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Notes on some Eurasian "Itoplectis", with descriptions of new species (Hym., Ichneumonidae)

by

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The following three new species of *Itoplectis* are closely related to *alternans* (GRAV.), but all differ from that species in having the hind trochanter in greater part black. From *maculator* (F.), they are distinguished by the shorter hair on the mesoscutum and scutellum and by the black tergites of the gaster with only the apical margin of the segments sometimes piceous (as in *alternans*). Among themselves they can be distinguished by the colour, length of malar space and the form of the claw of the front tarsus.

The two species from Switzerland¹ have been reared from *Eucosma griseana* (HB.), together with *I. alternans* var. *koltzoffi* (AURIVILIUS, ROMAN) and a single female of *I. maculator* (F.).

***Itoplectis griseanae* sp. nov.**

♀. Head with the malar space a little longer than in *alternans* ; antenna with the subapical segments elongate ; face a little more closely and clearly punctured than in *alternans*, and tending to longitudinal striation centrally ; thorax with the punctures clearer and a little closer than in *alternans*, those on the disc of the mesoscutum being deeper and clearly defined ; metapleurum almost entirely without sculpture ; propodeum dorsally with the area on each side of the longitudinal keels with ill-defined punctures and rugosites ; gaster with the tergites closely punctate except for the apical margin of the segments, the punctures becoming sparser on the apical segments, on segment 7 they are more clearly defined than in *alternans* ; front tarsus with the claw with a sub-basal tooth (not a lobe as in *alternans*) ; valvulae 3 exserted for a distance subequal to tergites 2+3+4 of gaster.

Black ; apex of flagellum reddish beneath ; palpi fuscous ; hind angle of pronotum with a yellowish spot ; tegula yellow anteriorly ;

¹ These parasites were obtained in the course of the investigations on the population-dynamics of the Larch Bud Moth in the Upper Engadine, conducted by the Institute of Entomology of the Swiss Institute of Technology, Zurich.

legs with the front and middle coxae, trochanters and trochantelli black, hind trochanter black, narrowly red or yellowish apically, hind trochantellus black somewhat red or rarely yellowish apically; femora red, the hind one rather narrowly infuscate apically; front tibia and tarsus conspicuously paler than the middle, which are paler than the hind though the markings are similar; hind tibia black with a white band or spot at about the basal $\frac{1}{3}$; tarsi black with segments 1, 2, 3 and 5 white basally; spurs white; extreme apical margin of the tergites of gaster reddish or sometimes yellowish; pubescence white; pterostigma black.

♂. Differs from the female in the absence of a tooth on the front tarsal claw; the paler palps; the usually paler tegula and in the front and middle femora sometimes being infuscate dorsally.

Holotype. ♀. Switzerland: Grisons; Silvaplana, 5.V.1956. (ex *Eucosma griseana* (Hb.)) (W. BALTENSWEILER) (Hym 3b.1959 British Museum, Natural History).

Additional material. Switzerland: Grisons; Silvaplana and Samedan 35♂ 31♀, ex *Eucosma griseana* (Hb.) on *Pinus cembra* L. emerged IV—V and IX—X, 1955 and 1956; Silvaplana and Pontresina, captured VI—VII. 1956 (W. BALTENSWEILER). Institute of Entomology ETH. Zurich and Museum of Natural History, Geneva.

***Itoplectis insignis* sp. nov.**

♀. Head with the malar space short, as in *alternans*; antenna with the subapical segments elongate; sculpture of face and thorax similar to that of *griseanae*; gaster with more distinct interspaces between the punctures particularly centrally on tergites 3—5; front tarsus with only a very weakly developed basal lobe so that the claw is almost simple; valvulae 3 exserted by a distance subequal to the distance from the base of tergite 2 to the middle of tergite 4 (thus relatively a little shorter than in *griseanae*).

Black; palpi with the apical segments white; hind angle of pronotum with an ivory spot; tegula ivory; extreme apical margin of the tergites of the gaster somewhat reddish; legs with the coxae black; trochanters black, ivory apically, those of the front legs ivory beneath; trochantelli ivory, those of the hind leg somewhat red dorsally; front femur infuscate dorsally, dirty white ventrally, shading to reddish towards the base and the fuscous dorsal mark, mid femur red and fuscous, white apically, beneath and laterally, hind femur fuscous becoming red at the base and internally; front and middle tibiae pale fuscous with a white spot directly above the middle, hind tibia black with a white band at about the basal $\frac{1}{3}$; front tarsus pale fuscous becoming darker apically, mid tarsus fuscous, segments 1-3 white basally, hind tarsus black, segments 1-3 narrowly white basally; spurs white; pubescence white; pterostigma black.

♂. Differs from the female in having the palps entirely white and the trochanters more broadly white; the front tibia and tarsus more white, the mid tibia marked with white apically and segment 5 of hind tarsus marked with white basally.

Holotype. ♀. Switzerland: Grisons; La Rösa, 30.VI.1956. (W. BALTENSWEILER). (Hym. 3b.1960 British Museum, Natural History.)

Additional material. Switzerland: Grisons; La Rösa, 1♂, 5.VI.1956 (W. BALTENSWEILER). Institute of Entomology, ETH, Zurich.

***Itoplectis tibetensis* sp. nov.**

♀. Malar space unusually long for the genus, 0.6 times the breadth of base of mandible; antenna with the subapical segments elongate; face similarly punctured and not striate centrally as in *alternans*, though the punctures are a little clearer than in that species; thorax more coarsely punctate than in *alternans*; metapleurum with sparse, coarser punctures; propodeum dorsally with the areas beside the longitudinal carinae coarsely, deeply punctate to punctate rugose; gaster with the tergites closely punctate except for the apical margin of the segments, the punctures becoming sparser on the apical segments, those on segment 7 a little clearer than in *alternans*; front tarsus with the claw with a large sub-basal lobe as in *alternans*; valvulae 3 exserted for a distance subequal to tergites 2+3+4.

Colour similar to *griseanae* but with the trochanters and trochantelli, black and the hind femur with only a narrow trace of a weak fuscous band apically.

♂. Unknown.

Holotype. ♀. Tibet: Tropde; Rongshar Valley, 11,000 ft, 23.VI.1924 (Maj. R. W. G. HINGSTON) (Hym. 3b.1961 British Museum, Natural History.)

***Itoplectis alternans* (GRAVENHORST)**

In western Europe, *I. alternans* shows seasonal dimorphism in colour in the male. The spring form which appears in May and early June has the front and middle coxae black, at most with a small, yellow spot beneath, and the scape usually with only an apical yellow spot beneath. The summer form appearing in late July and August, has the front and middle coxae yellow, often more or less marked with black dorsally, and the scape usually almost entirely yellow beneath.

In Britain the summer generation tends to have the anterior coxae with rather more extensive dark marking than in specimens from Sweden and Germany.

***Itoplectis melanocephala* (GRAVENHORST) and *naranyae* (ASHMEAD)**

Through the kindness of Dr. E. C. ZIMMERMAN, I have been able to examine a male and female of *Itoplectis naranyae* (ASHMEAD). These

specimens were from Hawaii. This species is very closely related to the European *I. melanocephala* (GRAVENHORST), and it was for this reason that I was very interested to see the Ashmead species which was originally described from Japan. Both these species are peculiar in the genus *Itoplectis* in having the apical hind tarsal segment extremely elongate (it being about 4.5 times as long as the fourth segment), simple claws on the front tarsus of the female, the prepectus only very weakly excavate behind the front coxa and the raised areas on tergites 2-5 strongly developed.

I. melanocephala

Face rather flat centrally and ventrad, somewhat raised medially dorsad, and with an elongate tubercle laterally running parallel with the orbit of the eye; above this tubercle (and beneath the antennal sclerite) with a rather deep, broad groove; face centrally with the punctures tending to run together and form irregular longitudinal striation.

Antennal scrobes in part transverse.

Clypeus coriaceous and dull in the apical half.

Tegula black, fuscous or yellow infuscate apically.

Hind femur and tibia entirely red; hind tarsus pale red with only segment 5 infuscate apically,

Abdomen red.

Propodeum often red, particularly in more southerly European specimens.

I. naranyae

Face evenly convex with only a weak, broad furrow beneath the antennal sclerite, towards the orbit of the eye; centrally the face evenly, regularly punctate with a slight tendency for the punctures to coalesce along the central line.

Antennal scrobes completely smooth and highly polished.

Clypeus, in the apical half sculptured only on the apical margin.

Tegula yellow.

Hind femur infuscate apically; hind tibia pale yellow, narrowly black at the base, broadly black apically; hind tarsus pale yellow with segments 1 and 5 infuscate apically, the middle segments apically testaceous or fuscous.

Abdomen red with tergites 7 and 8 entirely, and 6 in part, black.

Propodeum entirely black.