

A NEW SPECIES OF A LITTLE KNOWN GENUS OF PTEROMALIDAE
(HYMENOPTERA : CHALCIDOIDEA) FROM INDIA

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INTRODUCTION

The genus *Oniticellobia* was erected by Boucek in 1976 with *Oniticellobia sublaevis* Boucek as type species from South Africa. The specimens were reared from the brood balls of *Oniticellus formosus* Chevrolat (Coleoptera : Scarabaeidae). He also described another species *O. reticulata* Boucek from the same region. Later Prinsloo (1980) reported one female of the species *O. reticulata* Boucek reared from the brood balls of *Oniticellus* sp. collected from Port St. Johns Tanskei (S. Africa). This genus is practically unknown from the Oriental region except Boucek et al. (1978) reported an indetermined species from India (Karnataka) and Sri Lanka. A new species *O. longigastra* is described here from Kerala, India.

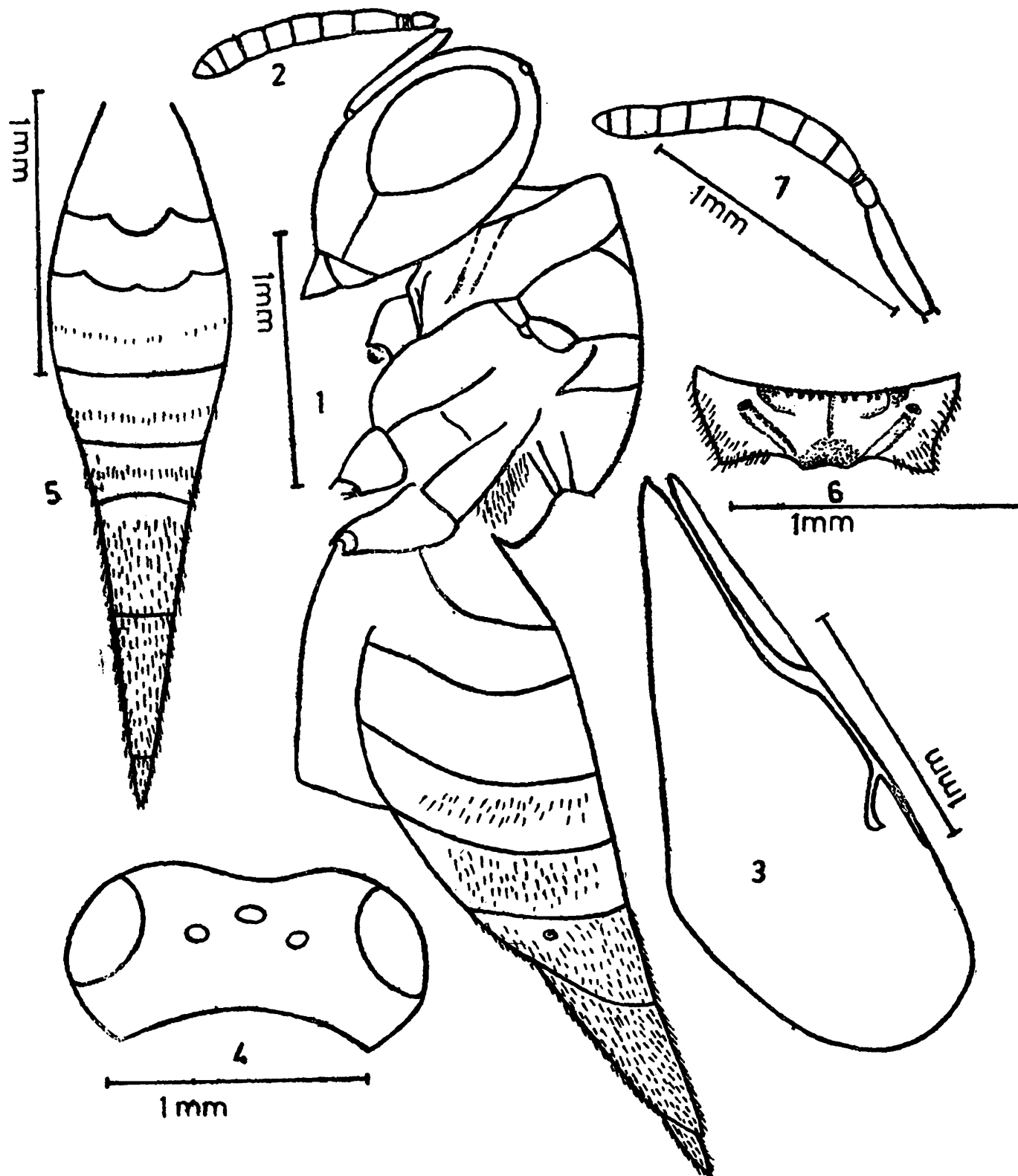
***Oniticellobia longigastra* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 1-7)

Holotype : Female : Length 4.4 mm. Body blackish metallic green almost black on dorsal side ; gaster black. Antenna with scape, pedicel and anelli testaceous, remainder dark brown ; club blackish. Eyes dark cupreous. Legs with coxae concolorous with thorax, remainder reddish testaceous ; tarsi paler with tips brown. Tegulae brown ; wings hyaline ; veins brown.

Head : (Fig. 4) 1.2X as broad as mesoscutum ; 2.3X as broad as long in dorsal view and 1.1X as broad as high in front view ; temples 0.65X as long as the eye ; POL 1.5X OOL ; ocelli moderate. Head finely reticulate, more coarsely on the scrobal area, sides of it with interconnected striae diverging downwards ; lower margin

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Figs. 1-7. *Oniticellobia longigastro*, sp. nov., female: 1, habitus; 2, antenna; 3, fore wing; 4, head in dorsal view; 5, gaster in dorsal view; 6, propodeum; 7, male antenna,

of clypeus with two distinct teeth, radiately striated, striae extending beneath the eyes and malar space; malar grooves distinct. Antenna (Fig. 2) inserted distinctly above lower margin of eyes; scape reaching just below lower margin of median ocellus; combined lengths of pedicel and anelli equal to F1; third anellus as long as first and second combined; F1 elongate; F2 slightly shorter; F3, F4 and F5 equal; club three jointed, sutures oblique, slightly longer than two preceding segments combined.

Thorax : Uniformly reticulate, coarser on hinder part of mesoscutum and scutellum; pronotum 2.9X as broad as long, lateral panel of collar with sinuate oblique furrow; mesoscutum 2X as broad as long, notaular grooves broad, shallow and almost complete; scutellum 1.1X as broad as long, without frenum; dorsellum with very minute reticulation; propodeum (Fig. 6) 3X as broad as long, finally reticulate; nucha short and convex; median carina distinct, reaching up to nuchal base; costula weak; plicae indicated only by an anterior swelling mesad of spiracle; spiracle moderate, oval, followed by post-spiracular groove; callus with less dense pubescence; lateral corners of propodeum sharp; prepectus not depressed, rather small and lobe like, microreticulate; mesopleuron strongly raised reticulate, except for a shiny triangular area beneath the wings; metapleuron similarly reticulate as mesopleuron; legs normal, hind femur 3.8X as long as broad; tibiae slender, mid tibia 8.8X as long as broad; hind tibia 6.5X as long as broad. Forewing (Fig. 3) basally bare, pubescence otherwise short. Relative measurements of sm, m, pm, and st as 26 : 13 : 5.9 : 5.5.

Gaster : (Figs. 1 & 5) 1.4X longer than head plus thorax combined, sharply acuminate apically; T1 with hind margin distinctly angulate; T2 subangulate, with hind margin slightly incised at middle; basal half of T4 pubescent laterally; T5 completely pubescent laterally; T6 and epipygium completely pubescent; epipygium 2.5X as long as broad; hypopygium reaching hind margin of T4.

Male : Length 2-2.5 mm. Similar to female but differing as follows : Antenna (Fig. 7) with two anelli equal in length and six funicle segments; scape just reaching front ocellus and F1 shorter than F2. Gaster more ovate with pubescence sparse on terminal tergites.

Biology : Unknown. Lot of specimens were collected from a cocount plantation with bottom covered by fodder grass of hybrid variety, Nappier-B 21 (Hybrid Nappier) from the campus of Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kayamkulam, Kerala.

Holotype : Female, INDIA : Kerala : Kayamkulam CPCRI campus, 19.ii.1989, Coll. P. M. Sureshan. **Allotype** : Male, Same data as that of holotype; **Paratypes** :

12 ♀ ♀ 6 ♂ ♂, data same as that of holotype ; 34 ♀ ♀, 4 ♂ ♂ (in alcohol) 20.ii.1989, other data same as that of holotype ; 1 ♀, INDIA : Kerala : Ranni, 24.xi.1988, Coll. P. M. Sureshan ; 1 ♀, Ernakulam, 9.ii.1989, Coll. P. M. Sureshan ; 1 ♀, Calicut University Campus, 26.x.1986, Coll. P. M. Sureshan ; 1 ♀ Calicut University Campus, vii.1986, Coll. Narendran & Party ; 1 ♀, Parambikulam, 22.xii.1985, Coll. Narendran & Party ; 3 ♀ ♀, Calicut University Campus, 1982, Coll. Mohandas.

Remarks : This species closely resembles *O. reticulata* Boucek, but differs in having antenna (Fig. 2) with third anellus as long as first and second combined, ocelli moderate, median from lateral by 1.5X its maximum diameter, POL 1.5X OOL, thorax with uniform fine engraved reticulation, which is not obliterated, making surface finer in an arch on the highest convexities of mesoscutum, and epipygium (Fig. 5) 2.5X as long as broad. *O. reticulata* has the antenna with third anellus longer than first and second combined, ocelli large, median from lateral by hardly more than its maximum diameter ; POL slightly greater than OOL, thorax with reticulation slightly obliterated, making surface finer in an arch on the highest convexities of mesoscutum and epipygium about twice as long as broad.

Key to the species of *Oniticellobta* Boucek

1. Thorax shiny, reticulation very weak on mesoscutum (and vertex) mainly engraved, alutaceous ; gaster in female hardly longer than head plus thorax, more fusiform ; epipygium only slightly longer than broad at its base ; pedicel in female about 2.4X as long as broad and much longer than F1. South Africa
 ... *O. sublaevis* Boucek.
- Thorax dull, distinctly raised reticulate ; gaster in female much longer than head plus thorax, narrow, conical posteriorly ; epipygium 2-2.5X as long as broad ; pedicel in female 1.8-2X as long as broad and shorter than F1.
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2. Antenna with third anellus longer than first and second combined ; POL slightly greater than OOL ; Ocelli large, median from lateral by hardly more than its maximum diameter ; epipygium about twice as long as broad. South Africa, South West Africa and Ethiopia ... *O. reticulata* Boucek.
- Antenna (Fig. 2) with third anellus as long as first and second combined ; POL 1.5X OOL ; Ocelli moderate, median from lateral by 1.5X of its maximum diameter ; epipygium (Fig. 5) 2.5X as long as broad. India : Kerala.
 ... *O. longigastrea*, sp. nov.

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