

Introduction to the Torymidae fauna (Hymenoptera: Chalcidoidea) of Iran

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Abstract. Eighteen species of Torymidae (Hym.: Chalcidoidea) belonging to genera *Adontomerus* (1 species), *Glyphomerus* (1 species), *Idiomacromerus* (3 species), *Microdontomerus* (2 species), *Monodontomerus* (2 species), *Pseudotorymus* (2 species), *Torymus* (3 species), *Iridophaga* (1 species) and *Megastigmus* (3 species) are recorded from Iran. Of these, 12 are new to the fauna of Iran. Brief information on biology and hosts is presented. Previously recorded species of the family from Iran are also included.

Kurzfassung. Im Iran wurden 18 Arten von Torymidae (Hym.: Chalcidoidea) nachgewiesen, und zwar aus den folgenden Gattungen: *Adontomerus* (1 Art), *Glyphomerus* (1 Art), *Idiomacromerus* (3 Arten), *Microdontomerus* (2 Arten), *Monodontomerus* (2 Arten), *Pseudotorymus* (2 Arten), *Torymus* (3 Arten), *Iridophaga* (1 Art) und *Megastigmus* (3 Arten). Davon sind 12 neu für Iran. Information über Biologie und Wirte wird kurz dargestellt. Bereits vorher im Iran nachgewiesene Arten der Familie werden zusammengestellt.

Key words. Torymini, Microdontomerini, Podagrionini, Megastigminae, Chalcidoidea, fauna, Middle East.

Introduction

In the Chalcidoidea, the family Torymidae with 986 described species (NOYES 2001) and a wide range of hosts is one of the largest and most important groups from the biological and morphological perspective. Adult wasps can be distinguished from other families such as the Pteromalidae by their long and clearly exerted ovipositor; very short stigmal veins; slightly raised and papillar cercal plates; and strongly transverse petiole (NOYES 2001). Two sub-families have been recognized: Toryminae which includes 55 genera, and Megastigminae with 12 genera. Biologically, the family includes both entomophagous and phytophagous species. Except for a few entomophagous species, the Megastigminae includes primarily phytophagous species which are associated with the seeds of coniferous trees and rosaceous plants. By contrast, the Toryminae contains entomophagous species, especially on gall-forming Hymenoptera and Diptera (GRISSELL 1995).

Unfortunately, the fauna of this family has not been studied comprehensively in Iran, so that only seven species, namely *Megastigmus aculeatus* (Swederus, 1795), *M. dorsalis* (Fabricius, 1798), *Microdontomerus annulatus* (Spinola, 1808), *M. vicicellae* (Walker, 1847), *Monodontomerus aerus* Walker, 1834, *Oopristus turkestanicus* (Skriptshinsky, 1929), *Torymus bedeguaris* (Linnaeus, 1758), and *Podagrion pachymeron* Walker, 1833), have been previously recorded (EBRAHIMI & AHMADIAN 2002, NIKDEL et al. 2004, NOYES 2001, RAKHSHANI et al. 2003). The present contribution to knowledge of the torymid wasps is based mainly on new data and material accumulated in recent years.