

**FIRST REPORT OF GENUS *PRISTIPHORA* LATREILLE WITH
THREE NEW SPECIES FROM INDIA AND
A KEY TO ORIENTAL SPECIES (HYMENOPTERA: SYMPHYTA:
TENTHREDINIDAE: NEMATINAE)**

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ABSTRACT. - The genus *Pristiphora* Latreille is reported for the first time from India and three new species are added. Described and illustrated as new are: *P. alta*, *P. ecarinata* and *P. nigrescenta*. A key to Oriental species of this genus is prepared.

INTRODUCTION

Genus *Pristiphora* was erected by Latreille (1810) based on type species *Pteronotus testaceus* Jurine by original designation. With the addition of three new species to science the authors recorded this genus first time from India. Prior to this work only 6 species of this genus were known from Oriental region which included i.e. *P. sauteri* and *P. formosana* from Formosa (Rohwer, 1916); *P. rufocincta* and *P. chalybeata* from Burma (Benson, 1963) and *P. borneensis* from Borneo (Forsius, 1933) while 6th one, collected by Malaise (1934) from Kambaiti remains unnamed and incompletely described. For want of complete description, this species is not included in the key to Oriental species. Holotypes are presently in the collections of authors but will be submitted to Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa National Collections, Division of Entomology, New Delhi, India. Abbreviations used in text are: AWMT = apical width of metatibia, EL = eye length, IATS = inner apical tibial spur, IDMO = interocular distance at the level of median ocellus, LID = lower interocular distance, MB = metabasitarsus, OATS = outer apical tibial spur, OCL = ocellooccipital line, POL = postocellar line, UCL = oculoocellar line, UOL = oculooccipital line.

KEY TO ORIENTAL SPECIES OF *PRISTIPHORA* LATREILLE

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|------------------------|---|
| 1. Tegula yellow | 2 |
| - Tegula black | 5 |

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2. Abdomen mainly reddish yellow 3
- Abdomen mainly black 4
3. Wings hyaline; base of profemur, under side of meso-femur black; median fovea with slightly concave pentagonal area, clearly defined by raised frontal ridges; POL:OCL:UOL = 1:0.7:0.8 *P. rufocincta* Benson, 1963
- Wings infusate; pro- and mesofemora entirely yellowish white; median fovea without pentagonal area and frontal ridges; POL:OCL:UOL = 1:1:0.8 *P. formosana* Rohwer, 1916
4. Legs auratus; piceous are: basal 2/3 of procoxa, all femora except basal 1/5, apical 1/2 of metatibia and 2 apical metatarsal joints; sternites 2-5 auratus entirely; supraclypeal area tectiformly elevated; post-, inter- and circumocellar furrows distinct; postocellar area with a median longitudinal depression in its anterior 1/2; POL:OCL:UOL:UCL = 1:0.5:0.5:0.5; mesoscutellum faintly carinate *P. alta*, new species
- Legs auratus more or less; fuscus are: apical metatarsal joints; deflexed lateral sides of tergites 2-7 and all sternites auratus; supraclypeal area subconvex; post-, inter- and circumocellar furrows shallow; postocellar area without median depression; POL:OCL:UOL:UCL = 1:0.75:0.75:0.75; mesoscutellum not carinate *P. ecarinata*, new species
5. Malar space of distinct length 6
- Malar space linear *P. borneensis* Forsius, 1933
6. Abdomen entirely black; entire meso- and basal 1/3 of metatibiae auratus; malar space 0.5x distance between antennal sockets; clypeus subtruncate *P. nigrescenta*, new species
- Abdomen not entirely black; apical 2/3 of mesotibia black; basal 1/5 of metatibia auratus; malar space 1x distance between antennal sockets; clypeus truncate 7
7. Claw bifid; POL:OCL:UOL = 1:0.4:0.8; body metallic black; abdomen with pale posterior margins of all tergites and entirely pale underside except female hypopygium *P. sauteri* Rohwer, 1916
- Claw sub-bifid (inner tooth as long as outer tooth); POL:OCL:UOL = 1:0.7:0.9; body with bluish metallic sheen; abdomen blackish-blue leaving 3rd tergite except for medial dorsal patch and underside of 4th auratus *P. chalybeata* Benson, 1963

Pristiphora alta, new species

(Figs. 1, 4, 7, 10, 13)

Material. - Holotype: India-West Bengal, female, Darjeeling, 2280m, coll. A.S.Chambal, 7 May.1993.

Female. - Colour: Body black, auratus: labrum; tegula; sternites 2-5 entirely; apical 1/3 of procoxa; meso- and metacoxae entirely; all trochanters and adjoining 1/5 of femora; tibiae and tarsi of front four legs; basal 1/2 of metatibia more or less; metabasitarsus and following 3 joints entirely; rest of the parts of all legs piceous. Wings hyaline; costa auratus more or less; venation including subcosta and stigma piceous.

Structure: Length 5.5 mm. Antenna 2.8x head width; scape as long as its apical width; pedicel 1/2 of its apical width segment 3 arched and longer than 4 as 6:5; clypeus subtruncate (Fig.1); labrum broader than long as 3:2 with truncate anterior margin; LID:IDMO:EL = 3:2.5:2; malar space 1x diameter of median ocellus; postgenal carina absent; hind orbits not carinated; supraclypeal area subtriangularly tectiformly raised; supraantennal pit indistinct; supraantennal tubercles and frontal ridges insignificant; frontal area slightly above the level of eyes; median fovea deep, broad, rounded, pit-like in its anterior 1/3 and only merely indicated with flat bottom in its posterior 2/3; post-, inter- and circumocellar furrows distinct; lateral furrows shallow but distinct and ending abruptly just before hypothetical hind margin of

head; postocellar area subconvex, broader than long as 3:1, with a small median depression in its anterior half; head narrowing behind eyes; POL:OCL:UOL:UCL = 1:0.5:0.5:0.5; mesoscutellum flat with longitudinal weak carina in its centre; appendage faintly carinated; tarsal claw (Fig.4) with subapical tooth shorter than apical one, and the distance between their tips shorter than length of inner tooth, basal lobe absent; metabasitarsus longer than following 3 joints combined as 6:5; IATS:MB:OATS:AWMT = 2:3:1:1. Lancet (Fig. 13) with 19 serrulae. Cerci extending well beyond hind apex of ovipositor sheath, which is broader at apex than its basin; ovipositor sheath, Fig.7 (lateral view), Fig.10 (dorsal view).

Sculpture and pubescence: Head with dense, minute, punctures; mesonotum, mesoscutellum and appendage with dense, minute, irregular, shallow punctures; rest of the thorax impunctate, surface shining with oily lustre; abdomen impunctate, surface dull. Body covered with mixed brownish and silvery pubescence.

Male. - Not known.

Diagnosis. - Though, *P. alta* closely allies with *P. ecarinata*, yet it remains distinct as: supraclypeal area tectiformly elevated (subconvex in *ecarinata*); post-, inter- and circumocellar furrows distinct (shallow in *ecarinata*); tergites black (deflexed lateral sides of tergites 2-7 auratus in *ecarinata*); mesoscutellum faintly carinate (*ecarinate* in *ecarinata*); and postocellar area with median longitudinal depression (without depression in *ecarinata*). It is on this account that it deserves the status of species novum.

Etymology. - Species name pertains to tectiform elevation of its supraclypeal area.

Pristiphora ecarinata, new species

(Figs. 2, 5, 8, 11, 14)

Material. - Holotype : India Himachal Pradesh, female, Kalatop, 2400m, Coll. M.S.Saini, 22 Jun.1987.

Paratype: India - Uttar Pradesh, 1 female, Dhanoulti, 2200m, coll. Punam, 25 Jun.1993.

Female. - Colour: Body black, auratus: clypeus; mandible; posterodorsal margin of pronotum; tegula; deflexed lateral sides of tergites 2-7; all sternites entirely; all legs except apical 1/4 of metatibia and apical three metatarsal joints which are fuscous more or less. Wings hyaline; costa fulvous; venation including subcosta and stigma piceous.

Structure: Average length 5.5 mm. Antenna 3x head width; scape and pedicel as long as their apical widths; segment 3 arched and longer than 4 as 6:5; clypeus truncate (Fig. 2); labrum broader than long as 3:2, with rounded anterior margin; LID:IDMO:EL = 3:3:2; malar space 1x diameter of median ocellus; postgenal carina absent; hind orbits not carinated; supraclypeal area subconvex; supraantennal pit indistinct; supraantennal tubercles and frontal ridges insignificant; frontal area almost at the level of eyes; median fovea shallow, small, pit-like just above the supraclypeal area, and only merely indicated with uneven surface in its posterior part; post-, inter- and circumocellar furrows shallow; lateral furrows distinct, diverging backward and ending abruptly just before the hypothetical hind margin of head; postocellar area subconvex, broader than long as 3:1; head strongly narrowing behind eyes; POL:OCL:UOL:UCL = 1:0.75:0.75:0.75; meso-scutellum almost flat; appendage neither carinated nor grooved; tarsal claw (Fig. 5) with a subapical tooth shorter than apical one and

the distance between their tips greater than length of inner tooth, basal lobe absent; metabasitarsus longer than following 3 joints combined as 8:7; IATS:MB:OATS:AWMT = 2:4:1.5:1. Lancet (Fig. 14) with 20 serrulae. Cerci extending well beyond the apex of ovipositor sheath which is broader at apex than its basin; ovipositor sheath, Fig. 8 (lateral view), Fig. 11 (dorsal view).

Sculpture and pubescence: Head with dense, minute, punctures; mesonotum, mesoscutellum and appendage with dense, minute, irregular, shallow punctures; rest of the thorax impunctate, surface shining with general oily lustre; abdomen impunctate, surface dull. Body covered with mixed brownish and silvery pubescence.

Male. - Not found.

Distribution. - India: Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh.

Diagnosis. - A combination of some characters which includes: legs auratus except fuscus apical 1/4 of metatibia and 3 apical metatarsal joints; ecarinate mesoscutellum; distinct post-, inter- and circumocellar furrows; POL:OCL:UOL:UCL as 1:0.75:0.75:0.75; postocellar area with anterior median longitudinal carina, and median fovea shallow pit-like just above subconvex supraclypeal area, makes *P. ecarinata* distinct from all Oriental species of this genus.

Etymology. - Species name pertains to ecarinate mesoscutellum.

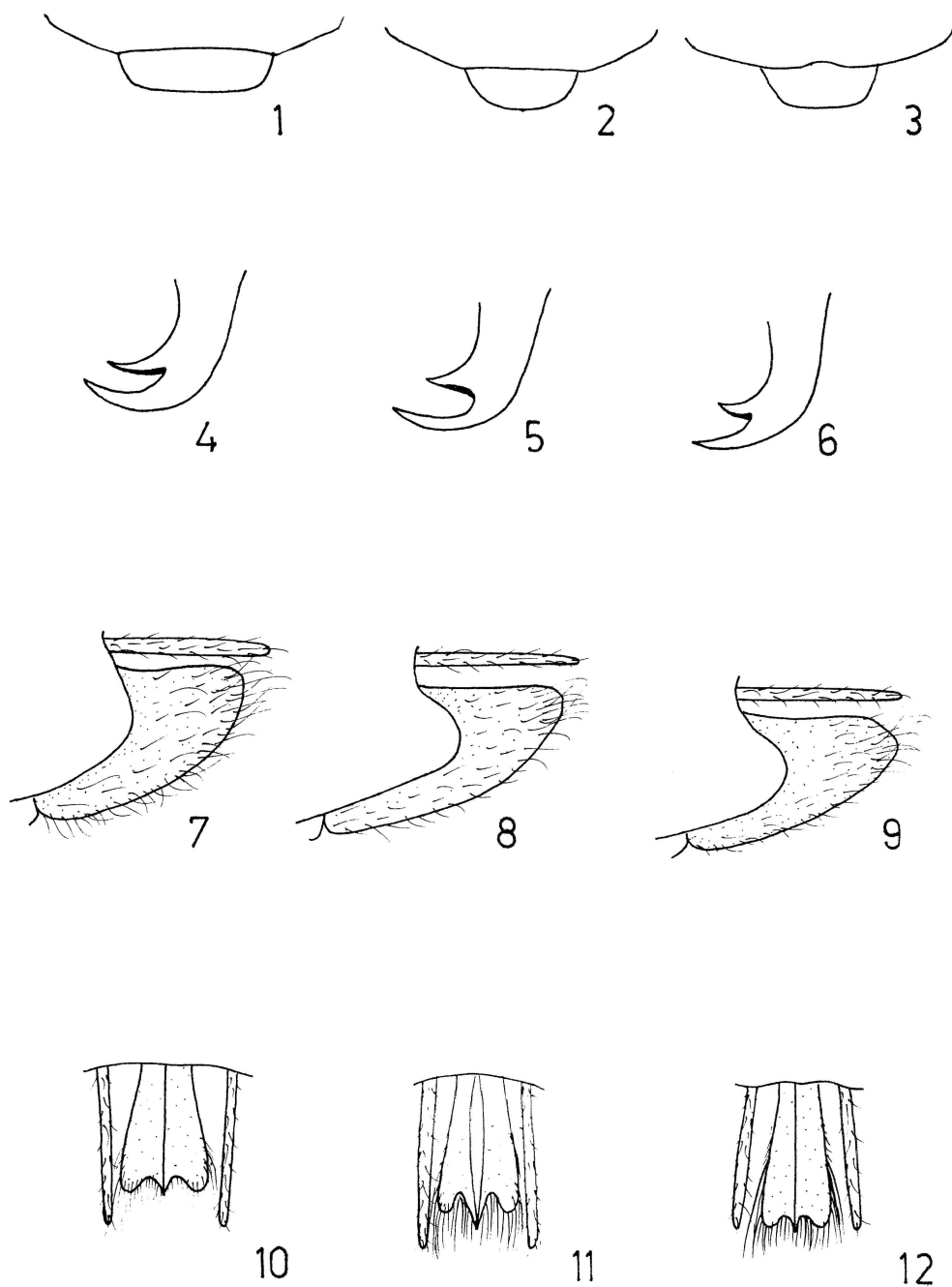
***Pristiphora nigrescenta*, new species**

(Figs. 3, 6, 9, 12, 15)

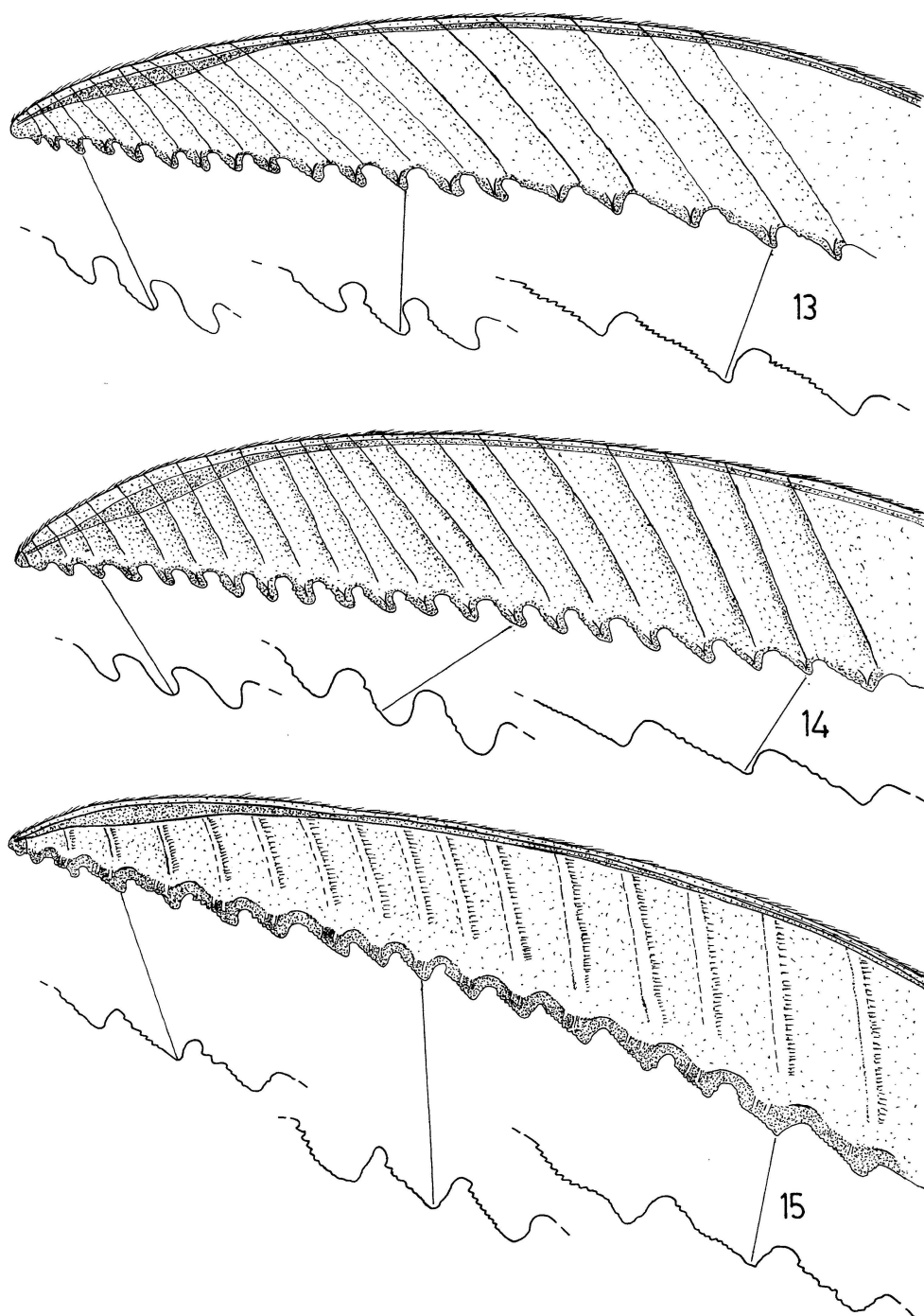
Material. - Holotype: India - Uttar Pradesh, female, Gobind Dham, 3000m, coll.A.S.Chambal, 26 Jun.1993.

Female. - Colour: Body black; auratus: labrum more or less; deflexed lateral sides of tergites 3 and 4; sternites 3 and 4; extreme apex of procoxa; apical 1/3 of meso- and metacoxae; all trochanters and adjoining parts of femora; tibiae and tarsi more or less of front four legs; basal 1/3 of metatibia; rest of the parts of all legs piceous. Wings hyaline, venation including costa, subcosta and stigma piceous.

Structure: Length 5.5 mm. Antenna 2.8x head width; scape as long as its apical width; pedicel 1/2 of its apical width; segment 3 arched, equal to 4; clypeus subtruncate (Fig. 3); labrum broader than long as 3:2, with truncate anterior margin; LID:IDMO:EL = 3:3:2, malar space 1x diameter of median ocellus; postgenal carina absent; hind orbits not carinated; supraclypeal area subtriangularly gently raised; supraantennal pit indistinct; supraantennal tubercles and frontal ridges insignificant; frontal area slightly above the level of eyes; median fovea deep, broad, rounded, pit-like in its anterior 1/3 and only merely indicated with uneven bottom in its posterior 2/3; post-, inter- and circumocellar furrows shallow; lateral furrows seam-like and ending halfway to hypothetical hind margin of head; postocellar area subconvex, broader than long as 2:1; head narrowing behind eyes; POL:OCL:UOL:UCL = 1:1:1:1; mesoscutellum almost flat; appendage faintly carinated; tarsal claw (Fig. 6) with a subapical tooth shorter than apical one, basal lobe absent; metabasitarsus longer than following



Figs. 1-12. Clypeus & labrum: 1. *P. alta*, 2. *P. ecarinata*, 3. *P. nigrescenta*; Tarsal claw: 4. *P. alta*, 5. *P. ecarinata*, 6. *P. nigrescenta*; Ovipositor sheath (lateral view): 7. *P. alta*, 8. *P. ecarinata*, 9. *P. nigrescenta*; Ovipositor sheath (dorsal view): 10. *P. alta*, 11. *P. ecarinata*, 12. *P. nigrescenta*.



Figs. 13-15. Lancet: 13. *P. alta*, 14. *P. ecarinata*, 15. *P. nigrescenta*.

3 joints combined as 8:7; IATS:MB:OATS:AWMT = 2:3:1.25:1. Lancet (Fig. 15) with 17 serrulae. Cerci extending upto the apex of ovipositor sheath, which is broader at apex than its basin; ovipositor sheath Fig. 9 (lateral view), Fig. 12 (dorsal view).

Sculpture and pubescence: Head with dense, minute irregular punctures intermingled with a network of distinct ridges on frontal area, surface opaque; mesonotum with dense, minute, shallow punctures, surface shining; mesoscutellum with fine, few, scattered punctures; appendage densely, minutely punctured; mesopleuron impunctate, shining with oily lustre; abdomen cross-striated, subshining. Body covered with a mixed brownish and silvery pubescence.

Male. - Not found.

Distribution. - India: Uttar Pradesh.

Diagnosis. - *P. nigrescenta* can be easily diagnosed on the basis of general body colour which is black; malar space 0.5x diameter of median ocellus; clypeus subtruncate; postocellar area broader than long as 2:1; POL:OCL:UOL:UCL as 1:1:1:1; median fovea deep, broad pit-like in its anterior 1/3 and posteriorly only merely indicated in posterior 2/3. These characters are sufficient to declare it a new species.

Etymology. - Species name pertains to general black colour of body.

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