Two species of Eulophidae (Hymenoptera: Chalcidoidea) new in Poland

Pawel JAŁOSZYŃSKI

Muzeum Przyrodnicze Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego, ul. Sienkiewicza 21, 50-335 Wrocław; e-mail: scydmaenus@yahoo.com.

ABSTRACT: Two species of eulophid wasps are recorded from Poland for the first time: Horismenus specularis (ERDŐS) (Entedoninae) from Lower Silesia and Stenomesius rufescens WESTWOOD (Eulophinae) from the Eastern Beskidy Mts. Notes on key characters and illustrations of the recorded taxa are given.

KEY WORDS: Hymenoptera, Chalcidoidea, Eulophidae, Poland.

Introduction

Eulophidae is one of the largest families of Chalcidoidea. In Poland, 282 species have been recorded so far (WIŚNIOWSKI 1997); however, this group is poorly studied in our country, and contemporary faunistic studies provide data on its representatives sporadically (WIŚNIOWSKI 2007). Similarly to other minute Hymnopterans (Chalcidoidea, Platygastridea, Ceraphronoidea, etc.), it results from little popularity of these insects among entomologists, consequent upon difficulties with species identification. Many Eulophidae representatives are parasitoids of insects that have a certain economic impact (e.g. crop pests), hence the fragmentary and dispersed data on some of Chalcidoidea can not only be found in the Polish faunistic literature, but also in studies concerning forestry or plant cultivation (np. BYSTROWSKI & all. 2008).
Below, sites of two Eulophidae species, which have been hitherto not recorded from Poland, are provided. The two species were captured with a butterfly net.

*Horismenus specularis* (Erdős, 1954)
(Figs. 1, 2)

– Lower Silesia: XS46 Wrocław, 28 IX 2014, 1♀, the city centre, the lawn by the Herbarium of the University of Wrocław, leg. et coll. P. Jałoszyński.

The genus *Horismenus* Walker, 1843 comprises over 400 species distributed predominantly in the Neotropical Region; its representatives are parasitoids of larvae and beetle pupas, flies and butterflies, as well as of larvae of other Chalcidoidea and Braconidae developing in those insect orders. There is only one very characteristic species in Europe. *Horismenus specularis* was identified from Hungary (Erdős 1954), later found in Moldavia, Italy, and France (the distribution prepared by Hansson (2009)). The site in Poland is the northernmost place of the occurrence of this minute Hymenoptera. Belonging to the subfamily Entedoninae, the genus *Horismenus* is easy to identify based on the characteristic structure of the scutellum of the mesothorax and the propodeum (Fig. 2). The scutellum contains a thin, oblong medial fold and a few side folds. The propodeum, on the other hand, has a few wide and shaped folds, easy to spot on a smooth and glittering surface. So far, the males of *H. specularis* has not been discovered (Fig. 3, 4);

*Stenomesius rufescens* (Retzius, 1783)
(Figs. 3, 4)

TWO NEW SPECIES OF EULOPHIDAE (HYMENOPTERA: CHALCIDOIDEA) …

Figs. 1-4. Females of *Horismenus specularis* (1, 2) and *Stenomesius rufescens* (3, 4): lateral view (1, 3); thorax (2) and head and thorax (4) in dorsal view.

*Stenomesius* WESTWOOD, 1833 belongs to the subfamily Eulophinae and is a cosmopolitan genus consisting of a dozen of species. Its representatives are parasitoids of butterfly larvae. Only one species occurs in Europe – *S. rufescens*. Among Eulophinae known from the central Europe, *S. rufescens* is easy to identify based on its coloration (Fig. 3, 4); Out of a the diagnostical traits, a semicircular shape of the back edge of the crown can be easily seen.

The species identification verified by Christer HANSSON (Lund University, Sweden), for which I would like to cordially thank him.
SUMMARY

The family Eulophidae is represented in Poland by 282 species, but future surveys are likely to increase this number. The small body size of most species and determination problems can be blamed for little attention paid to this family of Chalcidoidea by entomologists in Poland. In this faunistic report two species are recorded from Poland for the first time: Horismenus specularis (ERDŐS) (Entedoninae) was found in Lower Silesia, and Stenomesius rufescens WESTWOOD (Eulophinae) in the Eastern Beskidy Mts. The finding place of the generally southern European H. specularis in the city of Wrocław is the northernmost known locality in the distribution range of this interesting species.

REFERENCES


