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Short Communication

NEW RECORD OF *VESPA SOROR* DU BUYSSON (HYMENOPTERA : VESPIDAE) FROM INDIA

INTRODUCTION

The species *Vespa soror* du Buysson is so far reported from China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam (Das & Gupta, 1989 and Carpenter & Kojima, 1997). Kundu *et al.* (2006) listed the vespidae fauna of Arunachal Pradesh state. Thus this short communication is intended to report the extended distribution of this species in India.

***Vespa soror* du Buysson (Plate-I)**

1905. *Vespa ducalis* var. *soror* du Buysson, *Ann. Soc. Ent. France*, 73 : 490, 519. F, W, Key, des. Lectotype (designated by van der Vecht, 1957) : F, China : Kiangsi (PARIS), Indochina : Tonkin : Bac Kan.
1957. *Vespa mandarinia soror* van der Vecht. *Zool. Verh.*, 34 : 16. F, W. lectotype design., des. Indochina : Tonkin : Hoa Binh; Annam; Haut-Laos : Xieng-Khouang (Tranninh). Additional citation : Van der Vecht, 1959. *Zool. Meded.*, 36 : 221. F, W, des. Myanmar: Schwego, Myo; China : Yunnan; Fuzhou, Fugian; Indochina : Laos.
1991. *Vespa soror* du Buysson. In Archer, *Ent. Mon. Mag.* 127 : 163. Elevated to species rank. Additional citation : Carpenter & Kojima, 1997. *Nat. Hist. Bull. Ibaraki Univ.* 1 : 72. Checklist including Syn. & Distribution.

Diagnosis : Female. Size 23-26 mm. Fore wing 22-24 mm. Head, anterior border of pronotum, scutellum, postscutellum and two marks on propodeum yellow. Area around ocelli black; gastral segment 1 and 2 yellow with reddish brown stripes in the middle; 3rd to 6th tergites wholly black. Head strongly widened, produced behind the eyes; temple in profile 2x as wide as eye; posterior ocelli 3x farther from occiput than from eye; clypeus coarsely punctate, strongly emarginated apically, lateral lobes large and broadly rounded.

Variations : In some specimens colour of head, scutellum, postscutellum and first two gastral segments brownish yellow.

Discussion : This species comes close to *Vespa mandarinia* Smith in having head strongly widened and produced behind the eyes; temple in profile more than 1.8x as wide as eye and posterior ocelli 3x or more than 3x farther from occiput than from eye. But it distinctly differs from *V. mandarinia* in having: (1). Area around ocelli with black markings. (in *V. mandarinia* area around ocelli without black markings); (2). Scutellum, postscutellum, two marks on propodeum

and often with anterior border of pronotum yellow or orange red. (in *V. mandarinia* thorax usually black, reddish); (3). 1st and 2nd gastral tergites yellow and usually with reddish brown or black stripes in the middle, 3rd to 6th tergites wholly black. (in *V. mandarinia* abdomen reddish brown with narrow yellow apical bands on 1st to 5th tergites, last tergite yellowish brown); (4). Gena proportionately thinner (in *V. mandarinia* gena proportionately wider).

Material examined : 1F, India : Arunachal Pradesh; Upper Subansiri dist.; Daporijo, 28.x.1966, Alt. 150m, Coll. S.K. Tandon & G.S. Arora, Reg. No. 5949/H3. 1F, India: Arunachal Pradesh; West Siang dist.; Likabali, 17.x.1981, Coll. S.K. Gupta & Party, Reg. No. 10890/H3. 1F, India : Arunachal Pradesh; Papumpare dist.; Itanagar, 21.viii. 2002, Coll. G. Lollen, Reg. No. 10891/H3. All specimens are deposited at the 'National Zoological Collections' of the Hymenoptera Section, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata (NZSI).

Distribution : India : Arunachal Pradesh.

Elsewhere : China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

Remarks : This is the first report of the species from India.

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