

A NEW SPECIES OF *ODONTOSPHEX* FROM NAMIBIA  
(HYMENOPTERA: SPHECIDAE)

WOJCIECH J. PULAWSKI

Department of Entomology, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California 94118.

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**Abstract.**—*OdontospheX damara*, a new species from Namibia, is described and its distinctive characters (details of sculpture and vestiture) are discussed. The presence of an omaulus is unique within the Philanthinae. The genus is first recorded from Iran and Pakistan.

**Key Words:** Insecta, Sphecidae, *OdontospheX damara*, taxonomy, Namibia

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Arnold (1951) described *OdontospheX* for a single male of his new species *bidens* from Mauritania. Menke (1967) demonstrated that the genus also occurs in Argentina, described three new species from that country (*fritzi*, *paradoxus*, and *willinki*), analyzed the genus' relationships, and placed it in Philanthinae. The genus and its taxonomic position were restudied by Bohart and Menke (1976), who first recorded *bidens* from Saudi Arabia. I have seen specimens of *paradoxus* as well as two females which possibly are *bidens* (Iran: Haft Tapeh 300 km N Abadan, and Pakistan: Faisalabad; both in CAS). I have collected representatives of a new species in Namibia whose description follows.

*OdontospheX damara* Pulawski,  
NEW SPECIES

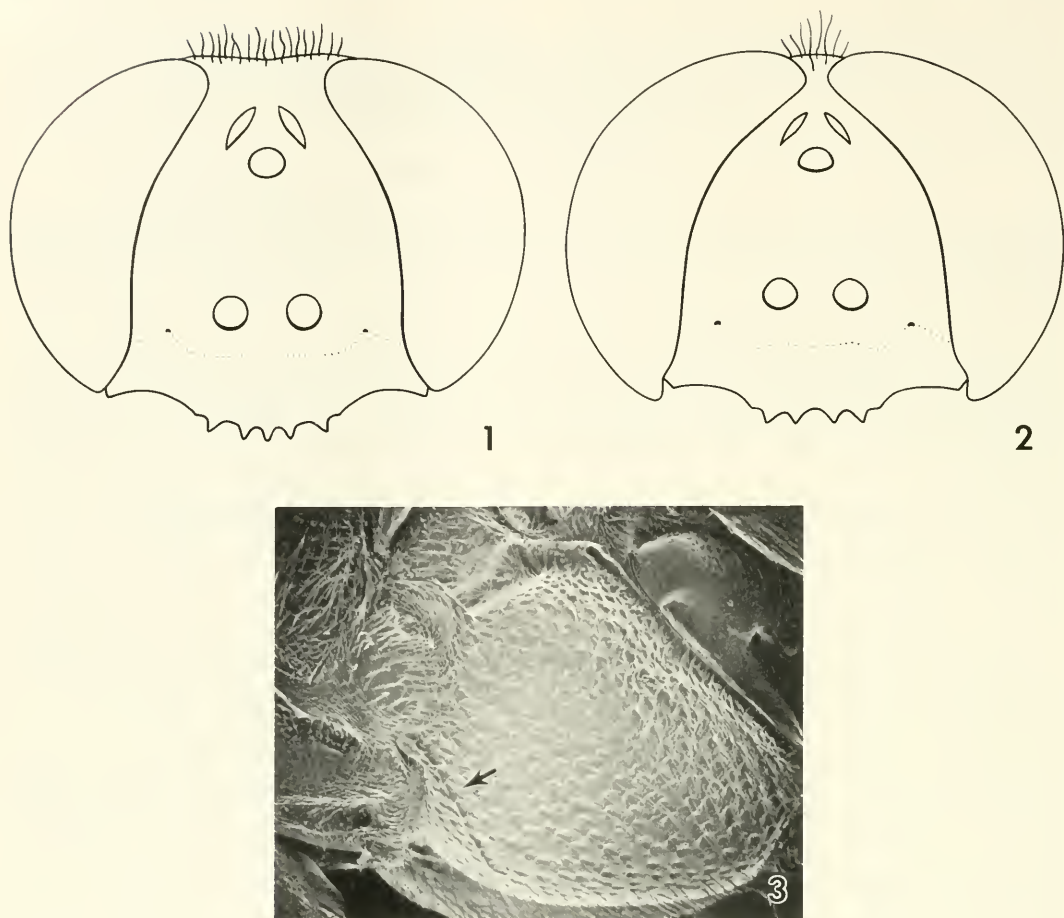
Figs. 1-3

**Name derivation.**—Named after the Damara people of Namibia in whose area the specimens were collected; a noun in apposition to the generic name.

**Diagnosis.**—*OdontospheX damara* differs from the other species of the genus in having an omaulus and erect setae on the vertex,

thorax, and base of tergum I. In addition, the female gena is markedly narrower in dorsal view.

**Description.**—Agreeing with all tribal and generic characters given by Menke (1967) and Bohart and Menke (1976), but the presence of an omaulus is unique within the subfamily. Scutum (except anteriorly) and scutellum unsculptured and shiny between punctures; punctures (except along margins) averaging several diameters apart. Omaulus present but short, about equal to distance from its ventral end to thoracic midline (Fig. 3). Mesopleuron dull, with well-defined punctures which are more than one diameter apart on center. Propodeal side punctate throughout except rugose posteriorly. Gastral terga with fine, well-defined punctures, many of which are more than one diameter apart. Length 8.5-11.0 mm. Vestiture: setae conspicuously erect on vertex, adjacent occiput, thorax including propodeum, and tergum I basally; not concealing mesopleural integument (which is easily visible). Body black, including mandibles, except pronotal foremargin (adjacent to occiput) with narrow pale yellow band. Wings moderately infumate, veins black.



Figs. 1–3. *Odontosphex damara*. 1, Female head frontally; 2, male head frontally; 3, mesopleuron, oblique lateral view; arrow indicates the omaulus.

♀.—Clypeal free margin with five sharp, undivided teeth (Fig. 1). Dorsal part of propodeal enclosure rugose basally but punctate apically with shiny interspaces.

♂.—Clypeal free margin with four sharp, undivided teeth (Fig. 2). Least interocular distance  $0.6\text{--}0.75 \times$  transverse midocellar diameter. Flagellomeres without teeth or notches, but flagellomeres IV–IX with shiny, flat carina ventrally (carinae not extending to flagellomere's base or apex). Dorsal part of propodeal enclosure uniformly rugose. Gastral sterna covered with setae which are inclined posterad and whose length does not exceed transverse midocellar diameter.

Habitat.—The specimens were flying low over the ground in a sandy area with sparse grass, other vegetation, and isolated bushes and trees; adjacent to a gravelly area with *Welwitschia mirabilis* J. D. Hooker.

Material examined.—*Holotype*: ♂, NAMIBIA: **Damaraland**: 38 km W of Khorixas, 4 Mar 1990, W. J. Pulawski collector (CAS).

*Paratypes*: Same data as holotype: 1 ♂ (British Museum (Natural History)), 2 ♀, 9 ♂ (California Academy of Sciences), 1 ♂ (United States National Museum); same data but M. Schwarz collector (1 ♀, his collection).

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