

A new species of *Sphaeromenes* Giordani Soika (Hymenoptera, Eumenidae)

by

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ABSTRACT. — Description of *Sphaeromenes elizabethae* sp.n. from NW Argentina.

In his revision of several genera of Neotropical Eumenidae Giordani Soika (1978) erected a new genus, *Sphaeromenes*¹⁾, for a single new species, based on two female specimens, collected in 1957 by Weyrauch in Peru. On the last day of an entomological excursion in northwestern Argentina, well organized by Dr. A. Willink, my wife collected two females of a wasp which evidently belongs to this genus, but which differs in several important characters from the type-species *S. discrepatus* Giordani Soika (1978: 225, fig. 257, pl. XXIX).

I take pleasure in dedicating this new species to my wife, in appreciation of her skilful collecting of wasps and bees on numerous excursions in several parts of the world. The following description is mainly an enumeration of the characters in which this species differs from *S. discrepatus*.

Sphaeromenes elizabethae sp. n.

Material. — Argentina: 2 ♀, along road Jujuy — Salta, Camino de Corniza, primary forest, 1500 m, 18 March 1978, Mrs. E. van der Vecht - Bourguignon (holotype and paratype, Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden).

♀ — Head (fig. 1) distinctly wider than high (5:4); clypeus as long as wide, much less produced anteriorly than in *S. discrepatus*, length of free part only one third of that of interocular portion. Mandibles (fig. 2) short and broad, teeth relatively larger than in *S. discrepatus* (fig. 7). Antennal sockets closer to eyes than to each other.

Sides of pronotum slightly convex, distinctly converging towards the head; pronotal carina very weak dorsally, distinct on the sides, humeral angles rounded. Tegulae (fig. 3) shiny, slightly depressed before and behind the central convex area, posterior angle sharper than in *S. discrepatus* (fig. 8); parategulae subtriangular, differing in shape and yellow marking from those of the latter species.

Gastral segment 1 (fig. 4) less slender than in *S. discrepatus*, its length only slightly more than 2½ times the width at apex; apical margin of tergite narrowly depressed, testaceous; pre-apical rim inconspicuous and anteriorly ill-defined, except where it is bordered by the three transparent and slightly impressed "windows". Segment 2 in profile (fig. 5) strikingly different from that of the Peruvian species: the tergite less strongly swollen and the sternite bluntly angular.

The fore wings of both available specimens show three interesting characters (fig. 6): the second recurrent vein (2m-cu) is received in the third submarginal cell, this cell is wider than high, and the marginal cell is relatively long.

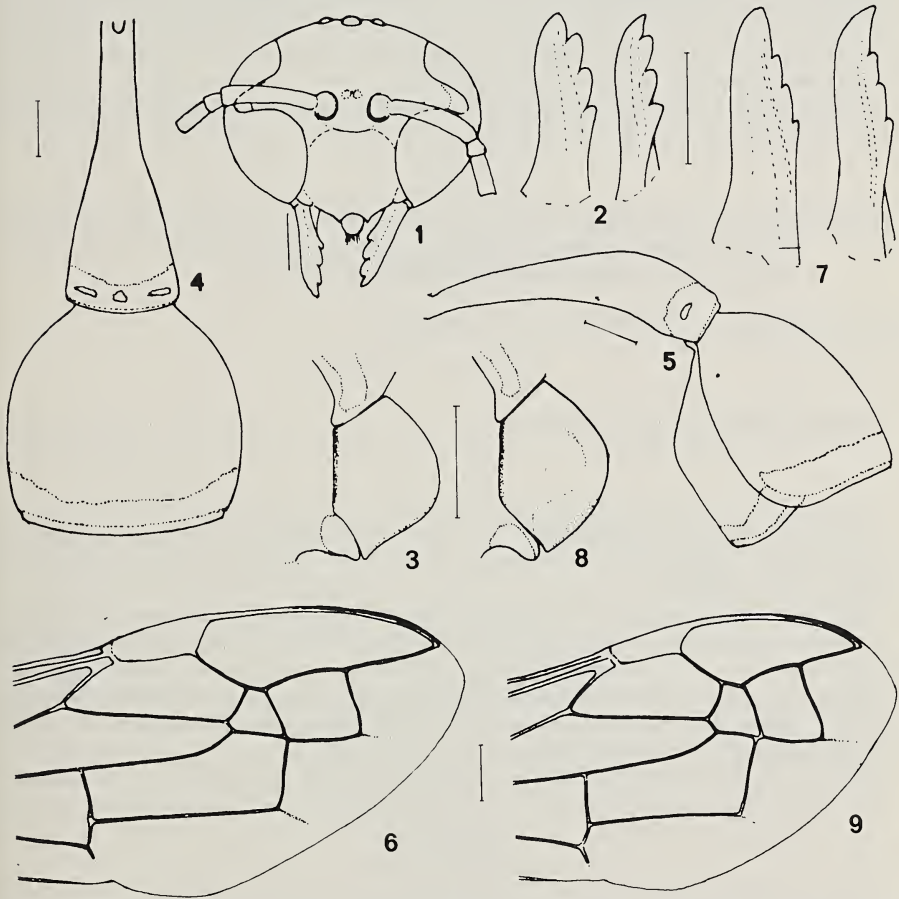
Giordani Soika's description of sculpture and pubescence apply well to the new species, but there are some notable differences in the pattern of yellow markings, as follows:

| <i>S. discrepatus</i> | <i>S. elizabethae</i> |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Yellow line on temples short, not extending to top of eye. | This line narrower and longer, ending at top of eye. |
| Pronotum with triangular spot at humeral angles. | Anterior margin of pronotum on each side with minute spot at some distance from humeral angle. |
| Spot beneath tegula rather large. | This spot reduced (holotype) or almost absent. |

¹⁾ The names of this and of another new genus (*Stenosigma*), l.c. pp. 225 and 407 resp., are unfortunately lacking in the "Summario" (p. 5) and in the Index (pp. 415-420) of this work.

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Outer margin of tegulae yellow, except anteriorly. | Tegulae entirely brown to blackish. |
| Band at base of scutellum narrowed laterally. | Scutellar band parallel-sided. |
| Metanotum entirely yellow. | Band covers basal half only. |
| Propodeum with four spots. | Propodeum entirely black. |

Both species have wide bands on gastral tergites 1 and 2, and narrower and less regular ones on t. 3 and 4 and on st. 2-4; in the new species both t. and st. 5 have a slightly interrupted yellow band, but this segment is entirely black or almost so in the two known specimens of *S. discrepatus*.



Figs. 1-6: *Sphaeromenes elizabethae* sp. n., holotype ♀: (1) head, (2) lateral and latero-frontal aspect of mandible, (3) tegula, between tip of pronotum and parategula, yellow markings indicated by dotted lines, (4) and (5) dorsal and lateral aspects of gastral segments 1 and 2, resp., (6) distal part of fore wing.

Figs. 7-9. — *Sphaeromenes discrepatus* Giordani Soika, holotype ♀: (7) as no. 2, (8) as no. 3, (9) as no. 6.

Scale lines represent 0.5 mm.

In *S. elizabethae* the following parts are reddish brown: extreme apex of mandibles, antennal segments 3-6 and 9-12 beneath; brownish yellow: greater part of tibiae I, line on outer side of tibiae II and III, short stripe at apex of femora I and minute spot on femora II; tarsi dark brown, the terminal segment slightly paler.

The ventral parts of tergite 1 are black at base, mainly brownish red on posterior two thirds; the narrow, transverse, part of st. 1 is pale yellow. Wings feebly infusate, anterior margin of fore wing darker, particularly on each side of stigma, but subcosta bordered on each side by a narrow subhyaline stripe.

Length to end of second gastral segment: 8.5 mm.

The discovery of a second species of *Sphaeromenes* is a good occasion to remark on the characters of this taxon. Although there can be little doubt that this genus is very close to *Omicron*, it is well differentiated by the shape of the first gastral segment and the absence of an epicnemial carina. Some features listed by Giordani Soika (l.c.: 225) as generic characters can no longer be regarded as such: the relative length of the free portion of the clypeus, the shape of the pronotum, and the deep sulcus at apex of tergite 1.

It will be of particular interest to study the characters of the hitherto unknown male and to obtain data on the nesting habits of members of this group.

REFERENCE

Giordani Soika, A., 1978. Revisione degli Eumenidi neotropicali appartenenti ai generi *Eumenes* Latr., *Omicron* (Sauss.), *Pararaphidoglossa* Schulth.¹⁾ ed affini. — *Boll. Mus. civ. Storia nat. Venezia* 29: 1-420, 493 figs. 55 pls.

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¹⁾ Correct original spelling: *Pararhaphidoglossa*.

MIKKOLA, K. & I. JALES, SUOMENPERHOSET, YÖKKÖSET 2. 304 pp, tekstfiguren, 16 platen. Otavan Publishing Company, Keuruu, Finland, 1979. Gebonden. Prijs? ISBN 951-1-04297-1 en 951-1-04295-5.

Dit is het tweede deel van de serie waarin de Finse nachtvlinders behandeld worden. Hiermee zijn de Noctuidae compleet (deel I verscheen in 1977, zie *Ent. Ber., Amst.* 38: 64). Het boek is uiteraard op dezelfde manier opgezet als deel I: bij elke soort de Finse verspreidingskaart, waar nodig een figuur met de kenmerken voor determinatie, en alle soorten in voortreffelijke zwart-wit foto's afgebeeld op 16 platen. Twee pagina's Engelse tekst (p. 26 en 27) maken het boek voldoende toegankelijk voor buitenlanders.

Wie Finse nachtvlinders wil verzamelen moet deze serie zeker aanschaffen. — B. J. Lempke.

PERSONALIA

De redactie moet tot haar leedwezen weer het overlijden van enkele onzer leden bekend maken.

In april ontving de bibliotheek bericht uit Genève, dat Dr. Ch. Ferrière, erelid sinds 1951, was overleden. Dr. Ferrière was een erkend specialist op het terrein van de Hymenoptera.

Op 17 augustus overleed op 78-jarige leeftijd Dr. Ing. K. Cleve, Berlijn. Hij hield zich intensief bezig met de studie van de Lepidoptera en was lid sinds 1972.

Op 10 september overleed Drs. E. H. Jonkers. Hij was slechts 60 jaar en lid van onze vereniging sinds 1976.