

Research Article

Report of a new species of *Myrmeleono stenus* Uchida, 1936 from India (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae)

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Abstract: The genus *Myrmeleono stenus* was described by Uchida in 1936 with *Myrmeleono babai* as its type species. A new species of the genus *Myrmeleono indicus* is described in the present contribution with its distinguishing characters.

Keywords: *Myrmeleono stenus*, Uchida, *Myrmeleono babai*, *Myrmeleono indicus*.

1. Introduction

Myrmeleono stenus species belong to the order Hymenoptera and class Insecta. This species was first described by Uchida, 1936 from India.

Taxonomy

Myrmeleono stenus Uchida, 1936

Myrmeleono stenus Uchida, 1936. *Insecta*, *Matsumurana*, 10:116.

Type-species: *Myrmeleono stenus babai* Uchida

Key to species of *Myrmeleono stenus*

The Indian species recorded from Uttar Pradesh can be distinguished by the following key:

1. Face sublaterally rugoso-punctate. Malar space about 1x the basal width of mandible. First tergite laterally smooth and shiny, except for a few weak punctures. Nervulus distad of basal vein. Face entirely yellow. Mesopleurum, metapleurum, propodeum and first segment largely red*Flavomaculatus* Jonathan (1).
- Face uniformly densely punctate. Malar space 0.75x the basal width of mandible. First tergite laterally with transverse ridges at base. Nervulus opposite to basal vein. Face black, marked with

yellow. Mesoscutum with a median oval yellow mark. Mesopleurum, metapleurum, propodeum and first tergite largely, black..... *Indicus* sp.nov.

Description: Body of moderate proportions, with stout thorax and first tergite moderately long and slender. Clypeus moderately small, about 2.4x as wide as long, subpyramidal at centre, its apex convex or subtruncate, without a median tooth. Malar space about 1.0x as long as basal width of mandible. Mandibles short and wide, its lower tooth a little shorter than upper tooth. Mesoscutum polished with small dense and deep punctures; notauli reaching up to the center of mesoscutum. Propodeal spiracle usually long and slit-like, at least 2.0x as long as wide, apical carina of propodeum complete, moderately strong, sublaterally forming weak crests. Hind coxa without a groove at base on its basal or outer side. First tergite usually long and slender, sometimes short and stout, with or without a tooth at base, with 3 pairs of longitudinal carinae, these may be obsolete or obsolescent on postpetiole. First sternite opposite to spiracle or extending more than 0.5 the distance between spiracle and apex. Second tergite mat to polished, its punctures small or fine, rather dense. Wing venation as in the figure. Ovipositor sheath about 1.0x as long as hind tibia, ovipositor weakly compressed.

Distribution: Oriental and Palaearctic regions.

***Myrmeleono stenus indicus* sp.nov.**

(Pl. I, Figs. 1-6)

This species is distinguished by having face densely punctate, malar space 0.75x the basal width of mandible; first tergite laterally with transverse ridges and base of tergite with or without basal lateral angulation or weak tooth.

Female: Face with small sized punctures, punctures in the middle closely placed, rugoso-punctate sublaterally, along the eye margin mat with sparse, shallow punctures. Clypeus subpolished, with small and sparsely placed punctures. Mandible sparsely and shallowly punctate, malar space granulose, about 0.75x the basal width of mandible. Frons with moderate sized closely placed punctures in the middle dense and running into wrinkles, median groove not defined. Vertex and temple with moderately sized, deep and close punctures. Pronotum in its lower 0.6 strongly trans-wrinkled, its upper 0.4 densely punctate, epomia short but strong. Scutellum subpolished, coarsely and shallowly punctate, lateral carina more or less confined to its base. Metascutellum shiny with a few weak punctures. Mesopleurum moderately strongly rugose, speculum rugoso-punctate, mesosternum and area above sternaulus with small dense punctures, subtegular ridge and area just below it finely punctate, Metapleurum rugoso-wrinkled, juxtacoxal carina present. Propodeum between basal carina and apex reticulo-wrinkled, basad of basal carina with

moderately large, deep, closely placed punctures. First tergite about 2.5x as long as wide at apex, postpetiole about 1.5x as long as wide at base, tergite smooth and shiny at base, its postpetiolar area mat and densely punctate, punctures tending to be sparse towards the base, pleural area with strong transverse ridges, base of the tergite with or without weak tooth or angulation. Second tergite mat and subpolished with minute dense punctures, third tergite mat and with setiferous punctures, following termites mat and subpolished. Forewing with nervulus vertical, opposite to basal vein; nervellus intercepted at its lower 0.28, axillus vein parallel and its tip curved towards the margin.

Black. Apex of 3rd to 10th flagellar segments white above. The following are yellow: a circular mark in the middle efface, clypeus, except apicomedia, mandible at base, face, frons and temple all along the eye margin, pronotal collar, upper margin of pronotum, an oval mark at the center of mesoscutum, scutellum, metascutellum subtegular ridge, a large mark at the apex and a small mark at the base of sternaulus, propodeum with a 'ring-shaped' mark, apices of all the abdominal tergites, fore and middle coxae with irregular markings. Legs in general red, except hind tarsus white with its first segment at base, fourth and fifth segment largely reddish. Wings clear hyaline.

Male: Essentially similar to female, except 11th to 17th flagellar segments above white. Fore and middle coxae and trochanters yellow with black markings. Hind coxa and trochanter black.

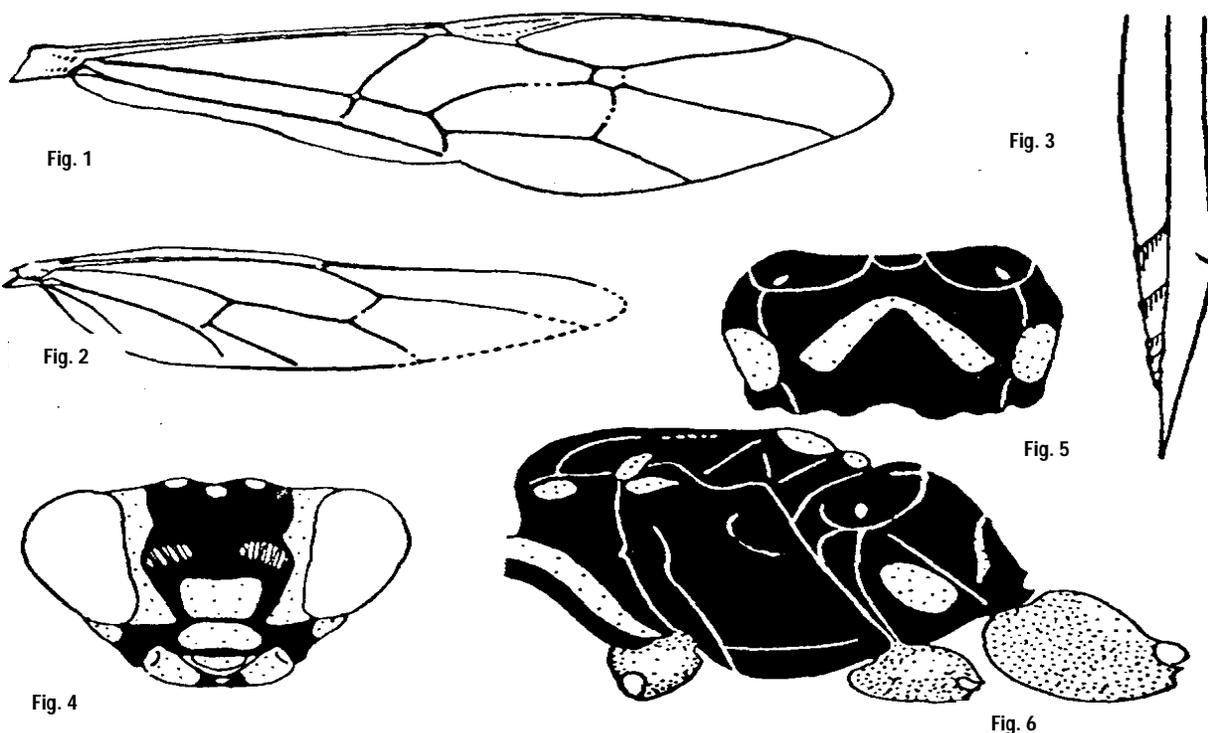


Plate 1: Fig. 1. Forewings showing venation. Fig. 2. Hindwings showing venation. Fig. 3. Ovipositor tip. Fig. 4. Front view of head. Fig. 5. Dorsal view of propodeum. Fig. 6. Side view of thorax.

Length: Female, 8-11mm; forewing 6-9mm; ovipositor sheath 3.5-4.5mm; Male, 8.5mm; forewing 6.5mm.

Distribution: India: Uttar Pradesh.

Material examined: Holotype one female, India: Uttar Pradesh, Barabanki, 17.xi.2009, Satish Kashyap; Allotype, one female, same data as that of Holotype; Paratypes, 13 females, 2 males, same data as that of Holotype.

Remarks: This species is close to *M. flavomaculatus* Jonathan by having first tergite about 2.5x as long as wide at apex, postpetiole about 1.5x as long as wide at base and first sternite extending less than 0.4 the distance between spiracle and apex (2).

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