

A new genus and a new species of Allantinae from India (Hymenoptera: Tenthredinidae)

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Abstract: *Neotaxonus* gen. nov. based on a new species *N. asperous* spec. nov. is described and illustrated. It belongs to the subfamily Allantinae and is closely related to *Taxonus* Hartig.

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Introduction

Specimens of an undescribed species of Tenthredinidae, subfamily Allantinae collected from Bomdila (Arunachal Pradesh) in India run with Malaise (1963) to the genus *Parasiobla* Ashmead, which is based on quite unstable and unreliable characters, such as the absence of closed middle cells in the hind wing. This character is variable, even in its type species *Taxonus rufocinctus* Norton. This new species is also very close to *Taxonus* Hartig, from which it can be differentiated on, among other characters, the shape of the clypeal incision, the sculpture of mesopleura and the compression of apical antennal segments.

Neotaxonus gen. nov.

Type species: *Neotaxonus asperous* spec. nov.

Diagnosis

Adult: Antenna 9 segmented; scape longer than pedicel; segment 3 slightly longer than segment 4; apical segments not specifically compressed. Clypeus deeply, rectangularly incised and with long pointed lateral teeth. Labrum broader than long with pointed anterior margin. Postgenal carina present. Hind orbits carinated. Mesopleuron rugose with large, dense, pit-like confluent punctures on and along its convexity. Metabasitarsus equal to following joints combined. Claw with subapi-

cal tooth shorter than apical one and a distinct basal lobe. Forewing veins M and Rs + M meeting Sc + R at same point; anal cross-vein oblique. Hindwing with one closed middle cell; anellan cell practically sessile; nervellus slightly oblique to both anellan and brachielan vein.

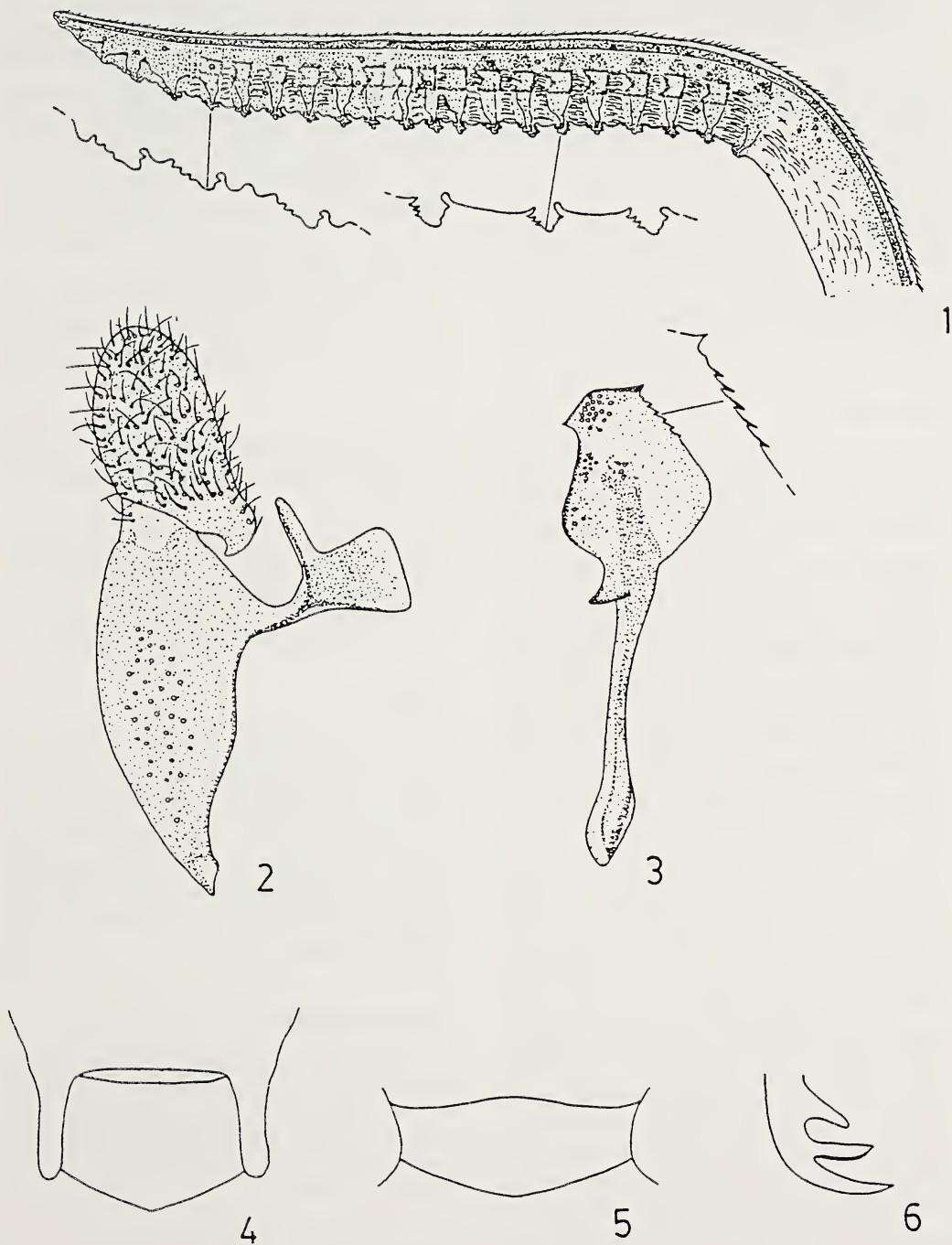
Etymology: The generic name is based on the close resemblance to the genus *Taxonus*.

Distribution: India, restricted to North-Eastern Himalaya.

Discussion

While erecting this new genus we accept the opinion of Smith (1979) that the criteria used by Malaise (1963) to divide *Taxonus* into four genera: *Taxonus*, *Strongylogastroidea*, *Hypotaxonus*, and *Parasiobla* (= *Polytaxonus* MacGillivray) are wrong. This division was based on some unstable characters, such as the comparative length of hind basitarsi and the presence or absence of a closed middle cell in the hindwing. We agree with Smith (1979) and Abe & Smith (1991), and treat all these genera as synonyms of *Taxonus*. The two genera can be separated with the following key:

1. Clypeus rectangularly incised; nervellus very faintly oblique to both brachielan and anellan cell; mesopleura rugosely punctured; flagellum not specifically compressed *Neotaxonus* gen. nov.
- Clypeus circularly incised; nervellus dis-



Figs 1-6. *Neotaxonus asperous* gen. nov. and spec. nov. 1, lancet; 2, gonoforceps; 3, penis valve; 4, clypeus and labrum; 5, hypopygium; 6, tarsal claw.

tinctly oblique to both brachiellal and anellal cell; mesopleura not rugously punctured, almost smooth or with small scattered punctures; apical half of flagellum very strongly compressed..... *Taxonus* Hartig

Neotaxonus asperous spec. nov.

(figs 1-6)

Type material

Holotype: ♀, Arunachal Pradesh, Bomdila, 2500 m, 26.v.1993. Paratypes: Arunachal Pradesh, Bomdila, 2500 m, 4 ♀, 2 ♂, 31.v.1989, 5 ♀, 4 ♂, 7-9.v.1992, 6 ♀, 4 ♂, with same data as holotype.

Depository: Pusa National Collection, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, India.

Description

Female: Colour: Body black, fuscus are: flagellum more or less; anterior aspects of tibia and tarsi of proleg; mesotarsi; extreme base of metabasitarsus; extreme apex of coxa, tibia and tarsi of metaleg. Wings hyaline except an infuscated band below stigma; extreme apex of costa and basal 1/3 of stigma fulvous; rest of venation piceous. Average length 7.5 mm.

Head: Antenna long, 2.1 x head width; scape 1.3 x its apical width; pedicel as long as its apical width; segment 3 longer than 4, ratio 6:5; clypeus (fig. 4) rectangularly incised upto 2/3 of its median length; labrum (fig. 4) broader than long, ratio 6:5, with pointed anterior margin; malar space half the diameter of median ocellus; lower margin of eye below the level of antennal socket; LID:IDMO:EL = 6:8:5; supraclypeal and supraantennal pits well marked; frontal area slightly above the level of eyes; supraantennal tubercles and frontal ridges insignificant; median fovea shallow with a deep pit in its centre; postocellar furrow shallow; inter- and circumocellar furrows sharp; lateral furrows deep distinct, ex-curved (bulging) and abruptly ending well before the hypothetical hind margins of head; postocellar area subconvex, longer than broad, ratio 7:6; head narrowing behind eyes; OOL:POL:OCL = 7:4:6; head with dense, coarse, irregular punctures, more prominent on frontal region, surface dull.

Thorax: Mesoscutellum subconvex; appendage not carinated; ICD:ITD = 1:3; tarsal claw (fig. 6) with a subapical tooth shorter than apical one and a distinct basal lobe; metabasitarsus equal to following joints combined; IATS:MB:OATS = 4:14:3; mesonotum with dense, minute punctures, surface subshining; mesoscutellum rugose with dense punctures, surface opaque; appendage polished; mesopleuron rugose with large, dense, pit-like confluent punctures on and along its convexity, rest of part with dense, regular, fine punctures, surface subshining.

Abdomen: Impunctate, shining with a mixed black and silvery pubescence. Lancet (fig. 1) having 22 serrulae. Hypopygium as in fig. 5.

Male: Average length 7 mm. Similar to female. Genitalia: penis valve (fig. 3), gonoforceps (fig. 2).

Etymology: The species name is after the rough and uneven surface of head and thorax due to deep, irregular puncturation.

Distribution: India, Arunachal Pradesh.

Diagnosis

This species is characterised by a combination of the following characters: a rectangularly deeply incised clypeus, scape longer than pedicel, segment 3 & 4 = 8:5; postocellar area longer than broad, ex-curved (bulging) lateral furrows ending well before hypothetical hind margin of head and dense puncturation on head and thorax.

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Abbreviations

IATS: inner apical tibial spur; ICD: intercenchri distance; IDMO: interocular distance at the level of median ocellus;

ITD: intertegular distance; LID: lower interocular distance; MB: metabasitarsus; OATS: outer apical tibial spur; OCL: ocello-occipital line; OOL: oculo-ocellar line; POL: postocellar line.

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