

A new species of *Villa* Lioy, 1864 (Diptera: Bombyliidae) parasitic on Sesiidae (Lepidoptera)

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Abstract

A new species of Bombyliidae, *Villa sesivora* sp. nov. reared from pupae of *Chamaesphecia schizoceriformis* Kolenati (Lepidoptera: Sesiidae) feeding in the roots of *Euphorbia boissieriana* (Woronow) Prokh., 1949 is described from western Iran.

Key words: Diptera, Bombyliidae, *Villa sesivora*, Lepidoptera, Sesiidae, *Chamaesphecia schizoceriformis*, Euphorbiaceae, *Euphorbia boissieriana*

Introduction

Species of the genus *Villa* Lioy, 1864 that have been reared are chiefly internal parasitoids of the pupae of Lepidoptera in soil, but some species have been reared from pupae of Tabanidae, Tenebrionidae and Myrmeleontidae (Du Merle, 1975; Yeates & Greathead, 1997). Most records of lepidopteran hosts are of Noctuidae but there are records from a number of other families including a single record from Sesiidae. The new species, described herein, was reared from a sesiid host in Iran.

Material and methods

The specimens were reared by Y. Karimpour and preserved in ethanol. They were prepared before examination by transfer to hexamethyldisilazane (HMDS) before drying (Brown, 1993) to prevent matting of the hairs. The name for the type locality of Urmia given in *The Times Comprehensive Atlas of the World* (10th Ed. 1999) favours the spelling, Orümiyeh. The description was drafted by D. Greathead. The specimens are preserved in the Natural