



Research Article

A new species of the genus *Macrocentrus* Curtis, 1833 from Jammu and Kashmir (UT), India

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Abstract

The genus *Macrocentrus* Curtis, 1833 is extensively dispersed with 238 species known worldwide. Including this new species, eight species of *Macrocentrus* are known from India. This genus is characterized by following characters: Antenna often about as long as or somewhat longer than the body (but sometimes distinctly shorter), with 24-61 segments, apical segment with distinct spine or without a spine. In the present study a new braconid, *Macrocentrus hayati* sp. nov. is described and illustrated from Jammu and Kashmir (UT), India. Specimens were collected from the grass (*Cynodon*) and weeds near the vegetables like brinjal, potatoes and beans through net sweeping. The collected material was transferred to glass vials containing 70% ethyl alcohol and brought to the laboratory for further studies. The study will help to boost the knowledge of Braconid parasitoids (living weapon) which play a key role in controlling the harmful pests, ultimately resulting in the increase of the yield of crops and other economic commodities like food grains.

Keywords: Braconidae, Macrocentrinae, New species, Taxonomy

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INTRODUCTION

The subfamily Macrocentrinae (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) is cosmopolitan having 236 described species in eight genera (Yu *et al.*, 2005). Most of the species of this subfamily are endoparasitic koinobionts of lepidopteran larvae e.g. Noctuidae, Tortricidae and Pyralidae (Van Achterberg and Belokobylskij, 1987, Shaw and Huddleston, 1991) smaller species are gregarious and polyembryonic (Wharton 1997). The genus *Macrocentrus* Curtis, 1833 is extensively dispersed with 238 species known worldwide (Yu *et al.*, 2019). Only seven species, *M. collaris* (Spinola 1808), *M. crassinervis* Nixon 1950; *M. Nixoni* (Kurahde and Nikam, 1998) *M. persephone* (Nixon 1950) *M. trimaculatus* (Cameron 1910), *M. turkestanicus* (Telenga 1950) and *Macrocentrus delhiensis* (Akhtar *et al.*, 2014) are known from India (Nixon, 1950; Saxena 1980, Khan *et al.* 1991, Kurahde and Nikam, 1998). This genus is characterized by following characters: Antenna often about as long as or somewhat longer than body (but sometimes

distinctly shorter), with 24-61 segments, apical segment with distinct spine or without spine; vein r-m of fore wing sometimes absent; ovipositor sheath clearly longer than the height of metasoma, at least 0.2-2.7x as long as fore wing; vein RS of hind wing at most to some extent bent; dorsal setae on fore femur are comparatively shorter than the ventral setae which are more uniform in length (Achterberg, 1993; Wharton, 1997). In the present work, a new species, *Macrocentrus hayati* sp. nov. is reported from Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, India.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The specimens were collected from grass (*Cynodon*) by using the sweeping net. The collected material was transferred to glass vials containing 70% ethyl alcohol and brought to the laboratory for further studies. A complete record was maintained indicating the locality, date of collection, name of the host plant. The slides and card mount specimens were examined under the binocular microscope. The ocular micrometre was

used to measure (linear side of 100 divisions) fitted in one of the two eyepieces of the binocular. The ocular micrometre was calibrated with the help of stage micrometre under 8x10x magnifications. Photographs were taken at different magnifications (4-16x) by the camera attached to Stereozoom binocular (SMZ1500) and Nikon SMZ 25. The terminology and the venation were followed by Achterberg (1993), and for surface sculpture by Eady (1968) has been followed. Abbreviations used in the text are; AOL= Anterior ocellar line; POL= Posterior ocellar line; OOL= Ocellus ocular line; OOD= Ocellus diameter; F: Flagellomere; T= Thoracic terga; 1-CU1= first cubitus, 2-CU1= second cubitus, 3-CU1= third cubitus. MDZUK= Museum Department of Zoology, University of Kashmir

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Macrocentrus hayati sp.nov.

(Figs : A-J)

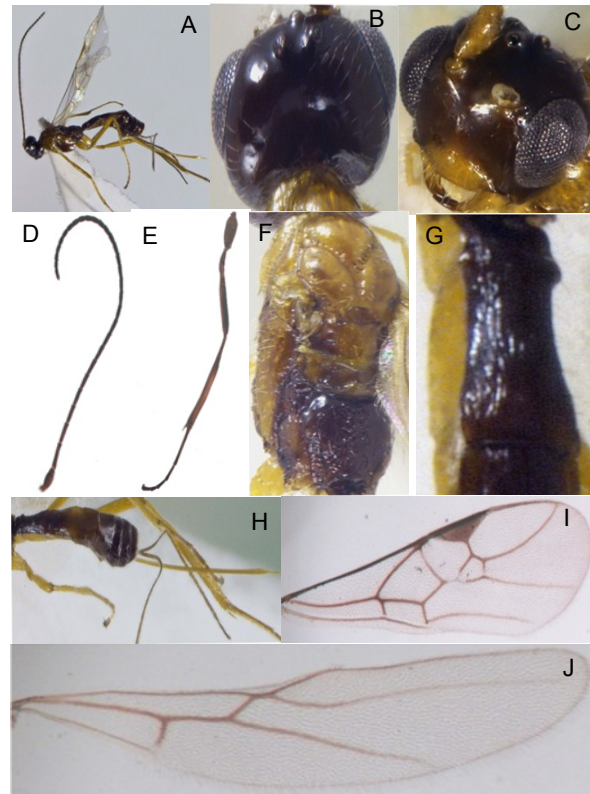
Female, Body length: 4.75mm; **Forewing:** 4.75mm.

Head: The width of the head in dorsal view 2x (x= times) its length and 1.7x its height; occipital carina absent; length of the eye in lateral view 1.2x its width and 2.7x its temple; OOL:POL:AOL:OOD= 9:6:4:3; Vertex smooth and punctulate; width of vertex 3x its length; frons rugulose, width of frons 4x its height; face smooth and sparsely setose, width of face 1.7x its length; tentorial pits deep and wide; intertentorial line as long as tentorio-ocular line; length of malar space 1.4x basal width of mandible; clypeus punctate and sparsely setose, length of clypeus 2x its width; maxillary palpi five segmented, longer than fore coxa; antennal segments 32; scape and pedicel as long as wide, apical segment of antenna 2x as long as wide, length of F₁ 5.3x: F₂ 4x: F₃-F₄ 3.6x: F₅-F₆ 3.3x: F₇ 3x: F₈ 2.6x: F₉-F₁₅ 3.5x: F₁₆-F₂₄ 2.5x: F₂₅-F₃₀ 2x their widths respectively.

Mesosoma: Length of mesosoma 2.8x its width and 2.1x its height; dorsal surface of pronotum aciculate, rugose laterally; notauli deep, broad and crenulate throughout; mesopleuron somewhat rugose, metapleuron coriaceous reticulate; scutellar sulcus deep without any median carina except few carinae basally; dorsal surface of scutellum smooth, laterally punctate; sternulus reticulate; metanotum coracious reticulate; mesoscutum dorsally smooth laterally punctate; propodeum entirely reticulate rugose.

Legs: Hind coxa 2.3x as long as wide; length of the hind femur, tibia, and basitarsus 8.2x, 11.2x and 12.3x their width respectively; length of hind tibial spur 0.27x hind basitarsus.

Wings: Length of forewing 3.6x its width, length of pterostigma 4x its width, length of vein 1-R1 1.2x length of pterostigma; vein r arising middle of pterostigma; m-cu interstitial, cu-a postfurcal;



Figs. A-J. Magnification 4-16x) Female *Macrocentrus hayati* sp. nov. A. Habitus B. Dorsal head C. Frontal head D. Antenna E. Hind leg F. Mesosoma dorso-lateral G. First metasomal tergite H. Metasoma dorsal I. Fore wing J. Hind wing.

SR1+3-SR curved; r: 2-SR:S-R1+3-SR = 5:9:56; 1-CU1: 2-CU1: 3-CU1 = 3:23:6; length of hind wing 4.6x its width; 1M: 1-r-m: 2-SC+R= 16:7:5.

Metasoma: Length of metasoma 5x its width and 4.5x its height nearly as long as head and mesosoma combined; T₁ antero-medially rugose remaining striate, 2.14x as long as wide at spiracles, 1.4x length of T₂ 2.5x length of T₃, T₂ longitudinally striate, T₃ and remaining terga smooth and densely setose; length of first metasomal tergite 3.18x its apical width; apical width 1.9x its basal width; dorsope present; spiracles present apically; ovipositor long and pointed at apex, length of ovipositor sheath 0.54x forewing.

Colour: Head black, wings transparent with brown venation, antenna uniformly dark brown, legs yellowish brown except, telotarsus and claw dark brown, face dark brown, clypeus yellow, mandibles yellow with black teeths, maxillary and labial palpi yellowish, eyes greyish, ocelli transparent, ocellar area dark brown, mesosoma yellowish brown except propodeum dark brown, first metasomal tergite dark brown, second metasomal tergite brown and remaining tergites dark brown, ovipositor yellow and ovipositor sheaths brown.

Type material: Holotype 1♀, Paratypes 3♀♀, INDIA: Jammu and Kashmir, Poonch, Haveli,

12.v.2019, Coll. Zaheer Ahmed. Holotype deposited in (MDZUK)

Etymology: Species has been named in honour of Mohd Hayat for his contribution towards the knowledge of parasitic Hymenoptera.

Male ♂: Unknown

Host: Unknown

DISCUSSION

So far, seven species of *Macrocentrus* are reported from India.

Macrocentrus persephone Nixon, 1950, Body length: ♂♀ = 6.5-7.5 mm. (without ovipositor of ♀). Distribution, India, S. Coorg, Tithimatti, 4. x. 1942, (2♀♀), 18. x. 1942, 1♀ (the type), 30. x. 1942, all ex Microlepidopteron defoliating *Bauhinia* sp. Type in the British Museum (Natural History).

Macrocentrus crassinervis, Nixon, 1950, Body length: ♂♀ = 6 mm. (without ovipositor of ♀). Distribution, INDIA : Madras, Wynaad, Kanoth Range, 11. iv. 1946, 1♂, 1. vii. 1946, 1♂, 1♀, 8. vii. 1946, 1♀ (the type), all ex *Symithanolalella* Walker, defoliating *Lagerstroemia parviflora* (F.R.I. Project). Type in the British Museum (Natural History).

Macrocentrus delhiensis Akhtar et al. 2014, Body length: ♀ = 5.8mm. (without ovipositor of ♀). Distribution, ♀: INDIA: Delhi, New Delhi, Pusa campus, IARI, weeds near mango orchards, deposited in the National Pusa Collection, Division of Entomology, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi (NPC).

Macrocentrus trimaculatus (Cameron), *Leptozele trimaculatus* Cam., 1910. Body length (♀): 5.2 mm (excluding ovipositor) Tijd. v. Ent. liii. p. 52. Ceylon. *Macrocentrus trimaculatus* (Cam.), Nixon, 1939, *Bull. ent. Res.* xxix. p. 423. Distribution ♀; India, Madras.

Macrocentrus nixonii (Kurahde and Nikam, 1998). Body length (♀) : 4.9 mm (excluding ovipositor) Antenna with 47 segments, scape 2.4x as long as wide, propodeum with transverse carina, basallay longitudinally strigose.

Macrocentrus collaris (Spinola, 1808). Body length (♀): 5.0 mm. (excluding ovipositor). Antenna with 42 segments, clypeus slightly convex, wider than long (i.e. transverse), face smooth medially, temple smooth and shiny, propodeum coarsely, transversely rugose.

Macrocentrus mandibularis Watanabe, 1967. Vertex smooth and shiny, ocelli small, Antenna short with 36 segments. Distribution; Europe, Japan. Holotype (♀) and paratypes (9♀♀), 6(♂♂): Omagari, Akita-ken, 23-viii-64, bred from a larva of *Archips fuscocupreanus*, T. Hidaka leg. Paratype (1♀): Sapporo, 13-viii-64, K. Kusigemati leg. Host. This species has been bred from the larva of *A. fuscocupreanus* Walsingham living in the rolled leaf of *Agrostis* sp.

The new one *Macrocentrus hayati* sp. nov. closely resembles *Macrocentrus mandibularis* Watanabe, 1967. However, it differs from this species in certain peculiar characteristics as follows:

Most of the species of this subfamily are endopar-

<i>Macrocentrus mandibularis</i> Watanabe, 1967	<i>Macrocentrus hayati</i> sp. nov.
1. Antennal segments 36	1. Antennal segments 32
2. Malar space 2x basal width of mandible	2. Malar space 1.4x basal width of mandible
3. Intertentorial line 1.5x tentorio-ocular line	3. Intertentorial line as long as tentorio-ocular line
4. First metasomal tergite 9x as long as wide	4. First metasomal tergite 5.3x as long as wide
5. Propodeum irregularly transversely rugose.	5. Propodeum entirely reticulate rugose

asitic koinobionts of lepidopteran larvae, e.g. Noctuidae, Tortricidae and Pyralidae, and smaller species are gregarious and polyembryonic. The addition of a new species to Braconid parasitoids (living weapon) may play a key role in controlling the harmful pests, ultimately increasing the yield of crops and other economic commodities like food grains.

Conclusion

In the past studies, very little work has been done on braconid wasps of Jammu and Kashmir, India. Thus identification of new species of genus viz., *Macrocentrus hayati* sp. nov. from the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir has both taxonomic as well as ecological importance and will increase the knowledge of Braconid parasitoids playing a significant role in controlling the harmful pests.

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