



Three new species of *Lathrolestes* Förster (Hymenoptera, Ichneumonidae) from Nepal

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Abstract

Lathrolestes is recorded from Nepal for the first time. Three new species are described and illustrated: *L. roerichi* sp. nov., *L. lidae* sp. nov., *L. peisseli* sp. nov. This is the first record of the tribe Perilissini from Nepal.

Key words: Ichneumonidae, Ctenopelmatinae, Perilissini, *Lathrolestes*, taxonomy, Nepal

Introduction

The Ichneumonidae (Hymenoptera) fauna of Nepal is not known satisfactorily, although 150 species are known (Yu *et al.*, 2005; Reshchikov, 2010a). Only one species of the subfamily Ctenopelmatinae (Hymenoptera, Ichneumonidae) has been described recently from this country (Reshchikov, 2010a). While examining Ichneumonidae collected during the Canadian Expedition to Nepal in 1967 I came across these specimens which represent three new species of the genus *Lathrolestes* Förster, 1869 (Hymenoptera, Ichneumonidae). This is the first record of the tribe Perilissini from Nepal.

The genus *Lathrolestes*, parasitoids of Tenthredinidae sawflies is a fairly large, and mainly Holarctic, genus with 72 described species (Yu *et al.*, 2005; Reshchikov *et al.*, 2010). Of these, 37 species occur in the Nearctic region (Barron, 1994; Reshchikov *et al.*, 2010), 26 species in the Palaearctic region, predominantly Europe (Yu *et al.*, 2005), one species in the Afrotropical region, Congo (Benoit, 1955), four species in the Neotropics, Costa Rica (Gauld *et al.*, 1997), and four species in the Oriental region (Uchida, 1932; 1940; Reshchikov, 2010b).

The examined specimens were collected in the Tarāi, the southernmost topographic zone in Nepal. Much of this area includes the northern extension of India where 13 species of Ctenopelmatinae are known (Yu *et al.*, 2005). This suggests that the Ctenopelmatinae could be more diverse in Nepal.

Material and methods

This work is based on material from the Canadian National Collection, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, (CNC). The type specimens of crucial species were examined. Terminology for sculpture follows Eady (1968) and morphological terminology largely follows that of Townes (1970). The specimens are deposited in the Canadian National Collection. The digital pictures were taken with a stereomicroscope Leica MZ6 attached to a Q-Imaging digital camera, and combined pictures were made using Auto-Montage ®.