A new genus and species of Brachyscleromatinae (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae) from China, *Laxiareola ochracea*

Mao-Ling Sheng\textsuperscript{a*}, Shu-Ping Sun\textsuperscript{b}

General Station of Forest Pest Management, State Forestry Administration, Shenyang, Liaoning, 110034, China

**Abstract**

*Laxiareola* Sheng and Sun, gen.nov. and *Laxiareola ochracea* Sheng and Sun, sp.nov. belong to Brachyscleromatinae of the family Ichneumonidae, from the Jiangxi Province in China, are described in the present study. A key to the genera of Brachyscleromatinae is given.

**Keywords:** Hymenoptera, Ichneumonidae, key to Brachyscleromatinae, *Laxiareola ochracea*

**Correspondence:** \textsuperscript{a} shengmaoling@163.com, \textsuperscript{b} sfzssp@163.com, *Corresponding author

**Received:** 7 January 2010, **Accepted:** 6 March 2010

**Copyright:** This is an open access paper. We use the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 license that permits unrestricted use, provided that the paper is properly attributed.

**ISSN:** 1536-2442 | Vol. 11, Number 27

Cite this paper as:
Sheng ML, Sun SP. 2011. A new genus and species of Brachyscleromatinae (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae) from China, *Laxiareola ochracea*. Journal of Insect Science 11:27 available online: insectscience.org/11.27
Introduction

Brachyscleromatinae, resurrected and diagnosis restated by Quicke et al. (2009), is a small subfamily belonging to family Ichneumonidae of Hymenoptera and comprises five genera including Lygurus Kasparyan 1983. Two genera, Brachyscleroma Cushman 1940 and Lygurus Kasparyan 1983, have been reported in China. In this article, one new genus and its type species collected in Quannan County, Jiangxi Province, China, are described. The type specimen is deposited in the Insect Museum, General Station of Forest Pest Management, State Forestry Administration, in the People’s Republic of China.

The morphological terminology is mostly that of Gauld (1997). Wing vein nomenclature is based on Mason (1986, 1990).

Description

Laxiareola Sheng and Sun, gen.nov.

Diagnosis. Forewing about 8.6 mm long. Clypeal suture weak, not clearly separating face from clypeus. Clypeus almost flat, apical margin thick, with a fringe of parallel hairs. Mandible with two teeth, upper tooth longer than lower tooth. Antenna short; scape subcylindric, at least 2 times longer than its widest diameter; its apical truncation almost transverse. Occipital carina complete, middorsal portion horizontal. Notaulus weak, not reaching to center of mesoscutum. Upper end of epicnemial carina reaching to mid-height of hind margin of pronotum and distant from front margin of mesopleuron. Scutellum with lateral carina at basal 0.4. Areolet absent. Hind wing vein 1-cu strongly inclivous, at least 4 times as long as cu-a. Tarsal claw pectinate. Propodeum completely carinated. Area superomedia wider than long. First tergum strongly widened toward apex, approximately 1.8 times as long as its apical width, with deep glymmae. Second tergum with a longitudinal groove outside of the spiracle. Ovipositor sheath longer than hind tibia. Ovipositor (Figure 5) evenly upcurved, tip elongate, subapical portion of upper valve with nodus, lower valve with about 8 ridges, basal 4 widely spaced, distal 4 moderately close together.

Type species. Laxiareola ochracea Sheng and Sun, sp.nov.

Distribution. There is a single Chinese species, described below.

Etymology. The name of the new genus is based on very wide area superomedia, which is wider than it is long. The gender is female.

Key to the genera of subfamily Brachyscleromatinae:

1. Areolet closed by distinct or nebulous veins. Spiracle of first tergum behind mid-length. Glymma of first tergum absent. Apex of first sternite extending past middle of tergum. Apex of front tibia without a small tooth. ..........................Brachyscleroma Cushman
   Areolet open. Spiracle of first tergum anterior to or at mid-length. Glymma of first tergum present. Apex of first sternite not extending past middle of tergum. Apex of front tibia with a small tooth. ................................................................. 2

2. Tarsal claws pectinate. Epomia present.
   Second tergum with a longitudinal groove outside of the
spiracle........................................................

*Laxiareola* Sheng and Sun, gen.nov.
Tarsal claws simple. Epomia absent.
Second tergum without a longitudinal
groove outside of spiracle, or with a
longitudinal groove mesad of the spiracle.

........................................................... 3

3. Anterior transverse carina of propodeum
absent. First tergum 1.0 to 1.5 as long as wide.
........................................... *Melanodolius* Saussure
Anterior transverse carina of propodeum
present. First tergum 2.5 to 5.0 as long as wide.

........................................................... 4

4. Clypeus centrally with weak transverse ridge.
Second tergum without a longitudinal groove
mesad of the spiracle. Ovipositor slender,
apical third strongly upcurved and somewhat
depressed. .................... *Lygurus* Kasparyan
Clypeus without transverse ridge. Second
tergum with or without a longitudinal groove
mesad of the spiracle. Ovipositor relatively
stout or slender, apical portion not upcurved
and weakly compressed or cylindric.

............................................................. 5

5. Clypeus rather flat, its apical margin with a
median tooth (*Erythrodolius formosus* Seyrig
1932). Propodeum areolated. Second tergum
with a longitudinal groove mesad of the
spiracle. Ovipositor moderately thick, apical
portion weakly compressed.

......................... *Erythrodolius* Seyrig
Clypeus weakly convex, its apical margin
with a raw of tubercles. Propodeum only with
anterior transverse carina and area basalis.
Second tergum without a longitudinal groove
mesad of the spiracle. Ovipositor rather
slender, apical portion cylindric.

................................. *Icariomimus* Seyrig

*Laxiareola ochracea* Sheng and Sun, sp.nov.

(Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

**Diagnosis**
Body yellowish brown. Speculum dark brown,
smooth and shining. Antenna less than 0.7
length of forewing. Postero-ocellar line about
0.3 times as long as ocular-ocellar line. Hind
wing vein 1-cu strongly inclivous, about 4.6
times as long as cu-a. Apical edge of first
trochanter of leg with a small tooth on the
outer side. Area superomedia very wide,
approximately 1.8 times as wide as long.
Ovipositor evenly upcurved.

**Description**
Female. Body length about 9.3 mm. Forewing
length about 8.6 mm. Antenna length about
5.5 mm. Ovipositor sheath length about 3.5
mm.

**Head.** Face (Figure 2) 2.0 times as wide as
long, with dense punctures; median portion
convex and smooth; upper median portion
with a longitudinal protuberance. Clypeal
suture indistinct. Clypeus almost flat, with
unclear punctures; apical margin with a fringe
of long parallel hairs, and a row of tubercles
on median section. Mandible long, basal
width nearly as wide as apex, its median
portion slightly narrow; with shallow
transverse punctures; upper tooth slightly
longer than lower tooth. Malar space slightly
rough, with unclear longitudinal lines, 0.6
times as long as basal width of mandible.
Subocular sulcus indistinct. Gena nearly
smooth, with sparse and fine punctures, in
lateral view about 0.9 times as long as width
of eye. Vertex with dense punctures, and deep
concave nearby lateral ocellus. Interocellar
area with punctures denser and finer than
vertex. Postero-ocellar line about 0.3 times as
long as ocular-ocellar line. Lower portion of
frons concave, upper portion nearly the same
texture as vertex. Antenna short,
approximately 0.65 times as long as forewing. Scape almost cylindric, approximately 2.3 times as long as its widest diameter; apical truncation nearly transverse; with 24 flagellomeres, ratio of length from flagellomere 1 to 5 in proper order: 4.0:3.8:3.6:3.4:3.2. Occipital carina complete, middorsal portion approximately horizontal.

**Mesosoma.** Pronotum smooth, anterior portion narrowly with unclear fine punctures; lateral concave with short transverse lines; posterior portion with distinct fine punctures, more denser nearby upper margin. Epomia short, but distinct. Mesoscutum with dense punctures. Notaulus weak, as a vestige on front portion of mesoscutum. Scutellum convex, highest portion slightly behind center; almost smooth, with sparse and fine punctures; lateral carina reaching 0.4 its length. Postscutellum convex, strongly oblique forward. Mesopleuron (Figure 3) smooth, with sparse punctures. Speculum smooth and lucent, posterior margin slightly raised, and touching mesopleural suture. Around mesopleural fovea smooth and lucent. Sternaulus very weak, about half as long as mesopleuron. Metapleuron smooth, upper-anterior portion with fine and indistinct punctures. Submetapleural carina complete and strong. Wing gray-brownish hyaline. 1cu-a distad of 1-M, distance between them about 0.3 length of 1cu-a. Arolet absent. Vein 2rs-m basad of 2m-cu, distance between them about 0.7 length of 2rs-m. Vein 2-Cu 0.5 times as long as 2cu-a. Hind wing vein 1-cu strongly inclivous, about 4.6 times as long as cu-a. Apical edge of first trochanter of leg with a small tooth on the outer side. Apex of front tibia with a small tooth. Tarsal claws pectinate. Propodeum (Figure 4) completely areolate, dorsal profile (from base to posterior transverse carina) about 0.38 length of propodeum, posterior profile strongly sloping. Area basalis distinctly wider than long. Area superomedia approximately 1.8 times as wide as long, its lateral carinæ weak. Area basalis and area superomedia with irregular wrinkles.
Area externa with distinct punctures. Residual portion with indistinct fine punctures. Propodeal spiracle oval, slightly raised.

**Metasoma.** First tergum evenly and strongly narrowed toward base, well-proportioned convex, approximately 1.8 times as long as its apical width, with fine punctures; spiracle small, round, placed at midlength of the tergum, apex of sternite approximately at 0.2 of tergum. Glymmae very deep, separated from the grymma on opposite side only by a translucent partition. Second tergum approximately 0.6 times as long as its apical width, with fine and indistinct punctures; spiracle small, round, placed slightly in front of midlength of the tergum. Third and the following terga with brown fluff and indistinct punctures. Ovipositor (Figure 5) evenly upcurved, tip elongate, subapical portion of upper valve with a weak nodus, lower valve with 8 weak ridges, basal 4 widely spaced, distal 4 moderately close together.

**Color** (Figure 1). Yellowish brown. Antennae darkish brown. Upper-posterior corner of pronotum, small fleck behind spiracle of first tergum, oblique strip on lateral portion of second tergum and submedian transverse bands of third to sixth terga puce. Anterior fleck of middle lobe and longitudinal bands of lateral lobes of mesoscutum brownish black. Speculum shining blackish brown. Hind leg mostly reddish brown, its tarsi darkish brown.

**Type material**

Holotype ♀, CHINA: Quannan, Jiangxi Province, 628 m, 12 May 2008, Mao-Ling Sheng.

**Distribution**
China (Jiangxi)

**Etymology.** The name of the new species is based on the ochraceous color of body.

**Remarks.**
The new genus resembles *Lygurus* Kasparyan 1983, but can be distinguished from the latter by the following characters: clypeus almost flat (without median transverse ridge); tarsal claw pectinate; first tergum strongly widened toward apex, approximately 1.8 times as long as its apical width; second tergum with a longitudinal groove outside of the spiracle; ovipositor sheath more shorter than body, less than 0.4 length of body; ovipositor comparatively strong, upper valve with nodus, lower valve with distinct ridges. *Lygurus* Kasparyan: clypeus with median transverse ridge; tarsal claw simple; first tergum strongly elongate, at least 3 times as long as its apical width; basolateral of second tergum with short groove; ovipositor sheath very long, 1.2 times as long as body; ovipositor slender, without nodus and ridge.

**Acknowledgements**
We wish to thank Dr. Donald Quicke, Division of Biology, Imperial College London, UK, for sending helpful material. We are also very grateful to Shi-Chang Li and Dong-Sun Ding for their help in the course of

---

**Figure 5. Laxiareola ochracea, Ovipositor.** High quality figures are available online.
exploration in Jiangxi Province. This project was funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC, No. 30671686; No. 30872035).

Editor’s note: Paper copies of this article will be deposited in the following libraries. The date of publication is given in ‘About the Journal’ on the JIS website.

Universitaetsbibliothek Johann Christian Senckenberg, Frankfurt Germany; National Museum of Natural History, Paris, France; Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois USA; University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA; University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona USA; Smithsonian Institution Libraries, Washington D.C. USA; The Linnean Society, London, England.

References

Chiu SC, Wong CY. 1987. The Phrudinae of Taiwan (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae). Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute. Special Publication 22: 1-18.

Cushman RA. 1940. New genera and species of Ichneumon-flies with taxonomic notes. Proceedings of the United States National Museum 88(3083): 355-372.

Gauld ID, Wahl D, Bradshaw K, Hanson P, Ward S. 1997. The Ichneumonidae of Costa Rica, 2. Introduction and keys to species of the smaller subfamilies, Anomaloninae, Ctenopelmatinae, Diplazontinae, Lycorininae, Phrudinae, Tryphoninae (excluding Netelia) and Xoridinae, with an appendix on the Rhyssinae. Memoirs of the American Entomological Institute 57: 1-485.

He JH, Chen XX, Ma Y. 2000. Revision of the genus Brachyscleroma Cushman (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae) from China with a key to the known species of the world. In: Zhang YL, editor. Systematic and faunistic research on Chinese insects. Proceedings of the 5th National Congress of Insect Taxonomy, pp. 235-245. China Agriculture Press.

Kasparyan DR. 1983. A new eastern Palearctic genus of the subfamily Phrudinae (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae). Contributions to the American Entomological Institute 20: 116-118.

Mason WRM. 1986. Standard drawing conventions and definitions for venational and other features of wings of Hymenoptera. Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington 88: 1-7.

Mason WRM. 1990. Cubitus posterior in Hymenoptera. Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington 92: 93-97.

Quicke DLJ, Laurenne NML, Fitton MG, Broad GR. 2009. A thousand and one wasps: a 28S rDNA and morphological phylogeny of the Ichneumonidae (Insecta: Hymenoptera) with an investigation into alignment parameter space and elision. Journal of Natural History 43: 1305-1421.

Seyrig A. 1932. Les Ichneumonides de Madagascar. I. Ichneumonidae Pimplinae. Mémoires de l’Académie Malgache 11:1-183.

Townes H. 1969. The genera of Ichneumonidae, Part 1. Memoirs of the American Entomological Institute 11: 1-300.

Townes H. 1971. The genera of Ichneumonidae, Part 4. Memoirs of the American Entomological Institute 17: 1-372.
Yu DS, van Achterberg K, Horstmann K. 2005. World Ichneumonoidae 2004. Taxonomy, Biology, Morphology and Distribution. (CD-ROM). Taxapad.