

NEW SPHEGIDAE FROM
THE MALAY PENINSULA.

BY

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V. NEW SPHEGIDAE FROM THE MALAY
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Ampulex formicoides sp. n.

♂. Niger, mandibulis apice, scapoque subtus fusco-ferrugineis; alis hyalinis, anticis subobsoleta bifasciatis, venis luteo-ferrugineis; petiolo apice inflato.

Long. 6.5 mm.

♂. Head opaque, closely and minutely punctured; the clypeus very slightly convex and feebly subcarinate in the middle, with an acute spine in the middle of the apical margin. Eyes slightly converging towards the vertex where they are separated by a distance scarcely exceeding the length of the second joint of the flagellum. A very obscure groove runs from the anterior ocellus towards the base of the clypeus; an elongate tubercle above the base of each antenna. Second joint of the flagellum about three and a half times as long as its apical breadth. Pronotum long and narrow, much longer than its greatest breadth, narrowed anteriorly, with a deep median groove from base to apex, not raised posteriorly; the whole thorax opaque and microscopically punctured. Median segment longer than its basal breadth, narrowed and abruptly truncate posteriorly, the median carina is distinct, but does not quite reach the apex, the three lateral carinae strong, the inner pair converging before the apex, the space between the carinae strongly transversely striated; a small tooth close to each apical angle. Petiole very slender, as long as the median segment, the apical third strongly inflated; second tergite as long as its median breadth, the two basal tergites smooth and shining. Fourth tarsal joint reaching beyond the middle of the apical joint. First transverse cubital nervure obsolete, leaving only two cubital cells, the recurrent nervures received near the middle of the cubital cells; first abscissa of the radius longer than the second, but shorter than the third.

Hab. Selangor, Sungei Buloh, 13 miles from Kuala Lumpur; September 1922. (H. M. Pendlebury).

Two males taken on a fallen log. This species mimics the ant *Sima nigra* Jerdon, and is allied to the North Indian species *A. constanceae* Cam. which mimics *Sima rufo-nigra* Jerdon.

Cerceris metatarsalis sp. n.

♀. Nigra; clypeo fascia lata, transversa, mediana, tibiisque anticis infra ochraceis; tarsis intermediis posticisque brunneis, articulo basali pallide flavo; alis fuscis, venis nigris; clypeo plano, longitudine latiore; mesopleuris haud tuberculatis; segmento mediano area basali longitudinaliter striata; segmento ventrali secundo area elevata basali nulla.

Long. 13 mm.

♀. Head broad, strongly punctured, the punctures on the front more or less confluent longitudinally. Eyes divergent towards the clypeus, which is broader than long, rather prominent at the extreme base, thence flattened to the apex, which is almost transverse. Posterior ocelli much further from the eyes than from each other. Front below the antennae and the clypeus clothed with white pubescence. Thorax and median segment coarsely punctured, the triangular space at the base of the median segment coarsely longitudinally striated. Abdomen closely, but less coarsely punctured; the petiole broadest in the middle, as long as its greatest breadth; fifth tergite clothed with whitish hairs. Pygidial area rugose, nearly twice as long as its greatest breadth, narrowly truncate at the apex, the sides feebly convex and with a dense fringe of whitish hairs. Hind tibiae strongly serrate. Petiole of the second cubital cell scarcely half as long as the basal side of the cell.

Hab. Peninsular Siam, Nakon Sri Tamarat, Khao Ram; March 1922. (H. M. Pendlebury).

This is very distinct from any other oriental *Cerceris* and is easily recognised by the uniform black coloration and by the pale yellow metatarsi.

***Gorytes persimilis* sp. n.**

♀. Nigra; mandibulis basi, clypeo dimidio apicali, scapo subtus, orbitisque internis dimidio inferiori anguste flavis; petiolo, tergito secundo macula transversa basali, pygidioque rufis; flagello subtus dimidio basali brunneo-ferrugineo; alis hyalinis, leviter infuscat, macula magna radiali fusca. Var. Clypeo, antennis pygidioque nigris.

Long. 12-14 mm.

♀. Eyes not convergent towards the clypeus, which is twice as broad as long, shining at the apex, opaque and minutely punctured at the base, with two transverse rows of large punctures in the middle; the clypeus and the lower part of the front clothed with delicate white pubescence. Second joint of the flagellum as long as the first and third combined. Posterior ocelli nearly equidistant from each other and from the eyes. Mesosternum furnished with a longitudinal carina; mesonotum strongly rugulose, with a tendency to oblique striae posteriorly, with two longitudinal carinae anteriorly not reaching the middle; mesopleurae coarsely longitudinally striated. Scutellum and postscutellum strongly longitudinally striated, a strongly crenulated transverse groove between the mesonotum and scutellum and another between the scutellum and postscutellum. Median segment very coarsely longitudinally striated, the striae continuous from the basal area, the marginal carinae of the latter lower than the striae and not interrupting them.

Petiole slender, occupying the whole basal segment, twice as long as its greatest breadth, the sides almost parallel, very slightly swollen towards the apex, shining and almost smooth. Second tergite opaque, sharply broadened from the base, much broader apically than long. Third, fourth and fifth segments opaque, the fifth distinctly punctured. Sixth tergite shining, sparsely punctured, narrowly rounded at the apex. Anterior tarsi ciliate. Cubitellus originating just before the nervellus; stigma ochreous, the fuscous patch in the forewing occupying almost the whole of the radial and second and third cubital cells.

Hab. Peninsular Siam, Nakon Sri Tamarat, Khao Ram, 750 ft.; March 1922. (H. M. Pendlebury).

The darker variety mentioned above is from a height of 5,800 ft. on Khao Luang a few miles distant, also taken in March 1922.

This is nearly allied to *G. greeni* Bingh. and *G. icariiformis* Bingh. with which it forms a species group peculiar to the oriental region. Superficially it closely resembles *Icaria speciosa* Sauss. which occurs in the same locality.

Genus *Nitela* Latreille.

Two species of *Nitela* occur in Selangor, both of which appear to be undescribed.

They may be separated as follows:

Pronotum with a strong marginal carina anteriorly, the anterior angles pointed, the dorsal surface behind the carina strongly crenulate; mesonotum transversely striate.....*N. collaris* sp. n.

Pronotum not strongly margined anteriorly, rounded at the anterior angles, the very short dorsal surface with a median carina only; mesonotum minutely punctured.....*N. pendleburyi* sp. n.

Nitela collaris sp. n.

♀ Nigra; tegulis fusco-ferrugineis; alis hyalinis, venis ferrugineis.

Long. 6 mm.

♀. Posterior ocelli separated from the eyes by a distance equal to about half of their own diameter. Front finely rugulose, the sculpture becoming finer on the upper part of the front near the anterior ocellus. Mesonotum delicately transversely striated, with small punctures between, the striae more distinct on the sides than in the middle. The pronotum has the anterior corners rectangular, the anterior margin strongly raised, the transverse groove broad and crossed by several low carinae on each side of the median dividing carina. Scutellum finely and closely punctured, with a row of large punctures anteriorly; postscutellum strongly longitudinally striated; mesopleurae closely and finely punctured. Dorsal surface of the median

segment as long as the mesonotum, coarsely reticulate, with traces of median longitudinal striae, the sides of the segment closely obliquely striated. Abdomen shining, almost smooth.

Hab. Pusa, Bihar (G. R. Dutt), August to October; Peradiniya, Ceylon (A. Rutherford), May; Selangor, Kuala Lumpur. (H. M. Pendlebury), September.

I formerly (Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (8) xviii, p. 343, 1916) identified this as *Nitela fallax* Kohl. of which I had not seen specimens, but, having now seen a specimen of *fallax*, I find that it differs both in the structure of the pronotum and in the sculpture of the mesonotum.

***Nitela pendleburyi* sp. n.**

♀. Nigra; tegulis testaceis, alis hyalinis, iridescentibus, venis testaceis.

Long. 4 mm.

♀. Posterior ocelli almost touching the eyes, which converge strongly towards the vertex. Front very minutely and closely punctured, the clypeus clothed with silver pubescence. Thorax shining, the mesonotum microscopically and closely punctured; the pronotum short, rounded at the anterior angles, shining, and with a transverse groove which is divided in the middle by a low carina. Scutellum shining, microscopically punctured, with a transverse row of large punctures anteriorly. Dorsal surface of the median segment longitudinally striate, the striae connected by lower transverse striae making the surface reticulate; the sides of the segment longitudinally striated, smooth between the striae; the segment is a little longer than the mesonotum and is vertically truncate posteriorly. Abdomen smooth and shining. Mesopleurae shining and almost smooth. Inner spur of the hind tibia one-third the length of the basal joint of the hind tarsus, which is scarcely two-thirds of the length of the tibia.

Hab. Selangor, Kuala Lumpur; June, July and December. (H. M. Pendlebury), four specimens.

In the form of the pronotum this approaches the European *N. fallax* Kohl., but may be easily distinguished by the closer approximation of the eyes on the vertex which brings the ocelli almost into contact with the eyes, and by the more microscopic puncturation.