

***Bracon lineifer* spec. nov., a peculiar new species from The Netherlands (Hymenoptera: Braconidae)**

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Abstract: *Bracon lineifer* spec. nov. (Braconinae-Braconini) is described and illustrated. It is differentiated by the peculiar sculpture and colour of the metasoma, the setosity of the mesoscutum and the shape of the tarsal claws.

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Introduction

The genus *Bracon* Fabricius, 1804 is a huge genus with about 2000 described species and even more are undescribed. It is one of the largest genera known and so far known contains only ectoparasites of larvae of holometabolous insects. During the long term collecting with Malaise-traps in a coppice-wood at Waarder, near the centre of The Netherlands, a peculiar species provisionally included in the genus *Bracon* was discovered. Later it was also found in a small forest-estate at Wassenaar (near Leiden).

The new species is differentiated from other *Bracon* spp. by the yellow and smooth median band of the second to fifth metasomal tergites, the antero-lateral grooves of these tergites (fig. 5), the peculiar lobe of the tarsal claws (fig. 3), and the conspicuous setosity of the mesoscutum. The only similar specimens I have seen are from Peru (Leiden Museum), but these have the mesoscutum largely glabrous.

In the key of Telenga (1936) the new species comes out at *Bracon speerschneideri* Schmiedeknecht, 1896, which is 1-2 mm long, has hind coxa blackish, sculpture of metasoma different, pterostigma brownish-yellow, and is reared from Coniferae. Coniferae are not present in the coppice-wood where the holotype was collected.

***Bracon lineifer* spec. nov. (figs. 1-12)**

Material. — Holotype, ♀, (Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden): “Nederland, Waarder (Z-H), Oosteinde 33, 5-7.viii.1973, C. v. Achterberg”. Paratypes: 2 ♀, (Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden): 1 ♀, topotypic, 5-7.viii.1971; 1 ♀, “Neth[erlands]: Zuid-Holland, Wassenaar, Zuydwijk, UTM ET97, 10-17.vi.1986, leg. P. Thomas, MT[=Malaise-trap]”.

Holotype, ♀, length of body 3.4 mm, of fore wing 3.2 mm.

Head: Antennal segments 28, length of third segment 1.2 times fourth segment, length of third, fourth and penultimate segments 2.0, 1.6 and 2.1 times their width, respectively (figs. 2, 5, 8); apical antennal segment not acuminate; length of maxillary palp 0.7 times height of head; eyes glabrous, and not distinctly emarginate (fig. 4); length of eye in dorsal view 2.6 times temple (fig. 6); temples directly narrowed posteriorly, with some punctures; POL : diameter of ocellus : OOL = 5 : 3 : 7; frons flat, with incomplete medial groove and partly coriaceous near antennal sockets (fig. 6); vertex convex, smooth and rather setose; face rather flat, smooth ventrally, coriaceous dorsally and laterally (fig. 4); clypeus smooth and without dorsal carina, and its apical margin upcurved, thin and narrow; occipital flange narrow (fig.

5); length of malar space 0.9 times basal width of mandible.

Mesosoma: Length of mesosoma 1.5 times its height; antescutal depression deep and narrow (fig. 5); propleuron convex; mesosternal sulcus deep and smooth; side of pronotum smooth, except for some crenulae; mesopleuron largely smooth; pleural sulcus smooth; metapleuron convex and with some fine punctures; metapleural flange lamelliform and obtuse, medium-sized (fig. 5); notauli superficially impressed (fig. 7); mesoscutal lobes with long setae (but lobes medially glabrous and smooth) and fine punctures; scutellar sulcus rather deep and narrow, with 6 short carinae; scutellum rather flat, setose and with some fine punctures; metanotum without medial carina; surface of propodeum smooth, but anteriorly distinctly setose and punctulate, without carinae; propodeal spiracle round, small and medially situated (fig. 5).

Wings: Fore wing: 1-SR long and continuous with 1-M (fig. 1); $r : 3\text{-SR} : \text{SR1} = 8 : 18 : 33$; 1-SR+M evenly curved; SR1 straight; angle between 1-SR and C+SC+R 63° ; cu-a vertical, and slightly postfurcal (fig. 1); 2-SR slightly bent (fig. 1); $2\text{-SR} : 3\text{-SR} : r\text{-m} = 15 : 18 : 8$; m-cu somewhat converging to 1-M posteriorly, and distinctly shorter than 1-M (fig. 1). Hind wing: SC+R1 straight and distinctly longer than 1r-m.

Legs: Hind coxa punctulate; fore coxa normal; tarsal claws with lobe obtusely protruding and setose only (fig. 3); length of femur, tibia and basitarsus of hind leg 3.6, 7.6 and 5.4 times their width, respectively; length of hind tibial spurs 0.40 and 0.35 times hind basitarsus; hind tarsus with ventral row of setae.

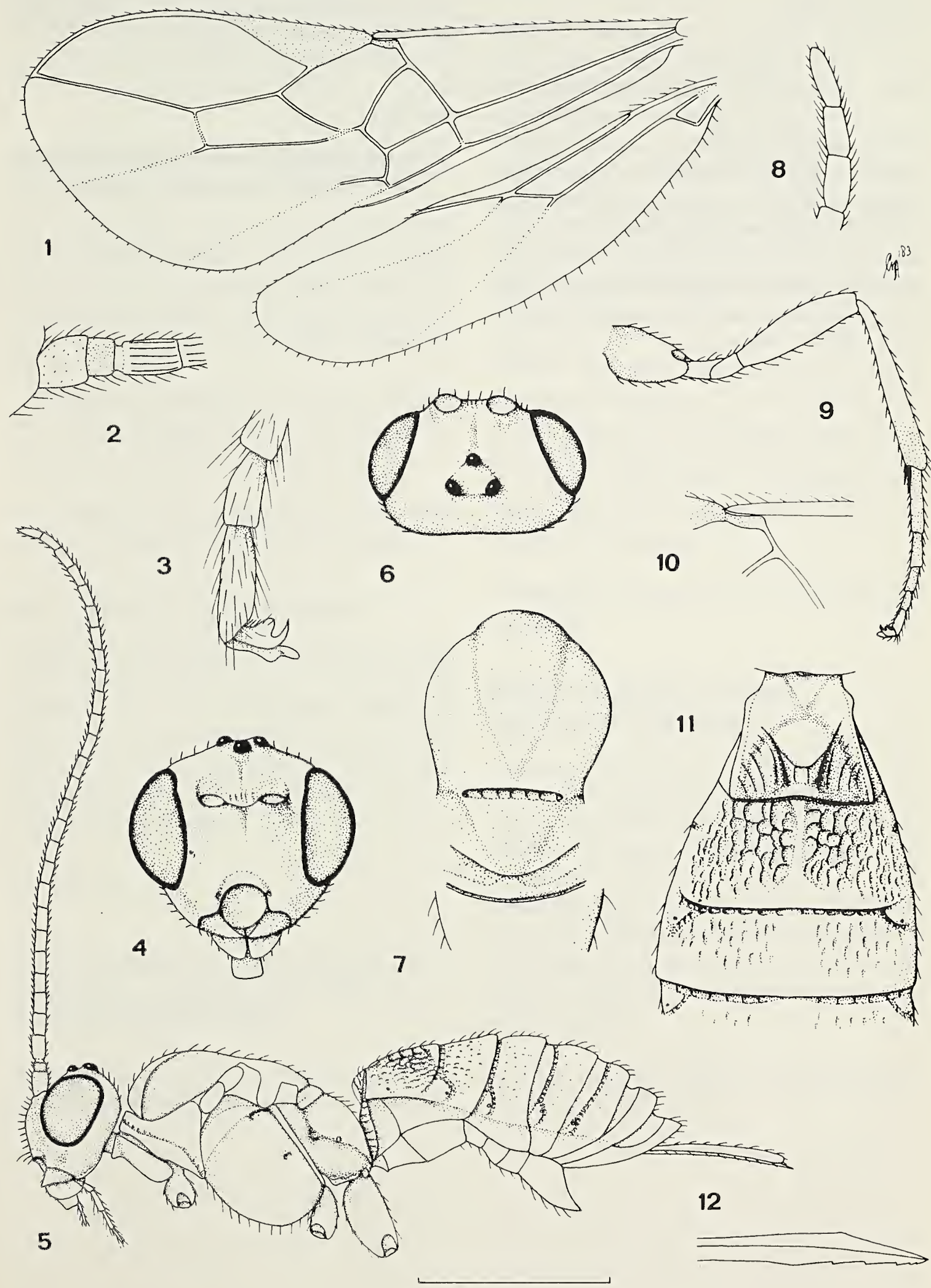
Metasoma: Length of first tergite 0.8 times its apical width, its surface smooth anteriorly and with several rugae posteriorly (fig. 11), laterally flattened and distinctly convex medio-poste-

riorly, and its dorsal carinae distinct in posterior 0.6 (fig. 11); glymma shallow, wide and crenulate (fig. 5); dorso-lateral carinae of first tergite complete and strong (fig. 11); second-fifth tergites with smooth and yellowish band medially; second suture straight, deep and moderately crenulate (fig. 11); second tergite without grooves, medio-basally with smooth, small convex area (knob-like), reticulate sub-medially, rugose laterally, and smooth medio-posteriorly (fig. 11); third-fifth tergites with complete curved grooves latero-basally; third tergite with elongate punctures, which are superficial on following tergites; fourth-sixth tergites with crenulate transverse groove sub-basally (fig. 5); only second tergite with sharp lateral crease; ovipositor with ventral teeth and dorsal nodus (fig. 12), normal; length of ovipositor sheath 0.24 times fore wing and normally setose (fig. 5); hypopygium medium-sized and apically acute.

Colour: Black; face medially, vertex largely (except near eyes), pronotum, propleuron, mesopleuron and mesosternum largely chestnut-brown; palpi, malar space, annellus, tegulae, face and frons laterally, remaining part of legs, metasoma ventrally and laterally, anterior corner and medio-posterior patch on second tergite, middle of third-fifth tergites and sixth-eighth tergites yellowish; black of second-fifth tergites with brownish tinge; base of fore and middle tibiae and hind tibiae (except apex) ivory; wing membrane slightly infuscated; scapus, pedicellus, pterostigma, veins, apex of hind tibia and hind tarsus dark brown; fore and middle tarsi infuscated.

Variation: Length of body 3.0-3.4 mm, of fore wing 3.1-3.4 mm; antennal segments of ♀ 27(1), 28(1) or 29(1); face (except middle) and side of pronotum may be largely yellowish, or face largely blackish; fifth and sixth tergites, and fifth sternite laterally, may be brownish;

Figs. 1-12 *Bracon lineifer* spec. nov., ♀, holotype (but 12 of paratype). 1, wings; 2, scapus, lateral view; 3, outer hind claw; 4, head, frontal aspect; 5, habitus, lateral aspect; 6, head, dorsal aspect; 7, mesosoma, dorsal aspect; 8, apex of antenna; 9, hind leg; 10, detail of vein 1-SR of fore wing; 11, first-third metasomal tergites, dorsal aspect; 12, apex of ovipositor, lateral aspect. (1, 5, 9: scale-line = 1 mm; 2, 8: scale-line = 2.5 mm; 3, 12: scale-line = 3.7 mm; 4, 6, 7, 10, 11: scale-line = 1.5 mm.)



second tergite in paratypes distinctly reticulate laterally; length of ovipositor sheath 0.23-0.26 times fore wing.

Etymology: Name of new species is derived from "linea" (Latin for "line") and "fero" (Latin for "to carry") because of the smooth and yellowish median area on the second to the fifth metasomal tergites.

Note: The type-specimens from Waarder were collected in a small coppice-wood dominated by *Alnus glutinosa* L., *Fraxinus excelsior* L., *Salix* spp., and *Sorbus aucuparia* L. The paratype from Wassenaar was collected in a larger patch of forest with similar composition, plus nearby *Fagus sylvatica* L.

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Reference

TELENGA, N. A., 1936. Hymenoptera 5(2). – *Fauna SSSR* [2] 4: 1-403, figs. 1-53.

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