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New species of *Rasnitsynitilla* from the Arabian Peninsula (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae)

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ABSTRACT – An examination of Mutillidae collected in Oman in 2002 revealed a new species, *Rasnitsynitilla matteinii* described here, and compared with the species listed by Lelej from Yemen. The dichotomous key to the species is updated.
Key Words: Arabian Peninsula, Oman, *Rasnitsynitilla*, Yemen.

RIASSUNTO - *Nuove specie di* Rasnitsynitilla *della Penisola Arabica (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae)*. Dall'esame di un lotto di Mutillidi raccolto in Oman risulta che vi è una nuova specie non ancora nota per la scienza, *Rasnitsynitilla* matteinii qui descritta. Essa viene comparata con le specie descritte da Lelej dello Yemen e viene aggiornata la chiave dicotomica delle specie.
Parole chiave: Penisola Arabica, *Rasnitsynitilla*

Introduction

In September 2002, a scientific expedition to Oman (Arabian Peninsula) was organized where, among the many Hymenoptera caught, some male Mutillidae were identified as belonging to a new species, described here. A putative ♀ of the same species captured nearby, was archived but not described since it was not observed mating with any ♂ typical of the n.sp.

Materials and methods

In the Arabian peninsula the *Rasnitsynitilla* were previously known from a description of 3 species by Lelej in Lelej & van Harten (2006) collected from Yemen. We have now added examples of *R. matteinii* from Oman. The fauna of Mutillidae of this region is not yet well known, as the result of our brief search and the discovery of new species has shown. The specimens were captured with a yellow plate containing soapy water placed on the ground. During the day, the females were active wandering on the ground, while the males flew about nearby.

The holotype is deposited in the personal collection of the author; a paratype has been deposited in the collection of S. Arkady Lelej in Vladivostok and another paratype in the collection of Marcello Romano in Capaci (Sicily); another paratype, is also deposited in the personal collection of the author.
The terminology used for the description of the new species is derived from the work by Invrea (1964), while the systematics is that adopted by Lelej (2006), Pagliano & Strumia (2007) and Goulet & Huber (1993).
The abbreviations used are: GP = coll. Guido Pagliano, Turin; A.S.L. = coll. Arkady Lelej Vladivostok; MR = coll. Marcello Romano, Capaci.

Description of the new species

Rasnitsynitilla matteinii n. sp. ♂

Locus typicus: Dhofar, Oman.

Specimens examined
Holotypus ♂ Oman, Dhofar, Rd. NW Hajaif, m 900, 17°14,57′ N – 54°01,55′ E, 13.IX.2002 leg. Strumia (in coll. GP); paratypus 1 ♂ Oman, Dhofar, Wadi Ashawq, m 30, 16°53,9′ N – 53°46,3′ E leg. Strumia (in coll.GP); paratypus 1 ♂ ibidem (in coll. MR); paratypus 1 ♂ Oman, Dhofar, Salalah East Dahariz 17°01,02′ N – 54°09,32′ E. 13.IX.2002 leg. Strumia (in coll. A.S.L.)

Description of the holotypus ♂.
Size: body 9 mm long, wing 5 mm. Colour: red head except the tips of the mandibles, with the antennal III segment partially red; the remaining parts including the ventral surface black. Mesosoma red except the ventral surface black; wings lightly browned; red legs with coxae, the tips of the femurs, tibiae and tarsi partially dark. Metasoma black except for a narrow longitudinal red stripe on either side of the I tergum. Pubescence: head with sparse silvery hairs on the frons and clypeus facing forward, on the summit turned back; over the entire surface there are well-spread hairs; antennae with a few short hairs erect on the scape, dense greyish pubescence visible at 20X magnification on the flagello-

Fig. 1 Habitus *Rasnitsynitilla matteinii* ♂.

meres, about twice as long on the pedicel. Mesosoma with sparse, sticky silvery pubescence throughout the area including tegulae and legs. Tibiae with dark, closely-spaced spines. Spurs of fore tibiae red, white in the central and hind tibiae. Metasoma: I tergum with distal fringe of silvery pubescence; II tergum with a narrow band of the same colour at the distal margin; III and IV terga covered with a silvery sparse pubescence; on the remaining dorsal and ventral surfaces, there is a sparse, erect, white pubescence; the sterna II, III and IV are decorated with a fringe of silvery pubescence at the distal end. Morphology: Head with eyes hollowed on the inner margin; mandibles with a strong tooth on the outer margin and 3 teeth at the end, the two internal sub equal in length; scape slightly curved with 2 longitudinal keels within which there are minute widely distributed points; distance between an eye and a hind ocellus equal to 1.8 times the distance between the hind ocelli. Points of uniform size, sub adherent between them; ventral area smooth with scattered points on the sides and short transverse stripes in the middle. Mesosoma with dorsal points, bigger

than on the head, quite close together, on the tegulae a little smaller and more spread out; prosternum with small dense points mixed with small striations; the pleura points are smaller than the dorsal ones but almost adherent as well; coxae with a few scattered points; scutellum wide about twice the length, like the metatergum. Metasoma points a somewhat smaller than those of the mesosoma, in particular at the centre of the II tergum they are set out on average that of their diameters; points on terga III-VI are even smaller but closer together; VII tergum with points as large as those on mesotergum. Genital volsellae long and spindly, slightly wavy, as far from the end of the gonostyles as the diameter of the scape; II sternum with points large and distributed as on the same tergum; III-VI sterna with points similar to those of the corresponding ones behind along the distal margin, finer and spread out at the base; VII sternum with small points interspersed with fine transverse thin striae set close together; VIII sternum with punctuation similar to that present along the distal margins of III-VI sterna.

Variability of paratypes. In 2 specimens there are no significant differences either in size as in morphology. In the other specimen the body is 6.5 mm long, the third segment of the antennae is completely black. The punctuation of tegulae is more spaced and legs are reddish. The wings are devoid of the second transverse cubital vein.

Female unknown.

The key to the males of Arabic *Rasnitsynitilla* reported in Lelej & Van Harten (2006) is amended as follows.

♂♂

1. Ocelli small, distant from the inner edge of the eye 1.8 times the distance between them; metasoma black except for a narrow red stripe along the bottom edge of the I tergum; body length from 6.5 to 9 mm ..... ***matteinii* n. sp.**
- Ocelli small, the distance between them about the same distance as compared to the inner edge of an eye ……..……..... .. 2

2. Metasoma black except the I segment reddish 3
- Body 4 mm long. Segments I-III yellowish red, similar to that of mesosoma ... . ***invreai*** Lelej

3. Body length from 3.6 to 4 mm. Posterior margin of terga II, III and IV without fasciae of dense white pubescence ..... ***brachyptera*** Lelej
- Body length 8 mm. Posterior margin of terga II, III and IV with bands of dense white pubescence ……..…… ***schmideggeri*** Lelej

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