

Article



Aphid parasitoids (Hymenoptera, Braconidae, Aphidiinae) from Thailand

PETR STARݹ, EHSAN RAKHSHANI², ŽELJKO TOMANOVIó, NICKOLAS G. KAVALLIERATOS⁴ & MICHAEL SHARKEY⁵

¹Institute of Entomology, Biology Centre, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Branišovská 31, 370 05 České Budějovice, Czech Republic. E-mail: stary@entu.cas.cz

²Department of Plant Protection, College of Agriculture, University of Zabol, P.O.Box 998615–538, Zabol, I. R. Iran. E-mail: rakhshani@uoz.ac.ir

³Institute of Zoology, Faculty of Biology, University of Belgrade, Studenstki trg 16, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia. E-mail: ztoman@bio.bg.ac.rs

⁴Laboratory of Agricultural Entomology, Department of Entomology and Agricultural Zoology, Benaki Phytopathological Institute, 8 Stefanou Delta str., Kifissia, 14561, Attica, Greece. E-mail: nick_kaval@hotmail.com

⁵Hymenoptera Institute, Department of Entomology, University of Kentucky, Sciences Centre North, Lexington, KY, 40546–0091, USA. E-mail: msharkey@uky.edu

Abstract

Original information on aphidiine braconids from Thailand is presented. Collections of specimens from 2006 through 2008 using Malaise traps and yellow pan traps yielded 7 new species records for the country, i.e., *Binodoxys indicus* Subba Rao et Sharma, *Bioxys japonicus* Starý et Schlinger, *Diaeretus leucopterus* (Haliday), *Ephedrus lacertosus* (Haliday), *Fissicaudus thailandicus* Starý et Rakshshani, *Indaphidius curvicaudatus* Starý and *Parabioxys songbaiensis* Shi et Chen. The new records demonstrate faunal connections with India, Vietnam, the eastern Palaearctic, and more interestingly disjunct connections with the western Palaearctic, i.e. *Ephedrus lacertosus* (Haliday), *Diaeretus leucopterus* (Haliday), *Lipolexis gracilis* Förster, and afrotropical regions, i.e. *Aphidius autriquei* Starý. In all, 11 species belonging to 10 genera are presented.

Key words: aphids, parasitoids, biodiversity, national parks, Thailand

Introduction

Current knowledge of the aphidiine fauna of Thailand is limited. A first attempt was made by Starý et al. (2008) in which a new species, Areopraon thailandicum Starý was described; and other species were recorded for the first time, i.e. Aphidius autriquei Starý, Archaphidus greenideae Starý et Schlinger, Lipolexis gracilis Förster, Lipolexis oregmae (Gahan), Toxares shigai Takada. One species identification was tentative, and several specimens were identified only to the generic level. More recently (Starý et al. 2010) a new species, Fissicaudus thailandicus Starý et Rakhshani, was described. With the aim of facilitating taxonomic research on aphidiine parasitoids of south east Asia in general and Thailand in particular, the present contribution encorporates new information derived from a three-year Thailand inventory project (http://sharkeylab.org/tiger/) in which terrestrial arthropods were sampled using Malaise traps and yellow pan traps. National parks were choosen as sampling sites since they are most likely to preserve indigenous fauna (Ervin 2003, Starý et al. 2008).

Material and methods

Specimens were collected from 2006 through 2008 using Malaise traps and yellow pan traps. Every year of