **UKRAINE:** DNIPROPETROVS'K, **Nikopol**, 47° 34' N, 34° 23' E (UTM: 36T-XT06), 5-VI-2000, 1 ♀, N. Belikov leg., L. Castro det. & coll. **UZBEKISTAN:** KASHKADAR, **Hisor Mts.** (= Gissar Mts.): **Kaltakol**, 38° 45' N, 67° 15' E (UTM: 42S-UH49), 12-VII-1994, 1 ♀, S. Romankov leg., L. Castro det. & coll.

This is a mainly southern species found in the whole of the Mediterranean area, central and eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Turkey, the Middle East, Iraq, Iran and Central Asia (Tobias & Kurzenko, 1978; Gusenleitner, 1995a; Yildirim & Kojima, 1999); it has also been mentioned as present in China (Li, 1985). First records from both Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

• *Antepipona specifica* (Morawitz 1895)

Odynerus (Lionotus) curialis Morawitz 1895 (synonymy according to Gusenleitner, 1986).

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **KYRGHYZSTAN:** YSYK-KÖL, **Ter-skey Ala-Tau: Mts. Bol'shoy Zhargalchak**, 25-VIII-1971, 1 ♀; **Lake Ysyk-Köl**, 7-VI-1973, 1 ♂; both specimens: J. Tarbinskii leg., N.V. Kurzenko det. (in 1987, as *Antepipona curialis* (Morawitz 1895) [= *A. specifica*: see GUSENLEITNER, 1986]), L. Castro coll. **UZBEKISTAN:** TOSHKENT, **Chinaz**, 40° 56' N, 68° 45' E (UTM: 42T-VL73), 25-V-2003, 3 ♂, S. Romankov leg., L. Castro det. & coll.

A rarely recorded species known only from Iraq, Iran, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan (Giordani Soika, 1970; Ebrahimi & Carpenter, 2008). First record from Uzbekistan.

• *Antepipona tekensis* (Kostylev 1935)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **TURKMENISTAN:** BALKAN, **Garrygala** (=Kara-Kala), 38° 29' N, 56° 18' E (UTM: 40S-DH35), 5-V-1993, 1 ♀, S. Romankov leg., L. Castro det. & coll.

The species seems to be restricted to Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan (van der Vecht & Fischer, 1972; Gusenleitner, 1986). Published records are scarce.

• *Brachypipona hispanica* (Giordani Soika 1973)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **SPAIN:** MADRID, **Valdelaguna: Fuente de Valviejo**, 760 m. alt., 40° 10' N, 03° 24' W (UTM: 30T-VK64), 1-VI-1996, 1 ♀ (at water), L. Castro leg., det. & coll.; **Villamanrique de Tajo**, 605 m. alt., 40° 04' N, 03° 16' W (UTM: 30T-VK73), 1-V-1997, 1 ♂ (patrolling a grassy footpath), L. Castro leg., det. & coll.

A Spanish endemic. The new records are the first to be published since the original description (Giordani Soika, 1973), which was also based on material from Madrid province.

• *Delta dimidiatipenne* (Saussure 1852)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **TAJIKISTAN:** KHATLON, **Kalininabad**, approx. 39° 46' N, 69° 09' E (UTM: 42S-WH10), VIII-1990, 1 ♀, M. Bouma leg., L. Dvořák det. & coll. **TURKMENISTAN:** MARY, **Eroylan-Duz**, 13-V-1976, 1 ♀, N. V. Kurzenko leg. & det., L. Castro coll.

A widely distributed species ranging from the Canary Islands and north-west Africa to Somalia, Yemen and Oman, Egypt and the Middle East, and from Turkey and Iran to Central Asia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, western India and Nepal (van der Vecht & Fischer, 1972; Dvořák & Castro, 2007). First record from Tajikistan.

• *Delta esuriens* (Fabricius 1787)

PHOTOGRAPHS EXAMINED: **ISRAEL:** HAMERKAZ, **Ga'ash** (reservoir in sandy area, beside a swamp, 0.6 km from the sea), 32° 13' 55" N, 34° 49' 39" E (UTM: 36S-XA76), 21-XI-2007, 1 ♀ (photo); TEL AVIV, **Rishon Le-Zion** (old open dump on sandy soil with dense grass patches, 1.4 km from the

sea), 31° 59' 17" N, 34° 44' 38" E (UTM: 36R-XA64), 21+28-XI-2008, 1 ♀ (photos); both specimens: A. Weinstein *phot.*, L. Dvořák & L. Castro *det.*

Delta esuriens is a rather widespread wasp usually considered to include three races, which together range from western Africa to Japan. The nominotypical form is distributed over most of the eastern range of the species, with its known western boundary in the Arabian Peninsula and Iran, areas where it coexists with ssp. *gracile*. It has been found in Saudi Arabia, Oman, Iraq, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand and Malaysia (van der Vecht & Fischer, 1972; Giordani Soika, 1992; Gusenleitner, 2004, 2006; Yamane, 1990). The second subspecies, *D. e. gracile* (Saussure 1853), although mostly African, is also found in southern Arabia and Iran: it seems to be absent from Morocco, the northern half of Algeria and Tunisia, but occurs in the rest of Africa north of the Equator; it is also known from the island of Aldabra (Seychelles), Yemen, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Iran, with an isolated record from Turkey (Giordani Soika, 1987a, 1987b, 1989, 1992; Gusenleitner, 1992; Guichard, 1986; Ebrahimi & Carpenter, 2008). The remaining form, *D. e. okinawae* Giordani Soika 1986, is known from Taiwan and southern Japan (the Ryukyu islands) (Giordani Soika, 1986), and has recently been reported as introduced into the Cook islands (Kuhlmann, 2006). First record from Israel.

COMMENTS: The two specimens combine colour elements of both ssp. *esuriens* and ssp. *gracile*, in particular an almost entirely brownish scutum and a mostly yellow propodeum. They are thus similar in some respects to three *D. e. gracile* specimens from the central Sahara mentioned by Giordani Soika (1954), considered by that author as transitional to ssp. *esuriens*. The evidence suggests that there may well be a fairly large transition area, or hybrid zone, between these two subspecies, which would include Iran, the Arabian Peninsula, the Middle East and north-eastern Africa.

• *Eumicrodynerus europaeus* (Giordani Soika 1942)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **BULGARIA**: BLAGOEVRAD, **Kresna**, approx. 41° 44' N, 23° 09' E (UTM: 34T-FM72), 5-VI-1984, 1 ♀, Z. Karas *leg. & coll.*, J. Gusenleitner *det.*; **Sugarevo**, approx. 41° 34' N, 23° 25' E (UTM: 34T-GM00), 16-VI-1987, 1 ♀, Z. Karas *leg.*, L. Dvořák *det. & coll.*

It was known only from Greece and Turkey (Gusenleitner, 1997). First records from Bulgaria.

• *Euodynerus notatus notatus* (Jurine 1907)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **IRAN**: MAZANDARAN, **Sari**, approx. 36° 33' N, 53° 06' E (UTM: 39S-XA84), IV-1994, 1 ♀, H. Ghahari *leg.*, J. Gusenleitner *det.*, L. Dvořák *coll.*

A largely northern species occurring in most of continental Europe (from Finland, Sweden and Russia to northern Spain, northern Italy and the Balkans), from the Caucasus and Turkey to Central Asia, across most of Siberia to Mongolia, Korea and China (van der Vecht & Fischer, 1972; Pekkarinen, 1988; Kurzenko, 1995; Giordani Soika & Borsato, 1995) and from Cyrenaica (ssp. *cyrenaicus* Giordani Soika 1986); recently recorded from Sardinia (Borsato, 2006). The nominotypical subspecies' range coincides with that of the species, except that it is absent from Libya. First record from Iran.

• *Euodynerus strigatus* (Radoszkowski 1893)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **KAZAKHSTAN**: ZHAMBYL, **Algartart**, 43° 45' N, 73° 34' E (UTM: 43T-CJ84), 21-VI-1975, 1 ♀; 12-VII-1975, 1 ♂; both specimens: V. Kazenas *leg.*, N.V. Kurzenko *det.*, L. Castro *coll.*

A rarely recorded species previously known only from Tajikistan (van der Vecht & Fischer, 1972). First records from Kazakhstan.

• *Katamenes sichelii tauriae* (Giordani Soika 1960)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **IRAN**: TEHRAN, **Tehran**, approx. 35° 42' N, 51° 25' E (UTM: 39S-WV35), VII-1994, 1 ♀, A. R. Moniri *leg.*, J. Gusenleitner *det.*, L. Dvořák *coll.* **UZBEKISTAN**: BUKHORO, **Khasokar**, 39° 41' N, 64° 10' E (UTM: 41S-PD09), 5-VI-1995, 1 ♀, S. Romankov *leg.*, L. Castro *det. & coll.*

K. sichelii (Saussure 1852) ranges from southern European Russia, the Balkans, the Caucasus, Turkey and Egypt to the Middle East, Iran, the Arabian Peninsula, Central Asia, Afghanistan and China (van der Vecht & Fischer, 1972; Gusenleitner, 1972, 1999; Kurzenko, 1977b). It has also been recorded from Italy (Giordani Soika, 1949; but neither Borsato, 1993 nor Giordani Soika & Borsato, 1995 mention it), and once from Spain (Giordani Soika, 1966). *K. sichelii tauriae* had so far been found in Turkey, Iran, Turkmenistan and Afghanistan (van der Vecht & Fischer, 1972; Gusenleitner, 1972; Blüthgen & Gusenleitner, 1970).

First records of ssp. *tauriae* from Uzbekistan and Iran's Tehran province, second record from Iran (first recorded from the country by Blüthgen & Gusenleitner, 1970).

COMMENTS: The Uzbek specimen differs slightly from the usual descriptions of ssp. *tauriae* found in the literature: most notably, the anterior part of the second tergum is entirely light brown, with no trace of yellow spots.

• *Leptochilus mauritanicus andreui* Giordani Soika 1971

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **SPAIN**: GRANADA, **Almuñécar**, 36° 44' N, 03° 41' W (UTM: 30S-VF46), 8-V-1991, 1 ♀, H. Tussac *leg.*, A. Giordani Soika *det.*, L. Castro *coll.*; **TERUEL**, **Mazaleón**: **Mas de Pina**, 490 m. alt., 41° 01' N, 0° 01' E (UTM: 31T-BF54), 3-V-2003 (at *Dorycnium pentaphyllum*), 3 ♀, L. Castro *leg., det. & coll.*

The species has until now been found in Israel, Libya, Mauretania, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and south-eastern Spain (van der Vecht & Fischer, 1972; Gusenleitner, 1977; Giordani Soika, 1971). Subspecies *andreui* is a Spanish endemic which for a long time has been known only from the provinces of Alicante and Murcia (Giordani Soika, 1971; Dusmet, 1904) but has recently been recorded from Almería and Teruel provinces (Castro *et al.*, 2008).

The details of the Teruel material, on which the record in Castro *et al.* (2008) was based, had not been published so far; Mazaleón is, for the moment, the northernmost point known for this species in the whole of its range. First record from Granada province.

• *Odynerus albopictus* Saussure 1856

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **SPAIN**: LEÓN, **Valdefrancos**, 700 m. alt., 42° 29' N, 6° 34' W (UTM: 29T-QH00), 27-V-2006, 1 ♂, L.O. Aguado *leg.*, L. Castro *det. & coll.*

A largely Mediterranean wasp found in southern Europe (from the Iberian Peninsula to Bulgaria and the Crimea penin-

sula) and from the Caucasus and Turkey to the Middle East, Iraq, Iran and Central Asia; it is also present on some Mediterranean islands (Sicily, Crete, Aegean islands) (Gusenleitner, 1998a); recorded by Bytinski-Salz & Gusenleitner (1971) as present in northern Mediterranean Africa but not mentioned from there in later publications (Gusenleitner, 1994, 1998a).

First record from Spain, second from the Iberian Peninsula and the first precise locality from this region, as the only previous record from the area (Gusenleitner, 1998a) simply mentions the presence of the nominotypical form in the peninsula, without any further details. As the new specimen is a male, it is not at present possible to decide on the exact subspecies or colour form of this local population.

• ***Odynerus fulvitaris*** (Morawitz 1895)

Hoplomerus fulvitaris Morawitz 1895; ascribed to *Odynerus* by Kurzenko (1977a).

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **KAZAKHSTAN:** BATYS QAZAQSTAN, **Sartolgen**, 48° 50' N, 47° 10' E (UTM: 38U-PV51), 5-VI-2001, 2 ♂, V. Karalius & J. Miatleuski leg., L. Castro det. & coll.; TALDYQORGHAN, **Malaysary Mts.**, 18-V-1983, 1 ♀, V. Kazenas leg., N.V. Kurzenko det., L. Castro coll.

Known from Transcaucasia, Turkey and Central Asia (Kurzenko, 1977a; Yildirim & Gusenleitner, 2001). First record from Batys Qazaqstan province and the western part of Kazakhstan.

• ***Odynerus laticinctus inermis*** (Kostylev 1935)

Hoplomerus inermis Kostylev 1935; transferred to *Odynerus* Latreille from *Paragymnomerus* Blüthgen, as a subspecies of *O. laticinctus*, by Kurzenko (1977a), who at the same time transferred *Hoplomerus laevipes laticinctus* Bialynicki-Birula 1926 to *Odynerus* from *Gymnomerus* Blüthgen.

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **TURKMENISTAN:** MARY, **Kizyl-Zhar**, 16-V-1976, 1 ♀, N. V. Kurzenko leg. & det., L. Castro coll.

O. laticinctus (Bialynicki-Birula 1926) is known only from Central Asia: Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and ssp. *inermis* had only been found so far in southern Turkmenistan (Kurzenko, 1977a).

First record from Mary province and eastern Turkmenistan.

• ***Odynerus serricrus*** (Blüthgen 1963)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **KAZAKHSTAN:** ALMATY, **Zailiyskiy Ala-Tau Mts.: Bol'shoy Dalan**, 7-VI-1979, 1 ♀, N. V. Kurzenko leg. & det., L. Castro coll.

A rarely recorded species known from south-eastern European Russia, Turkey, Central Asia and south-western Siberia (Kurzenko, 1977a; Yildirim & Özbek, 1996).

• ***Onychopterocheilus mirus*** Gusenleitner 1995

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **TUNISIA:** GAFSA, **Gafsa area: Wadi Mellah**, 34° 22.5' N, 08° 50' E (UTM: 32S-MD71), 1-IV-2006, 1 ♂, J. Batelka & J. Straka leg., J. Gusenleitner det., L. Dvořák coll.

The species had only been reported from Morocco (Gusenleitner, 1995c, 1998b). First record from Tunisia.

• ***Paragymnomerus signaticollis*** (Morawitz 1888)

Hoplomerus signaticollis Morawitz 1888; ascribed to *Paragymnomerus* Blüthgen by Kurzenko (1977a).

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **TURKMENISTAN:** MARY, **Kizyl-Zhar**, 17-V-1976, 1 ♀ and 1 ♂, N.V. Kurzenko leg. & det., L. Castro coll.

A seldom recorded species known from Ukraine, Transcaucasia and Central Asia (Kurzenko, 1977a).

• ***Paragymnomerus spiricornis turanicus*** (Kostylev 1940)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **UZBEKISTAN:** SAMARQAND, **Urgut**, 39° 24' N, 67° 14' E (UTM: 42S-UJ46), 12-VI-2003, 1 ♂, S. Romankov leg., L. Castro det. & coll.

P. spiricornis (Spinola 1808) has been found in parts of Europe (from the Alps and central Europe to the three Mediterranean peninsulas), Armenia and Central Asia (Van der Vecht & Fischer, 1972). Subspecies *turanicus* is the Central Asian form (Kurzenko, 1977a), and only occasionally recorded.

• ***Pseudepipona augusta*** (Morawitz 1867)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **KAZAKHSTAN:** BATYS QAZAQSTAN, **Lake Zhalpak Sor**, 49° 12' N, 48° 12' E (UTM: 39U-TQ95), 10-VI-2001, 1 ♀, V. Karalius & J. Miatleuski leg., L. Castro det. & coll.

A rarely recorded species known from eastern Europe (Hungary, Slovakia, Ukraine, southern and south-eastern Russia), south-western Siberia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and north-east China (Inner Mongolia) (Kurzenko, 1977b; Dvořák & Straka, 2007).

• ***Pseudepipona lativentris lativentris*** (Saussure 1855)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **ITALY:** SARDEGNA (= Sardinia), CAGLIARI province, **Carloforte**, 39° 08' N, 8° 17' E (UTM: 32S-MJ43), 14-VI-1973, 1 ♀, collector unknown. **KAZAKHSTAN:** BATYS QAZAQSTAN, **Lake Zhalpak Sor**, 49° 12' N, 48° 12' E (UTM: 39U-TQ95), 10-VI-2001, 3 ♂, V. Karalius & J. Miatleuski leg. **KYRGHYZSTAN:** YSYK-KÖL, **Kadzi-Say**, 1800 m. alt., 42° 09' N, 77° 10' E (UTM: 43T-FG76), 28-VI-1998, 1 ♀, G. Kalik leg. **TURKMENISTAN:** LEBAP, **Garlyk**, 400 m. alt., 37° 35' N, 66° 20' E (UTM: 42S-TG66), 2-IV-1991, 1 ♀, S. Romankov leg.. All the specimens: L. Castro det. & coll.

A relatively widespread wasp which ranges from France and southern central Europe to the Iberian Peninsula and Italy and from the Crimea and European Russia to the Caucasus, Turkey, the Middle East, Iran, Central Asia and parts of China (Xinjiang and Inner Mongolia); it is also present in Morocco and on some of the Mediterranean islands (the Balearics, Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily and Cyprus) (van der Vecht & Fischer, 1972; Kurzenko, 1977b; Tobias & Kurzenko, 1978; Borsato & turrisi, 2004; Borsato, 2006; Berland, 1928; Giordani Soika & Borsato, 1995; Ebrahimi & Carpenter, 2008). The nominotypical subspecies has the same range as the whole of the species, with the exception of Cyprus and the Middle East, where it is represented by ssp. *P. l. cypria* Blüthgen 1942 (Bytinskii-Salz & Gusenleitner, 1971), and parts of Central Asia and China (Xinjiang, Inner Mongolia), where it is partly replaced by ssp. *P. l. rubicans* Kurzenko 1976 (Kurzenko, 1976, 1977b).

First record from Turkmenistan; second record from Sardinia (only very recently recorded from the island: Borsato, 2006).

COMMENTS: The Sardinian specimen is here placed, provisionally, in the nominotypical subspecies following Borsato

(2006), but, like the specimens commented upon by that author, its maculation is less extensive than in normal specimens of ssp. *lativentris*, and the difference would in our opinion justify the description of a separate subspecies. For their part, our two Asian females clearly belong to the typical form of the species, given the fact that they bear the usual deep yellow markings and show no traces of the orange tones that seem to characterise ssp. *rubricans*, even though, obviously, they come from the same general area as most of the *rubricans* types (Kurzenko, 1976) and one of them actually originates from the same province of Kyrgyzstan as the holotype. The three males from north-western Kazakhstan, on the other hand, belong to the “pale” form of the subspecies, with definitely whitish, sometimes smaller markings; we find the same shift towards white or whitish, of course, in other wasp species in the same general area of southern European Russia and north-western Kazakhstan: it happens, for instance, in *Antepipona orbitalis* (Herrich-Schaeffer 1839) and *Stenodynerus fastidiosissimus* (Saussure 1855), the former represented by ssp. *A. o. ballioni* (Morawitz 1867), the second by a pale form of ssp. *difficilis* (see comments on that subspecies below).

● *Pseudepipona rubiginosa* (André 1884)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **RUSSIA**: KALMYKIA, **Chernoze-mel’skiy**, 45° 24’ N, 45° 22’ E (UTM: 38T-NR22), 8-VI-1982, 3 ♀ and 1 ♂, A. Zamesov *leg.*, L. Castro *det. & coll.*

A rarely recorded species, known only from the Caucasus area (van der Vecht & Fischer, 1972).

● *Pseudepipona sellata* (Morawitz 1885)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **KAZAKHSTAN**: BATYS QAZAQSTAN, **Lake Zhalpak Sor**, 49° 12’ N, 48° 12’ E (UTM: 39U-TQ95), 10-VI-2001, 1 ♂, V. Karalius & J. Miatleuski *leg.*; MANGHYSTAŪ, **Zhetibay**, 43° 35’ N, 52° 04’ E (UTM: 39T-WJ82), 16-X-1999, 1 ♀, J. Miatleuski *leg.*; both specimens: L. Castro *det. & coll.*

The species, which had not been recorded for quite some time, ranges from south-eastern European Russia to Transcaucasia and southern Iran, western Siberia and Central Asia (van der Vecht & Fischer, 1972).

● *Pseudosymmorphus hindenburgi* (Dusmet 1917)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **MOROCCO**: AGADIR, **Agadir**, 30° 24’ N, 9° 36’ W (UTM: 29R-MP46), 28-IV-1988, 1 ♂, H. Tussac *leg. & det.*, L. Castro *coll.*

Distributed in Morocco and the Algerian Sahara (van der Vecht & Fischer, 1972). The present record appears to be the only one to have been published since Gusenleitner’s 1977 work on the Moroccan fauna.

● *Psiliglossa algeriensis* Saunders 1905

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **TUNISIA**: KEBILI, **Jemma area**, “palmeria”, approx. 33° 34’ N, 9° 00’ E (UTM: 32S-NC01), 30-III-2008, 1 ♂, P. Bogusch *leg.*, J. Gusenleitner *det.*, L. Dvořák *coll.*

This wasp has been found only in Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Iran (Gusenleitner, 1973; Giordani Soika, 1974). It had been recorded from Tunisia only once (Giordani Soika, 1974).

● *Stenancistrocerus atropos* (Lepelletier 1841)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **ALGERIA**: without any other collecting data, 1 ♀. **TUNISIA**: EL QAÏROUAN, **Haffouz**, 35° 38’ N,

9° 40’ E (UTM: 32S-NE64), 10-IX-1982, 1 ♂; **TOUNIS, Mo-hammédia: river Méliane**, 16-IX-1982, 1 ♀; all specimens: H. Tussac *leg. & det.*, L. Castro *coll.*

A rarely recorded north African species known from Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco (van der Vecht & Fischer, 1972; Gusenleitner, 2000b).

● *Stenodynerus chitgarensis* Giordani Soika 1970

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **UZBEKISTAN**: KASHKADAR, **Hisor Mts.** (= Gissar Mts.): **Kaltakol**, 38° 45’ N, 67° 15’ E (UTM: 42S-UH49), 20-VI-1994, 1 ♀, S. Romankov *leg.*, L. Castro *det. & coll.*

This species has been found so far in Turkey, northern Iran and Uzbekistan (Gusenleitner, 1981, 2001a). Rarely recorded.

● *Stenodynerus fastidiosissimus difficilis* (Morawitz 1867)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **KAZAKHSTAN**: BATYS QAZAQSTAN, **Dzhanybek**, 49° 25’ N, 46° 51’ E (UTM: 38U-PV37), 27-VI-1999, 1 ♀. **RUSSIA**: KALMYKIA, **Godzhur**, 47° 01’ N, 44° 26’ E (UTM: 38T-MT50), 17-VI-2001, 1 ♀; VOLGOGRAD, **El’ton**, 49° 08’ N, 46° 50’ E (UTM: 38U-PV34), 21-V-2001, 1 ♂; all specimens: V. Karalius & J. Miatleuski *leg.*, L. Castro *det. & coll.*

S. fastidiosissimus (Saussure 1855) is a largely Mediterranean wasp recorded from southern Europe (from the Iberian Peninsula to Bulgaria and southern European Russia), Turkey, Israel, Iraq, Iran, Central Asia, Cyrenaica and north-west Africa (Morocco, Algeria); it is also known from some of the Mediterranean islands (Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily and the Lipari islands) (Gusenleitner, 1981, 2000a; Borsato & Turrissi, 2004). Subspecies *difficilis* is found in southern European Russia, southern Italy, Sicily, the Balkans, Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Central Asia (Gusenleitner, 2000a). First record from Batys Qazaqstan province and the western part of Kazakhstan.

COMMENTS: In all three specimens the markings are white instead of deep yellow; this was also the case for a female recorded by Gusenleitner (2001a) from south-eastern Kazakhstan.

● *Stenodynerus pullus* Gusenleitner 1981

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **MONGOLIA**: ARHANGAY, **Tariat area** (145 km. NW of Tsetserleg, near the volcano, in Horgo Terhiyn Tsagaan Nuur national park), 2160 m. alt., 48° 11’ N, 99° 51’ E (UTM: 47U-NP63), 18-VII-2002, 1 ♀, J. Straka *leg.*, J. Gusenleitner *det.*, L. Dvořák *coll.*

This species has been recorded from parts of Siberia (Chita, Buryatia, Amur, Primorye), Mongolia and Korea (Gusenleitner, 1981, 1991; Kurzenko, 1995; Kim, 1999) and, quite recently, also from Turkey (Yildirim & Gusenleitner, 2007). The present record is only the second to be published from Mongolia (the first one was given by Gusenleitner, 1991), and the first from the central area of the country.

● *Symmorphus angustatus* (Zetterstedt 1838)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **MONGOLIA**: ARHANGAY, **Tariat area** (145 km. NW of Tsetserleg, near the volcano, in Horgo Terhiyn Tsagaan Nuur national park), 2160 m. alt., 48° 11’ N, 99° 51’ E (UTM: 47U-NP63), 17-VII-2002, 1 ♀, J. Straka *leg. & coll.*, L. Dvořák *det.*

A relatively rare wasp which has been found in Europe (in the north, and from France to the east of the continent),

Turkey, parts of Siberia (Irkutsk to Kamchatka and Primorye), northern Kazakhstan, north-eastern China, North Korea, Sakhalin and Japan (Gusenleitner *et al.*, 1997; Kurzenko, 1995; Dvořák & Castro, 2007). First record from Mongolia.

• *Symmorphus mizuhonis* Tsuneki 1977

There are a number of relatively recent synonyms of this taxon: see Cumming (1989).

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **KAZAKHSTAN:** ALMATY, **Zai-liyskiy Ala-Tau Mts.: Medeo area**, 1650-2300 m. alt., approx. 43° 09' N, 77° 03' E (UTM: 43T-FH67), 3/9-VI-1982, 1 ♀, V. Zieris *leg.*, L. Dvořák *det. & coll.*, J. Gusenleitner *revid.*

An Asian species known only from Siberia (Altai to Primorye), Korea (northern and central mountains), Sakhalin, Japan (mountains of Honshu), China (Sichuan, Guangdong, Shangdong) and Taiwan (Cumming, 1989; Kim & Lee, 2002; Kurzenko, 2004). First record from Kazakhstan.

POLISTINAE

• *Polistes dominula* (Christ 1791)

The species was described as *Vespa dominula* Christ 1791; *dominula* being a noun, and not an adjective, it cannot (Art. 34.2.1 of the ICZN) be changed to agree in gender with any genus name it may be combined with, and therefore the “traditional” spelling, *dominulus*, is incorrect. The same goes, incidentally, for *Polistes nimpha* (*Vespa nimpha* Christ 1791), which has been wrongly written as *P. nimphus* for some years now and whose name also consists of a noun, *nimpha* (there is no “*nimphus -a -um*” adjective, the same as there has never been a “*dominulus -a -um*” adjective).

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **KAZAKHSTAN:** SHYGHYZ QAZAQSTAN (= East Kazakhstan), **Southern Altai Mts.: Terekti**, rocky steppe, 48° 27' 40.5" N, 85° 52' 10" E (UTM: 45U-VP16), 14-VII-2007, 4 ♀ (workers) and 1 nest, L. Bufka *leg.*, L. Dvořák *det. & coll.* **TAJIKISTAN:** DUSHANBE, **Bigar**, 1000 m. alt., 38° 48' N, 68° 49' E (UTM: 42S-VH89), 23-VIII-2003, 2 ♀ (workers); **Dushanbe**, 1000 m. alt., 38° 34' N, 68° 46' E (UTM: 42S-VH76), 4-VI-2003, 2 ♀ (workers); **Gani-shob**, 2200 m. alt., 20-VI-2003, 2 ♀ (workers) and 1 ♂; **Luchob**, 1000 m. alt., 38° 42' N, 68° 40' E (UTM: 42S-VH78), 5-V-2003, 6 ♀ (workers); **KHATLON, Chimbulak**, 38° 12' N, 68° 39' E (UTM: 42S-VH62), 9-VI-2003, 1 ♀ (queen); all the Tajik material: N. Vanch *leg.*, L. Castro *det. & coll.* **UZBEKISTAN:** KARAKALPAK, **Takhtakupyr**, 43° 01' N, 60° 15' E (UTM: 41T-KN76), 23-IV-1984, 3 ♀ (1 queen and 2 workers); KASHKADAR, **Hisor Mts.** (= Gissar Mts.): **Kaltakol**, 38° 45' N, 67° 15' E (UTM: 42S-UH49), 20-VI-1994, 1 ♀ (worker); TOSHKENT, **Jangiabad**, 2050 m. alt., 41° 02' N, 70° 06' E (UTM: 42T-WL94), 29-IV-2002, 1 ♀ (worker); all the Uzbek material: S. Romankov *leg.*, L. Castro *det. & coll.*

A common and extremely wide-ranging wasp distributed in Madeira, most of Europe and northern Africa; in the Caucasus and Turkey, the Middle East, Egypt and Ethiopia; from Iran to Kyrgyzstan; from Tajikistan to Afghanistan, Pakistan and Kashmir; from eastern Kazakhstan to the Russian Altai, Mongolia and northern China (Carpenter, 1996; Das & Gupta, 1989; Dubatolov, 2005; Blüthgen, 1961; Gusenleitner, 1976; Smit, 2003); it is apparently becoming established in southern Great Britain (Knowles, 2006), and has been introduced into many areas around the world (Australia, Chile, Argentina, the USA, Canada and the Canary

Islands) (Buck *et al.*, 2008; Báez & Ortega, 1978). Rarely recorded from Central Asia.

• *Polistes riparius* Yamane & Yamane 1987

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **RUSSIA:** PRIMORYE, **Lazo**, 43° 22' N, 133° 54' E (UTM: 53T-MJ10), 5-VII-2002, 1 ♀ (worker), A. Dlussky *leg.*; TUVA (= Tyva), **Uyuksky Mts.: Kamenny valley**, 1000 m. alt., 16-VII-2003, 1 ♀ (queen), S. Vastchenko *leg.*; both specimens: L. Castro *det. & coll.*

An Asian species with few published records, known so far from eastern Kazakhstan, a large portion of Siberia (from Sverdlovsk and Kurgan to Khabarovsk and Primorye), Mongolia, north-eastern China, Korea, Sakhalin, the Kuriles and Japan (Hokkaido, Honshu) (Kurzenko, 2004; Dubatolov, 2005).

• *Polistes snelleni* Saussure 1862

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **MONGOLIA:** TÖV, **Mandal area** (river to the east of the town, 50 km north of Ulaanbaatar), 1180 m. alt., approx. 48° 19' N, 106° 58' E (UTM: 48U-XU45), 8/13-VIII-2008, 1 ♀ (worker), P. Tyrner *leg.*, L. Dvořák *det. & coll.*

This wasp has a relatively restricted range which includes parts of Siberia (Chita, Buryatia, Amur, Khabarovsk, Primorye), north-eastern China, Korea and Japan (Hokkaido, Honshu, Kyushu) (Kurzenko, 1995). First record from Mongolia.

• *Polistes stigma tamulus* (Fabricius 1798)

The subspecies was described by Fabricius (1798: 263) as *Vespa tamula*. As *tamula* (derived from the word “tamul”, which, like its English counterpart, “Tamil”, refers to an ethnic group living in southern India and Sri Lanka) did not, apparently, exist in classical or medieval Latin, it seems reasonable to speculate as to whether it is a noun or an adjective. The answer to the question can be found, we think, in the original work itself, since the author (Fabricius, 1798: 405) used a masculine form of the same word for another species, the crustacean “*Alpheus tamulus*”: the fact that he chose the “-a” form in combination with a feminine genus (*Vespa*) and the “-us” form in combination with a masculine genus (*Alpheus*), as is usually done with Latin “-us / -a / -um” adjectives, would strongly suggest, in our interpretation of Art. 31.2.2 of the ICZN, that Fabricius regarded it as an adjective and, by using the word in such a way he actually indicated (although implicitly) that it was an adjective. Therefore, in our view the word is in fact a neo-Latin adjective, “*tamulus -a -um*”, and the original *tamula* must accordingly (Art. 31.2 of the ICZN) adapt its ending to the gender of the genera it may be combined with, thus becoming *tamulus* in combination with *Polistes* (the approach taken, for example, by Carpenter (1996).

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **INDIA:** GOA, **Palolem** (= Pololem) area, 0-20 m. alt., 15° 00.47' N, 74° 01.58' E (UTM: 43P-CS96), 14/20-VIII-2002, 1 ♀ (worker), P. Šípek & M. Fikáček *leg.*, L. Dvořák *det. & coll.*

P. stigma (Fabricius 1793) is a wide-ranging species occurring across most of India, in Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, the Philippines, Indonesia (Sumatra, the Moluccas, Aru, Kai), Australia (Western Australia, Northern Territory, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria), New Guinea, the Bismarck islands and a series of smaller

archipelagos (Nicobar, Admiralty, Solomon, Society, Hermit) (Carpenter, 1996); also recorded from China (LI, 1985). Subspecies *P. s. tamulus* is known from Sri Lanka and most of India (Das & Gupta, 1989; Carpenter, 1996). First record from Goa province.

• *Polistes sulcifer* Zimmermann 1930

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **AZERBAIJAN: Mt. Babadag**, 3000 m. alt., approx. 41° 01' N, 48° 18' E (UTM: 39T-TF74), 26-VIII-1975, 1 ♂, S. Vaněk leg., L. Dvořák det., NMPC coll.; **Xaçmaz** (= Khachmas), approx. 41° 27' N, 48° 50' E (UTM: 39T-UF19), 41-VII-1981, 1 ♀, B. Nemkov leg., L. Castro det. & coll.

Madeira, Europe (from southern France to the Czech Republic and Bulgaria, and from the Iberian Peninsula to Greece), Turkey, Israel, Egypt and Iran; also known from Sicily and Morocco (Carpenter, 1996; Guiglia, 1972; Dvořák & Straka, 2007; Madero Montero, 1988; Blüthgen, 1961). First records from Azerbaijan and the Caucasus.

• *Ropalidia hongkongensis* (Saussure 1854)

Ropalidia hongkongensis juncta van der Vecht 1941 was treated as a synonym of the nominotypical form by Nguyen *et al.*, 2006.

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **NEPAL: GANDAKI, Annapurna area: Himachandrakot**, approx. 28° 17' N, 83° 48' E (UTM: 44R-QS73), 20-VI-1999, 1 ♀, A. Kudrna jr. leg., J. Gusenleitner det., L. Dvořák revid. & coll.

This is a relatively rare member of the genus, known from a few localities in north-eastern India (Meghalaya, Manipur, Sikkim), Myanmar, southern China, Vietnam and parts of Indonesia (Bangka, Java) (Kojima & Carpenter, 1997; Nguyen *et al.*, 2006). First record from Nepal.

• *Ropalidia jacobsoni* (du Buysson 1908)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **INDIA: GOA, Palolem** (= Pololem) area, 0-20 m. alt., 15°00.47' N, 74°01.58' E (UTM: 43P-CS96), 14/20-VIII-2002, 1 ♀ (worker), P. Šípek & M. Fikáček leg., L. Dvořák det. & coll.

A fairly widely distributed species known from India (Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Assam), Myanmar and Indonesia (Sumatra, Bangka, Java, Lombok and Sulawesi) (Kojima *et al.*, 2007). First record from Goa province.

COMMENTS: Kojima *et al.* (2007) synonymised *Ropalidia jacobsoni flavoscutellata* Das and Gupta 1984 and *Ropalidia bangalorica* Lambert and Narendran, in Lambert, Narendran and Kumar, 2005 under *Ropalidia jacobsoni* (du Buysson, 1908).

• *Ropalidia sculpturata* Gusenleitner 2001

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **NEPAL: GANDAKI, Annapurna area: Himachandrakot**, approx. 28° 17' N, 83° 48' E (UTM: 44R-QS73), 20-VI-1999, 1 ♀, A. Kudrna jr. leg., J. Gusenleitner det., L. Dvořák revid. & coll.

So far recorded only from Nepal (Gusenleitner, 2001b). The present specimen is only the fourth known.

COMMENTS: As Kojima *et al.* (2007) have stated, this taxon is unclear due to the high similarity and probable conspecificity with *R. birmanica* van der Vecht 1962. As they have noted, the exact taxonomic status of *R. sculpturata* should be discussed only after the concept of *R. birmanica* is clearly established.

• *Dolichovespula media* (Retzius 1783)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **GREAT BRITAIN: ISLE OF MAN, Dalby area: Kerrowdohoo Plantation**, 200 m. alt., approx. 54° 09' N, 4° 43' W, 11-VIII-2004, 1 ♂ (roadside, on *Angelica*), S.M. Crellin leg. & coll., G.R. Else det.; **St. John's: Garey ny Cloie**, 44 m. alt., approx. 54° 11' 39" N, 4° 38' 14" W, 26-VII-2008, 1 ♂ (ornamental garden, on *Angelica*), S.M. Crellin leg., det. & coll.

A widely distributed species known from most of Europe (absent from both the highest and lowest latitudes), the Caucasus, Turkey and Syria, Siberia (from the Urals to Primorye), eastern Kazakhstan, Mongolia, north-eastern China, Korea, Sakhalin, the Kuriles and Japan (Hokkaido, Honshu) (Carpenter & Kojima, 1997; Kurzenko, 2004; Yildirim & Kojima, 1999; Archer, 1999); it has also been recorded from Morocco (Archer, 1999) and, relatively recently, from European Turkey (Madl, 1997), while Yildirim & Gusenleitner (2001) have provided a new record from north-eastern Turkey. Četković (2002) deals with its distribution in the Balkans, and Castro & Aguado (2007) with its Iberian range. The wasp appears to have spread in recent years, mainly towards southern and western Europe; in Britain the expansion started in the 1980s (see Else, 1992 for a summary) and is still in progress (for its known distribution in Britain see Dvořák & Roberts, 2007). First records from the Isle of Man.

• *Dolichovespula sylvestris* (Scopoli 1763)

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **IRAN: KOHKILUYE-va-BOYERAHMAD, Yāsūj**, 30° 42' N, 51° 33' E (UTM: 39-R-WP59), 5-VI-2008, 1 ♀ (queen), A. Klimenko leg., L. Castro det. & coll.

D. sylvestris is present in the whole of Europe (absent from the northernmost areas), in the Caucasus, Turkey, Syria, Iran, Central Asia, Afghanistan, northern Pakistan and Kashmir, and also in most of Siberia, Mongolia, China (Xinjiang, Gansu, Fujian, Shanghai, Heilongjiang, Inner Mongolia) and Morocco (Carpenter & Kojima, 1997; Archer, 1999; Hamon, 1991). First record of *D. sylvestris* from Kohkiluye-va-Boyerahmad province; the species has only rarely been recorded from the southern half of Iran.

COMMENTS: Our specimen's rather extensive markings would make it referable to the colour form traditionally known as "var. *sumptuosa* (du Buysson 1905)", which has been reported from Armenia, Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan (Yildirim & Özbek, 1992; Giordani Soika, 1962) and has also been considered (Archer, 1989) as a subspecies on account of its limited distribution.

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