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NEW RECORD OF *MEGASCOLIA (REGISCOLIA) AZUREA CHRISTIANA* (BETREM & GUIGLIA) (HYMENOPTERA : SCOLIIDAE) FROM MIZORAM, ORISSA AND SIKKIM, INDIA

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INTRODUCTION

During the studies of large collections of scoliid wasps present in the Hymenoptera Section of Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata, the author of this paper found out three new records of the species *Megascolia (Regiscolia) azurea christiana* (Betrem & Guiglia) : one from Mizoram, one from Orissa and one from Sikkim. Jonathan and Gupta (2003) listed the scoliid species from Sikkim. Gupta and Jonathan (2003) studied the family Scoliidae of India and adjacent countries in detail. This short communication is intended to report the extended distribution of species to Mizoram, Orissa and Sikkim.

***Megascolia (Regiscolia) azurea christiana* (Betrem & Guiglia)**

(Fig. 1)

1892. *Scolia (Triscolia) rubiginosa* Fabricius : Magretti, *Ann. Mus. Civico. Stor. Nat. Geneva*, **32** : 236; Female, Male. Myanmar.
1927. *Triscolia azurea azurea* (Christ) : Micha, *Mitt. Zool. Mus. Berlin*, **13** : 117; Female, Male. Myanmar, India.
1928. *Scolia (Triscolia) azurea rubiginosa* Fabricius : Betrem, *Treubia*, **9** (suppl.) : 231- 232; Female, Male (specimens from Myanmar, Bangladesh and northern India only).
1958. *Scolia (Triscolia) azurea christiana* Betrem & Guiglia : Guiglia and Betrem, *Ann. Mus. Civico Stor. Nat. Geneva*, **70** : 96 (a new name for the population from Myanmar and northern India).
1964. *Megascolia (Regiscolia) azurea christiana* (Betrem & Guiglia) : Betrem & Bradley, *Zool. Meded.*, **39** : 444.

Diagnosis : Female : Length 30-42mm. Body black, the following red or yellowish red : frontal spatium along its upper margin; front; vertex entirely including ocular sinuses; paired large oval spots on third tergite, fourth to last tergite usually with reddish tinge. Vestiture black except yellowish red or red on third to last abdominal segments including pygidium. Wings dark brown with violaceous effulgence. Anterior rim of clypeus subtruncate in the middle; clypeal disc not raised in the middle, flat, a subapical strip of small and dense punctures, at sides with close punctures, centre of the disc smooth or rugulose. Scapulae without any tubercle in front of tegulae; forewing with three Submarginal cells; first abdominal tergite with a very strong tubercle anteriorly in the middle.

Male : Length 23-30mm. Body black, the following reddish yellow : ocular sinuses entirely or partly, paired large oval spots on third tergite, fourth to last tergites almost entirely. Vestiture black except reddish yellow on third to last abdominal tergites and sternites. Wings dark brown with violaceous effulgence. Median section of posterior surface of propodeum closely punctate adjacent to dorsal surface, elsewhere with sparse to scattered punctures; forewing with three Submarginal cells. First abdominal tergite with a strong antero-median tubercle, surface with small subcontiguous punctures except impunctate behind tubercle; apical portion of volsellae with a blade-like appendage along inner edge.

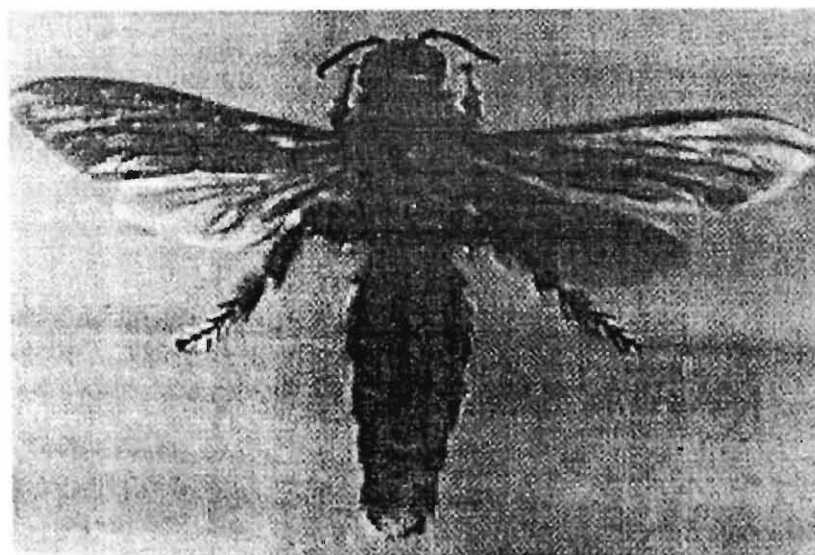


Fig. 1. *Megascolia (Regiscolia) azurea christiana* (Betrem & Guiglia). Female.

Variations : The female specimen from Orissa having a small red spot on scapulae posteriorly in front of tegula.

Material examined : 1 Male, India : Mizoram; Siahatta, 07.iv.1994, Coll. A.K. Hazra & Party, Reg. No. 10112/H3. 1 Female, India : Orissa; Kendumandi; 18.v.1972, Coll. A.R. Bhaumik & Party, Reg. No. 10471/H3. 3 Female & 2 Male, India : Sikkim; Bugtan, Alt. 520m, 09.iv.1959, Coll. A.G.K. Menon,

Reg. Nos. 10451/H3, 10452/H3, 10453/H3, 10454/H3 & 4198/H3. All specimens are deposited at Hymenoptera Section, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata (NZSI).

Distribution : India : Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Orissa, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

Elsewhere : Bangladesh, Myanmar and Nepal.

Remarks : This is the first report of this taxon from Mizoram, Orissa and Sikkim.

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