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A new species of *Empria* Lepeletier from Central Switzerland (Hymenoptera: Tenthredinidae)

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Empria waldstaetterense sp. n. is described from a female specimen collected in Central Switzerland from a lowland type habitat. Its larval foodplant is probably *Filipendula ulmaria*. The new species is most closely related to *E. liturata* (GMELIN) or *E. alector* BENSON, but can readily be distinguished by its distinctive clypeus and very dark colouration. The possibility that it is the female of *E. persephone* BENSON can not be ruled out. Holotype is deposited in the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh.

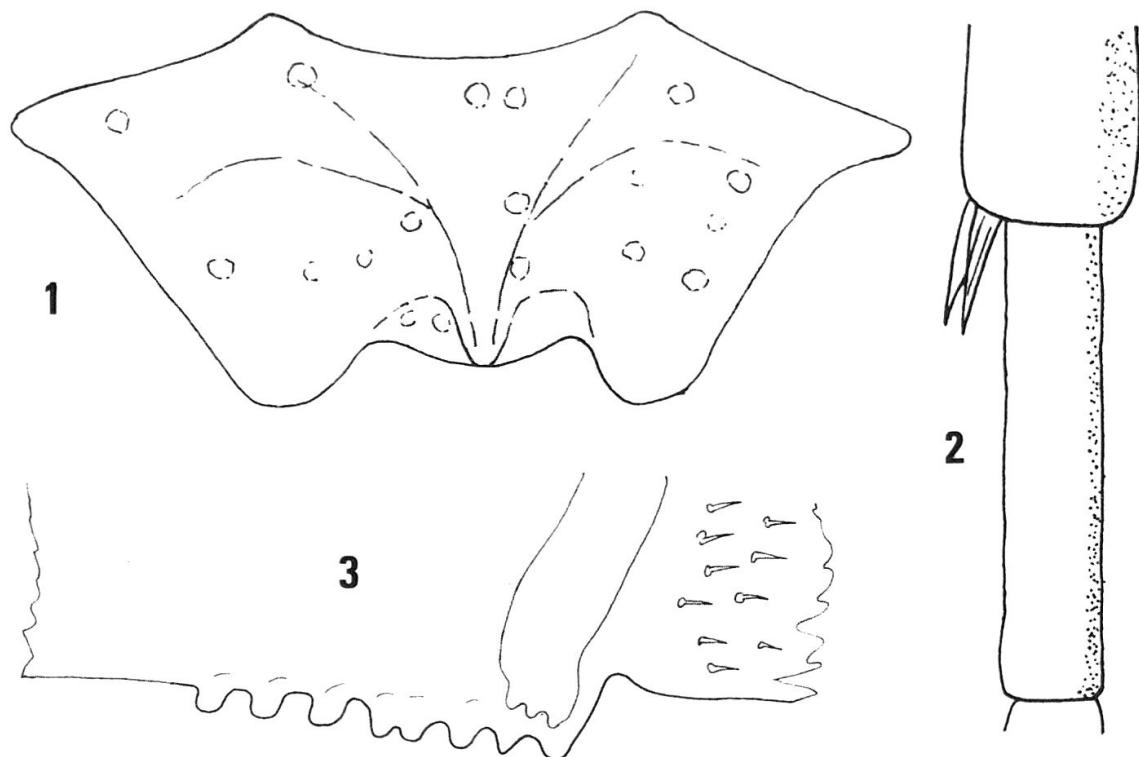
The first report on a study of the Hymenoptera Symphyta of Kanton Unterwalden should appear in *Mitt. Ent. Ges. Basel* in the near future. The present short paper gives the results of research on a specimen of *Empria* that could not be made in time for inclusion in the main body of work. This new taxon apparently belongs to the lowland fauna, as do most known species of *Empria*.

Empria waldstaetterense sp. nov.

♀: Very dark insect. Head completely black except for mandibles. Thorax, including tegulae and pronotum, black. All legs completely black, although the covering of whitish pubescence on tibiae and tarsi makes them look obscurely paler in certain types of light. Wing membranes infuscate. Costa, stigma and other venation black. Abdomen without the large white membranous patches that are found on most species in this genus. Only the apical margins of the 3rd-5th abdominal tergites have a narrow white band.

Head: Subparallel behind the eyes. Fairly densely pubescent, but with large, shining, unsculptured interspaces between the hair follicles. Pubescence white (except on antennae) and with each hair about as long as three and a half facets of a compound eye. Coriaceous in ocellar region. Frontal furrow reduced to a medial pit. 8th antennal segment 4 times as long as broad. 9th segment 4.5 times as long as its basal breadth. Whole antenna 2.25 times as long as the head is wide. Antennae dull with dense sculpture and small, stiff fuscous hairs. Hind ocelli only slightly closer together than distance from one to hind margin of head (POL: 00-CL = 1.0: 1.1). OOL>POL (1.5: 1.0). Clypeus is distinctive (fig. 1), with rounded outer teeth on the front margin, a shallow excision and an obsolete middle tooth. The carina running from the centre of the front margin of the clypeus is only distinct for half of the clypeus's length.

Thorax: Evenly covered in short white pubescence, but without sculpture, and shining. Hind tibial spurs subequal and each three-quarters as long as apical width of hind tibia, or about a quarter as long as a hind basitarsus (fig. 2). Hind tarsus as long as hind tibia. Claws with well-developed inner teeth. Propleurae meeting in front.



Figs. 1-3: *Empria waldstaetterense* sp. n. ♀. Clypeus (1), hind basitarsus (2) and part of saw (3).

Abdomen: Evenly covered in short white pubescence. Sawsheath with an even fringe of long, piceous setae. Sawsheath rounded when viewed laterally (as in fig. 10 of CONDE, 1940). Saw as in *E. alector* BENSON (fig. 3).

Length: 6.75 mm. Male not known.

Material: 1 ♀ (Holotype), Altzellen-St. Joder, Nidwalden, Switzerland (at 750m), 16. VII. 79. On *Filipendula ulmaria* (L.) Maxim. Collected by author.

Affinities: *E. waldstaetterense* sp. n. would run in the keys by CONDE (1940) and DOVNAR-ZAPOLSKIJ (1929) to near *E. liturata* (GMELIN), or to *liturata* or *alector* BENSON, in BENSON (1938 and 1952). The new species differs from *alector* in the form of the clypeus, which in *waldstaetterense* is less deeply excised, with rounded outer teeth and without a middle tooth (compare fig. 1 in the present work with fig. 271 in BENSON, 1952). The clypeal shape of the new species approaches that of *liturata* more closely, but *liturata* still has a middle tooth on the lower margin. *E. liturata* differs further in having a shorter 8th antennal segment (less than 3 times longer than broad), whereas that of *waldstaetterense* is about 4 times longer than broad, in that *liturata* usually has well-developed white patches on tergites 2-5 and white apical margins of the tergites often obsolete (exactly the opposite is true for the new species), by having a well-developed frontal furrow (reduces to a medial pit in *waldstaetterense*), by having a completely different form of saw, and by having the inner tooth of its tarsal claws often much reduced.

E. waldstaetterense differs from *alector* in the completely different clypeus, as already mentioned, in the poorly developed abdominal white markings and black tegulae (white-marked in *alector*).

E. persephone BENSON 1954, the female of which is not yet known, also has a dark colour pattern with infuscate wings. *E. persephone*, however, does have white

flecks on tergites 2-6 and even allowing for sexual dimorphism, the female probably also has at least some of these. Also differs in the form of the clypeus which in *persephone* has acute outer teeth and a small middle tooth. The possibility of *waldstaetterense* being the female of *persephone* cannot be completely ruled out however.

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