

A new species of *Megarhyssa* Ashmead, 1900 (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae) from Mexico

Новый вид рода *Megarhyssa* Ashmead, 1900 (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae) из Мексики

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КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: Ichneumonidae, *Megarhyssa*, новый вид, Мексика.

ABSTRACT: A new species, *Megarhyssa verae* sp.n., from Mexico, is described and illustrated.

РЕЗЮМЕ: Дано иллюстрированное описание нового вида *Megarhyssa verae* sp.n. из Мексики.

Introduction

Genus *Megarhyssa* Ashmead, 1900 is considered now as a member of the subfamily Rhyssinae [Gauld, 1991] that was earlier treated as a tribe of the subfamily Pimplinae [Townes, Townes, 1960; Kamath, Gupta, 1972; Kasparyan, 1981; Wang, Hu, 1994]. The genus includes the largest ichneumonids; certain specimens can have body length up to 150 mm (including ovipositor). All species are ectoparasites of larvae of horntails (Siricidae) usually belonging to the subfamily Tremicinae which attack deciduous trees (except for Palearctic *Megarhyssa emarginatoria* Thunberg, 1822 and Nearctic *M. nortoni* Cresson, 1864 parasitizing Siricinae on coniferous trees). The genus has Holarctic and Oriental distribution; most species were found in Eastern Asia (26 species) [Yu, Horstmann, 1997]. Four species are recorded for North America [Townes, Townes, 1960], and the same number was found in Europe [Horstmann, 1998]. All American species are Nearctic, having been described from USA. However, they are also distributed in Southern Canada. Moreover, one subspecies (*M. macrura macrura* Linnaeus, 1771) has been reported from Mexico. The fifth American species of *Megarhyssa* (which appears to be a new one) is described here from Mexico. The holotype of the new species is deposited in the collection of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington. D.C.

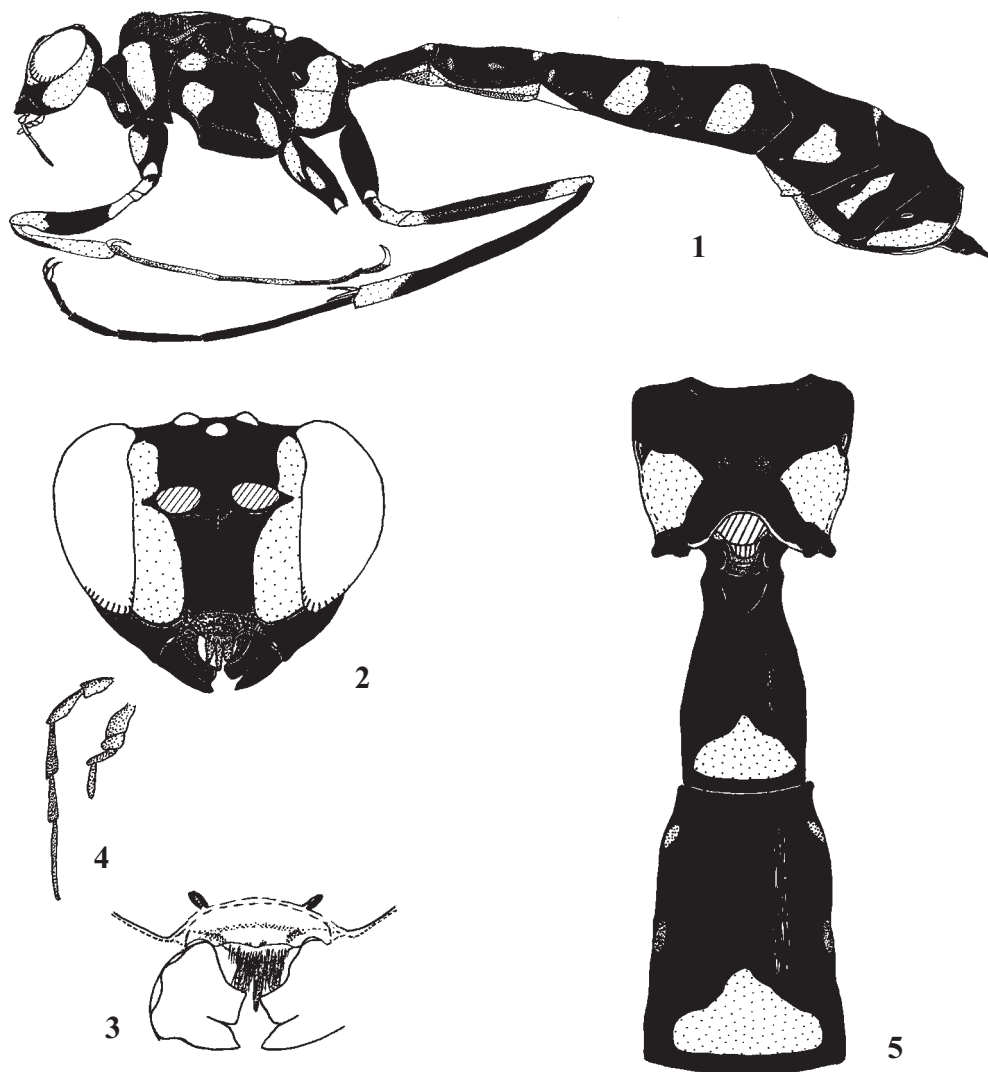
Megarhyssa verae Kasparyan, **sp.n.**
Figs. 1–5.

DESCRIPTION. Female (holotype). Fore wing length 22 mm; body length 28 mm; ovipositor sheath 43 mm. Antenna

with 36 flagellar segments; flagellum about 0.9 as long as fore wing; flagellar segments 1–5 about 1.04 as long as hind basitarsus. Malar space about 1.4 as long as apical width of mandible; upper tooth of mandible apically truncate, lower tooth more projecting to lower margin (Fig. 2). Palpi as figured (Fig. 3); 4th segment of labial palpus about 1.4 as long as 3rd segment. Labium with three apical projections which can be distinguished beyond apical fringe of dense parallel hairs. Propodeum with superficial, rather small and vague punctures; median dorsal longitudinal groove of propodeum absent; apical area highly polished, not separated by carina. Median part of apical edge of first sternite slightly in front of spiracle of first tergite; apicolateral angles of tergite 4–5 about 100°. Basal sclerotized part of sternites 4–5 about 0.6 length of sternites. First and second tergites smooth, polished and almost impunctate; tergites 3–5 covered with fine dense punctures at approximately basal 0.3–0.4, more or less rugulose-punctate in this part; middle part of the tergites dull with indistinct punctures; approximately its apical 0.2 almost polished with very short and scarce hairs on tergites 3–4 and with rather dense short hairs in dorsomedian area of tergite 5. Ovipositor sheath about 1.5 times as long as whole body and about 1.9 as long as fore wing.

Body black with conspicuous yellow markings (Figs. 1, 4, 5). Antennae entirely black. Pronotal spots separated medially. Mesoscutum with two medial yellow stripes. Scutellum yellow dorsally, black at base and at very apex; postscutellum yellow. Coloration of hind legs as figured (Fig. 1). Fore femur and tibia yellow apically; fore spur yellowish, tarsi brownish with apical 0.2 of segments 1 and 2 yellowish. Middle trochanters yellow, trochanter I black basally; middle femur black, slightly yellow at base and approximately at apical 0.3; middle tibia yellow approximately at apical 0.4; middle tarsi and spurs brownish black. Pterostigma dark brown, a little yellow at base. Wings hyaline, without dark spots, but somewhat tinged with brownish, especially at apex.

DIAGNOSIS. *Megarhyssa verae* resembles *M. nortoni* in coloration of wings and abdomen; it is also similar to *M. praecellens* Tosquinet, 1889 from East Asia. *M. verae* differs from *M. nortoni* and all other species of the genus in unusual coloration of hind legs (femur and tibia entirely black basally) and in an unusual combination of yellow spots on mesopleurum (Fig. 1).



Figs 1–5. *Megarhyssa verae*, sp. n.: 1 — habitus, 2 — head frontally, 3 — clypeus and mandibles, 4 — palpi, 5 — propodeum and metasomal tergites 1–2, dorsal view.

Рис. 1–5. *Megarhyssa verae*, sp.n.: 1 — габитус, 2 — голова спереди, 3 — наличник и мандибулы, 4 — щупики, 5 — пропodeум и 1–2-й тергиты брюшка, сверху.

REMARKS. This species is named in honour of my friend Dr. Vera Richter, specialist in Tachinidae.

MATERIAL. Holotype, ♀, "Mexico: Mexico, Rt 890, km 9 area, 6 km W Lago Zempoala, 2. X. 1991 A.L. Norrbom".

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